

**Summary of Discussion**  
**Broward County Charter Review Commission**  
**Public Safety Subcommittee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 08, 2007**  
**Broward County Governmental Center Annex – Room 430**  
**3:00 PM - 4:30 PM**

**Members Present:**

Dr. Mark Lieberman, Chair  
Mayor, Debby Eisinger, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Hayward Benson  
Ms. H.K. "Petey" Kaletta  
Commissioner Ted Mena  
Mr. Wil Trower

**Members Absent:**

Mr. Robert Penezic, Esq.

**Others Attending:**

Mr. Joe Benavides, President of Broward County Council of Professional Firefighters  
Richard Carpani, Director Communication Technology, BSO  
Mayor Joy Cooper, Hallandale Beach  
Pete Corwin, Assistant to the County Administrator, Broward County Government  
George Danz, Member of the Fire Advisory Committee  
Chedley Etienne, Administrative Assistant, CRC  
Virgil Fernandez, Fire Chief  
Tom Gallagher, Pembroke Pines Fire Department  
Yolanda Grooms, Administrative Specialist, CRC  
Maria Gross, Assistant Director, CRC  
Phyllis A. King, Transcriber, PKING Consulting  
Sherry Miller, Broward Sheriff Office, Communication Tech Division  
Joseph Rohan, Interim Fire Chief  
James E. Saunders III, Esq.  
CouncilMember Susan Starkey, Broward League of Cities, Town of Davie  
Chief Daniel Sullivan, Hallandale Beach Fire Rescue  
Patricia G. West, Executive Director  
Mel Wilson, Esq.

(A copy of the sign-in sheets identifying those present is filed with the supplemental papers to the summary of this Subcommittee Meeting.)

A meeting of the Broward County Charter Review Public Safety Subcommittee "Committee," "Subcommittee," or "PSSC," was held at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 8, 2007 at the Broward County Governmental Center Annex – Room 430, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33311.

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Chair, Dr. Mark Lieberman called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The Chair requested the roll call by Phyllis A. King, PKING Consulting, Inc. Upon completion of the roll, the Chair recognized the presence of a quorum.

**II. Approval Summary of Discussion from July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Meeting**

The Chair asked the Committee if there were changes to the SOD.

**Ms. Eisinger MOTIONED, Mr. Trower SECONDED, and the motion carried unanimously to approve the Public Safety Subcommittee July 17<sup>th</sup> Summary of Discussion.**

The Chair asked guests to introduce themselves. [See above Others Attending list for names and titles].

***[Mr. Mena Entered at this time 3:08pm]***

The Chair offered the guest to join the subcommittee.

**III. Discussion of Proposed Public Safety Council-Composition of Membership and Recommended Name Change**

The Chair advised that there was a motion that was carried to change the name of the Broward County Fire Rescue Council to the Broward County Public Safety Council. There was also discussion that the PSSC wanted to increase the membership to include additional parties and have a list of who discussed. The Committee approved at that meeting, the addition of a member from the Broward Emergency Management Agency (BEMA). He thought the PSSC also approved a member from the Police Chief's Association; the subcommittee needs to vote on that. That would bring us from 9 to 11 members. There was discussion with Mr. Carpani about adding an additional communications person from the Regional Public Safety Communications Committee. He added that by doing that, it would give the Committee an even number. He stated that they were looking to add someone from the FOP. At the full Commission meeting, someone mentioned the Police Benevolent Association; he asked if someone could speak on that. The Chair advised that it was also agreed to change the scope

of the new Council to add one of the responsibilities into looking at Fire Rescue minimum standards and determining what those standards would be.

The Chair proposed that the Committee have a discussion today about additional agenda issue items. Some were suggested by Commissioner Mena, and most are related and can be under the category of post-storm issues. This Council could look at issues of pets' post-storm, nursing homes, EOC Vulnerable Needs Population and Special Medical Needs and Road Safety issues; he believes that these issues could be additional agenda items that could be looked at by the Public Safety Committee.

The Chair advised that the PSSC would like to know from the guests present, if going from 9 to 13 members is a good idea. Who the 13 members should be and if they agree with the list the Committee has already started. He also asked for any thoughts on adding an additional scope of post-storm issues.

