



Town of Palm Beach Fire-Rescue



MEMORANDUM

To: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager

From: Sean Baker, Fire Rescue Chief

Date: November 25, 2024

Subject: Fire Rescue Traffic Mitigation Efforts

To address the ongoing traffic challenges affecting the island, the Fire Department is implementing proactive strategies to ensure uninterrupted access to patients, hospitals, and emergencies. These measures prioritize effective navigation through congestion, enhance coordination with law enforcement, and improve overall response capabilities. Below is a summary of the key initiatives designed to uphold our commitment to public safety:

Emergency Vehicle Preemption System Coordination:

Continue to implement/expand traffic preemption systems (e.g., Opticom GPS preemption, HAAS in-vehicle alerting system) to prioritize emergency vehicle access through intersections.

Use of Designated and Alternative Response Routes:

Prioritize response routes on Ocean Blvd (where possible) to alleviate congestion on the midtown corridor.

Coordinate with the Police Department to clear intersections and provide escorts as necessary.

Quick-Response Vehicles for Congested Areas:

Exploring the deployment of quick-response vehicles (smaller vehicles) to navigate congested traffic, providing rapid medical assistance until additional resources can arrive.

Roadway Clearance Protocols:

When possible, focus on promptly clearing accident scenes on main roads, ensuring non-hazardous vehicles are quickly moved from traffic lanes.

Utilize tow trucks and other quick-response/removal methods as needed.

Peak Hour Movement Limitation:

Where operationally feasible, limit non-emergency Fire Rescue vehicle movements during peak rush hours to minimize disruption to traffic flow.

Company inspections, Fire Hydrant testing, and Knox Box inspections will occur outside peak hours.

Flexible Staff Schedules:

Evaluating flexible shift times for **administrative staff** to reduce peak-hour travel impact. **Operational personnel** arrive and leave outside of peak traffic hours.

On-Island Training Emphasis:

Prioritize on-island training for Fire Rescue personnel to reduce off-island trips and traffic congestion. Conduct periodic reviews of training impact on response capability.