#### **Davie Councilmember Susan Starkey**

**Ms. Starkey:** In my capacity on the Hurricane Advisory Board for Broward County we have addressed a number of those issues. I think learning from our experiences of the previous active hurricane season, Broward County did come up with a number of recommendations you may not be familiar with. Maybe this Charter Review Committee may not have had the opportunity to review those recommendations. Many of the items that you listed referencing post-storm have been addressed. I will tell you from Seniors, Disabled, the Special Needs as well as pets and how they would go to special needs shelters and providing even the – I know that it was specifically for Commissioner Lieberman's concern over the patients who require dialysis. It was something that you just mentioned, and I know that's something she had brought forward even on this Hurricane Committee. I was also on the Committee that was looking at special needs populations, and how they would provide shelters afterwards.

As you know Davie was the last remaining shelter in Broward County, closing out probably another week or two after every main shelter. It was quite an arduous task to try to get these people relocated back in their communities. That situation gave us a lot of experience in knowing what we needed to do in the future and I have to say that – that committee – not just the one I was on but it had many facets. The committee was able to come up with a very good recommendation on that. For the future, whatever you call this committee – and I know that it will be clearly up to you to decide whether you want to make that recommendation or not. It would probably be an idea to look at other issues that may be incorporating those special needs

and other things, if the County hasn't already done that. I think that there's other incident management that regionally the Fire Council has looked at, and those can already be incorporated in the recommendations. They are just some of these things that haven't been – I guess they've been boiled about and talked about and regurgitated now for about 3 or 4 years, but I think it's the money that's holding everybody back that is pulling the trigger on a lot of these recommendations just County-wide. So you know there's going to be tough decisions, but whether you call it a Fire Council, Safety Council or whatever those recommendations are, a lot of them exist and have already been made. Like I said – whether you make this a recommendation, I'm neither here nor there, on how I feel personally about this. My only other concern would be that the recommendations that have already been made be implemented.

The other concern is that any make up of this Council or Advisory Board would be equal and representative of a broad range of expertise. I see that you've added the FOP; with all respect I think that Broward County also has a PBA with the Police. I don't know if you'd get in trouble if you pick one over the other. That would be up to some union representatives to voice their concern on those issues. I just happened to see that you only had one and not the other, I don't know if it's been discussed or not. Then also, the League of Cities has had a number of representatives; there's also the Council of Mayors which may not be on here, which is another organization, if we're going to balance some numbers here.

But in any case you would look at – I wouldn't want to see it tipped over or with all of one or another. I think it's important to whatever you have as an Advisory Board to try to balance it out so that people who are in the areas of expertise in the County. People who are in the special communications or Chief's Associations, Fire Associations, Chiefs of Police and Fire Chiefs, as well as the union representation, should be all balanced.

The Chair pointed out that three members of the Fire Rescue Council are already appointed by the Broward League of Cities; he asked Ms. Starkey is she aware of that.

**Ms. Starkey:** Yes, I am one of them.

The Chair stated that there is a balance and they sound like they are well represented on the Council.

**Ms. Starkey:** But there's also a Council of Mayors – and I know that through the League of Cities, the Council or Mayors handle differently regional things that seem to go on. I don't know if you are looking for another way to balance that out. I think that if you are going to have one union, you are going to have to have the other.

The Chair referred to the Hurricane Advisory Board advising that it is not an entity that the committee has talked about. He asked Ms. Starkey who composes the Board and would a member of that Board be an important person on this Committee.

**Ms. Starkey:** I believe it was a temporary Board of nature and Ms. West could probably address this better than I. It had 3 County Commissioners on there....

Ms. West advised that Mayor Graber set up the Committee system and assigned 3 Commissioners to do a Hurricane Committee right after Wilma. She stated that they worked very hard and involved the Red Cross, Volunteer Broward and other agencies that were to come up with strategies for what to do in a post-storm event. She stated that she believes that there is a report and she will try to find it.

The Chair asked if it is an ongoing committee.

Ms. West advised that she did not think so; she then asked Mr. Corwin if the Hurricane Committee still meets.

**Mr. Corwin:** I don't believe so.

**Ms. Starkey:** I believe it was a temporary Board of nature that would report once it was completed; they were not required to meet any longer, unless of course if there is another major storm and they reconvene.

Ms. West advised that she will find the recommendations that the Hurricane Committee came up with.

**Mr. Starkey:** The recommendations also included communications which is a key component to what you are dealing with here on the Police, Fire Councils. We had Comcast, members of the written media, people who were in the IT departments from the County put focus on those issues. There were a number of different subgroups that met to try to come up with that report and recommendation where it might be useful. I believe it might even be online.

The Chair stated that he was suggesting that this be something that is ongoing. He stated that it sounded like the Hurricane Advisory Board was on-going, but he is finding out it's not. He asked if it would be something that the Public Safety Council should be looking into.

**Mr. Benavides:** I think the Public Safety aspect for the Hurricane Advisory, is that they have an EOC implement a pre-storm setup, and a hurricane disaster program. The question on where

we need to go is not that, it's not being done. It hasn't been done at the level that my organization may think is appropriate. The reality is a lot of things have been said; a lot of things haven't been done. The Fire Rescue Council, we are supposed to make recommendations for implementation; of discussions for radio communications. The reality is, we've yet to get information for the funding mechanism, on how much money it's going to take. That's 4 years now – this is something that should have been done sooner. The Hurricane portion, we all had storms here for the past 4 or 5 years, should there have been a program, post and pre and all this stuff in place, it should have been done. Is it being talked about? – It's being talked about.

Our Board here is attempting to proceed in a discussion, where maybe we're going to have some language that would allow for a better discussion with how things are done regarding standards. We've had the discussion, We have not done anything to get it done – so for me whether you have 13 people, 26 people, or 9 people, If you are having each category or group of categories which represent something, that could be catastrophic in the future. That is what we have to talk about and put something in place to address it. That's what we have to do in my opinion. I don't care how many people you put on it, Police Officers, FOP, PBA, Firefighters, Mayors – I mean we have a League of Cities. The reality is, I would like to have group of people who have enough expertise in the area of discussion which is Public Safety, and the assurance that those people who are appointed clearly have a much higher understanding of what has to done, how to get it done, and what needs to be done. So, if we put those in place with the people, the expertise and the discussion will lead itself down the proper path. We have not done enough to get away from the discussion and into the implementation. That is why I commend the Board on where you have driven this discussion to date. You have driven it to a point where it looks like we may have the people, or suggestions to have the people put in positions on a Board that may have the authority to implement something that may help save lives in the future. You have the right people – it doesn't matter how many there are, because in the Public Safety world, when there's a problem we are going to go deal with it, with whatever resources we have. Whatever communication whether it's a tin can and a string, the reality is we are going to do whatever we have to do. Can we do it better? We can. You have the ability to really challenge that with updating some language.

The Chair asked Mr. Benavides if the composition of the Committee as the PSSC is proposing, is the expertise, or if someone is missing.

**Mr. Benavides:** I think you have it. You have addressed the EOC which is clearly a hurricane base, the Chief's Association. The reality is, I think you have the facets there. If you start

throwing all these other groups in that were – with no disrespect to any of the Committees, they do everything that they're asked to do. I would like to have real people that have been involved with the real deal that have seen it. They are just not appointed from one particular seat, they're not just a one time – no disrespect to a politician, but they weren't elected 6 months ago, and should have the knowledge of the last 15 years, the reality is they don't. So, if you put the people in the proper place with their proper background and education, the committee will address the right issues. Even the Mayors want that; they don't want to sit there in an arm-chair, quarterback something that's going on, and then go to their Fire Chief or the Police Chief – is that right or not, because they have to be briefed on it. The reality is, I think you have fair representation. I wouldn't like to see Ad Hoc Committees that are just put together for a simple situation that happened 6 weeks ago and we want to have some different view points on it. I'd like to know that there are people who are specialist that have dealt with it in the past, and clearly have a desire to have it dealt with in the future in a much different format. So, I think it doesn't matter – just try to get the best people who are representing those fields – and I think you have done that.

#### **Dan Sullivan Fire Chief – City of Hallandale Beach**

**Chief Sullivan:** Thank you Chair, my name is Dan Sullivan; I am the Fire Chief of the City of Hallandale Beach. I will give you a little history of myself. I was the Vice President, I believe of the Fire Chief's Association during the last Charter Review when the discussion came about. We actually came up with the language for the Fire Rescue Council. I was the President of the Chief's Association when we went through Hurricane Wilma, and in fact, I was a signature on the White Paper that made the recommendations to the County Commission. It was endorsed by the League of Cities, the Police Chief's Association, the Fire Chief's Association, City Manager's Association, so on and so forth. The Fire Chief's Association has some concerns about the change of the makeup of the Board, of the recommendations. Here is the reason, it was not by accident – Police and Emergency Management were not left out because of our wanting to be in isolation. The fact of the matter is, if it is closest unit response, that's a primary performance indicator for the Fire Rescue Service, and that was the area that was being addressed as something that we as a County needed to do. So we established this Fire Rescue Council to address that issue. To make sure within the County, we had the means and the technology in place that we could have closest unit response.

I've known Joe Benavides a long time, for over 20 years, and I respect him professionally. I respectfully disagree with his statement that we haven't gotten anywhere. If you listen to Mr. Carpani, and you look at the infrastructure that's put in place, and look at some of the color

schemes, you'll see that this County is inner-operable. We have the capabilities it's a matter now of different municipalities coming to agreement and signing papers; The infrastructure and the technology are in place there. Here is a second reason you need to be concerned – I attended a meeting of the Emergency Coordinating Council this morning. The Emergency Coordinating Council is established by County Ordinance and the purpose of the Council is to coordinate emergency management, preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation – it's created by language in the State Statute and it's an Advisory Board to the County. So, if we were to create another Advisory Board here that was addressing emergency management, we would directly contradict that Emergency Coordinating Council. In fact as part of Hurricane Wilma, one of the primary recommendations from all the associations that I previously mentioned was that the Emergency Coordinating Council needed to be strengthened. In fact a draft ordinance was put in place. In fact, if Mr. Corwin is still here, I think that's up in front of the Commission in the next few meetings as part of a super amendment. Is that a correct statement?

**Mr. Corwin:** Correct.

**Chief Sullivan:** Secondly, there's an EMS Advisory Board by County ordinance that advises the County Commission on the EMS matters, and establishes local County ordinance addressing how Emergency Medical services are delivered in this County. This Board would again contradict, interfere and duplicate some of those efforts, and you know what happens when you have different Advisory Boards, is that duplication might not necessarily be positive in nature.

So I would urge that the Fire Rescue Council remain with the focus that it had, and maybe take a look back at – what was the scope of that Board. The scope of that Board was to create the ability to have closest unit response, and it is there, it's there right now. So they have been a successful Board and to be careful not to expand it to the point where we are over stepping boundaries into other Advisory Boards that are already in place and functioning well. As an Administrator, "I am not a politician, I am an Administrator Fire Chief", it's pretty confusing when I get direction from 5 or 6 places at the same time. It doesn't appear to me that those 5 or 6 different places really understand how the system is set up and works. I thank you very much for those few minutes.

Mr. Mena thanked Chief Sullivan for coming and making his comments. He clarified that the PSSC is not creating a new agency; he explained that they are trying to change the name of the Fire Rescue Council and add a few members, but it will still be the same agency. He advised

that the Fire Rescue Council would still be the same agency. Mr. Mena stated that from day one, he has been concerned that there is something wrong with the Fire Rescue Council having no police representatives. He stated that it is not all about fire, but it is about law enforcement and fire working together. Mr. Mena stated that it seems to him that all that has been done since 2002, as Ms. Starkey has also said, is looking at this. Mr. Mena informed Mr. Sullivan that he has his transcripts from last month, where he provided a “woozy” of a couple of things, and Colonel Auer also provided information on the EOC that wasn’t working. So, Mr. Mena advised that it is not working, or at least this is the impression the PSSC has been getting.

**Chief Sullivan:** I can try to change that impression you have.

Mr. Mena stated that the EOC is disconnected from the rest of the scenario. He advised that the Fire Rescue Council needs a centralized agency that would handle all things when it comes to an emergency such as Wilma. He referred to a conversation which Colonel Auer stated that someone from his city happened to call for some additional troops or police during Wilma, and there were 100 deputies sitting 5 or 10 minutes away and they sent 20 to 40 troopers from Palm Beach and other areas. Mr. Mena stated that this is ridiculous and a definite communication problem; he added that you have to coordinate everybody on the same wave length. He advised that it’s not that the Fire Rescue Council is broken; it just needs some additional help. He stated that it seems that the EOC is not on Board and there is a problem and it needs to be resolved.

Mr. Mena advised that he is looking at the 9 people that are recommended members of the Council, 2 of them from the medical profession; and if you have a medical representative, you would need one for trauma. He suggested having one person that is responsible for making sure that you get a trauma individual involved. He referred to Firefighters, which are in the union and the Fire Chiefs who are not in the union. He asked if this is a political deal, or something that is necessary because of a lack of ideas. Mr. Mena stated that it seems redundant to have 4 representatives and neither from BSO or the Police Chiefs.

**Chief Sullivan:** I can answer that – and I think you said in your first statement that if it was not a mistake – that it was created as the Fire Rescue Council. That was the purpose it was created; to advise on fire rescue issues. Police did not have an issue with closest unit response, and there’s not an issue of interoperability. The issue was with dispatching the closest unit – the ability to dispatch the closest unit to a call; thus, those municipalities can work out those arrangements.

Mr. Mena advised Chief Sullivan that he is looking at the issue narrow- minded as he was only thinking about Fire Rescue.

**Chief Sullivan:** Because it was created as an Advisory Board for Fire Rescue Council issues, there were already advisory boards in place for the other areas.

Mr. Mena stated that the police need to coordinate with the firefighters to get to that particular accident.

**Chief Sullivan:** By creating an advisory Board that overlaps with already established advisory boards, addressing the same issue might not be the best solution – Is my only suggestion.

Ms. Eisinger suggested that the PSSC may need to be more specific in terms of the responsibility of the Council. She questioned why the Fire Rescue Council is part of the County Charter when the others are created by ordinance? She added that she would certainly want to see the Public Safety Council at a manageable number, and politics out of it. She advised Ms. Starkey that she appreciated her comment regarding going to the Broward League of Mayors, however, she would probably be the first one as a Mayor to say that she would rather see our Public Safety Professionals dealing with this than to bring any need for any extra political activity there. Ms. Eisinger stated that she has no problem with the representation through the League as it does not need to be increased. She stated that she just wants to ensure that all the right Public Safety Unions and different groups are represented.

**Ms. Starkey:** First of all my comment was just in order to balance out those people that you need to have on here. The reason – and with no disrespect to my friend Joe, that I've known for a long time, the reason you need the politicians, you can like us or not like us, that's entirely up to you; we exist. The bottom line is the reason we exist is because the constituents elect us. This program and many of these programs that even the Charter Review recommends will not be implemented if you don't have somebody pull the trigger on it. Usually that requires a little bit of the politics,. The politicians as well as Commissioner Mena and Mayor Eisinger from Cooper City understand and a lot of you, so it's important to have the politicians a little bit – I didn't mean more, a little bit to keep it all balanced so that when you need to get feed back from the municipal governments to see if we are way off base on some of these things or if we are trying to get them to buy in on these things. You're going to have plans that start to come together and you are going to have advocacy groups starting to build in these various entities. So you do need your politicians out there. There was a Task Force and Joy can speak better to this, that began many years ago that began to talk about emergency responses and our coordination on

a regional level because it was fragmented. Communications was fragmented, response was fragmented, and there wasn't any coordination or cooperation from municipal aide and so forth. So between the League of Cities – your politicians – we were able to advance this idea through a Task Force and it started to get the dialogue going with your predecessors of a previous Charter Review Committee. The previous Charter Review Committee – Mr. Mena, added it to the Charter, specifically added it to the Charter recognizing that it was a crisis, and something that needed to be addressed by formulating this Fire Council. I was kind of involved at the Task Force level when it was discussed early on. I was not on the Fire Council until the a few months ago. I was appointed. It didn't take much to catch up from where we left off then, and the intent and where we needed to be now. The whole thing that's missing, – what's missing is pulling the trigger on these recommendations no matter what they are. Whether they're from the Hurricane Advisory Board the dollars are short. Whether it's from the Fire Council for communication equipment, municipalities don't have it – the County wants communication; they should pay for it, you don't have it.

It's not whether you rearrange the chairs on this Titanic of monumental public safety. It's how you really get there and make sure that you will stop it from sinking. Because this problem was – long ago we have come a long way – I believe in coordinating with Mutual Aide Agreements and starting to get communications elements that are critical to response. I think it's going in the right direction. Really, I was impressed, I have to tell you when the first meeting that I attended on the Fire Council – even though I was not happy that it hadn't really gone as fast as I may have wanted it, they had come up with all the necessary research recommendations and were ready to go. The bottom line is dollars. Yes, you're going to have political enemies that are going to have to be involved, no question – if you want to get it done, you're going to have to have those people who are going to be able to implement and pull the trigger on what you want to be done. How this Charter Review Committee comes up with that – good luck to you. But like my colleague to the left of me said, it isn't broken – it really isn't broken. I would just say just fund some of the things that have happened; that I don't know if it is within your purview or not, that's kind of hard to say.

The Chair gave Mayor Cooper the floor.

**Mayor Joy Cooper:** Well, actually I would like to see the proposal, I have the minutes – I've been on vacation so I've had minutes of your past meeting – I don't have a copy of it, and I asked your staff about this. This is the Public Safety Coordinating Council and it is a discussion about the Correctional Facilities, so I don't know how you got here today.

Mr. Mena advised that it has nothing to do with that and he does not know why that is in there.

Ms. West explained that that information came from Mr. Corwin.

**Mayor Cooper:** I'm kind of remiss and I don't know how you got here today. I guess one of the questions that I wrote down was. I think what I am hearing is that the major concern of what started out this discussion was the link between the Sheriff's Office and EMS.

I know that there is a circumstance where somebody has an accident and police show up and EMS show up, my EMS better show up a lot quicker than BSO to file an accident report. I think they have various response times and they have various issues. I am going to agree with the point that the last things we need to continue to do in this County is have duplicity. The initial establishment of this whole Charter, and it did get back to the original beginnings of – with no disrespect to the unions, pushing to have all these standards authorizations, all the standardization for every municipality throughout the County, and really try to force a County-wide system. I went through it; Susan went through it; Jody was there by my side, and we agreed to disagree on one specific issue. I testified to the entire Committee on this – I agreed on the one point that communications was critical, because of the lack of interoperability. I had asked Rick – as far as which presentations he has made and where we are with addressing how we are going to implement this process. The reality is – Susan hit it right on the head;, it's going to be political will and it's going to be money to get this thing done. I know the union is trying to present some issues. They came before me with Mayor Eisinger as the Executive Director of the League to look at Taxing Districts and how we can get this to pay for just the communications.

I am a little concerned because I still think there's an impression that we haven't gotten as far as we've gone. I don't know if Rick had a chance to make a full presentation with information he has on the Fire Council with interoperability and the issues of where we are and where we can get to – where the rubber meets the road with closest unit first response. I am not sure – I guess your goal today is change the name and add to make a link to the Broward County Sheriff's Office. I don't know if that's apples and oranges, but I certainly – I take it back to some of the research that I have done. There's supposed to be standards in Miami-Dade that put people on trucks, and I think I discussed this at my Charter Review presentation to the whole body.

There are ordinances that in some cities that maximum is the mandated level of service on each truck. You know what though? Their distance between stations might not be as close as

what we would have in our municipality. Their response times might not be as quick as ours – I can't quote the figures, but that's what I have heard. I mean, it's not exact science to just say you need levels of service; you need these types of circumstances. My initial concern with even delving into this situation was – the only concerns were a timeframe, production of work and the funding source. I brought this up as early – and Rick went to the League of Mayors, and basically the Cities believe that the County needs to come up to the plate for funding communication. How they go about that is going to be their idea of how they go about funding communications. I think that one size doesn't fit all for every municipality – I am going to disagree with some of the comments that have been made because of that effort. I might want more EMS than I want fire in my City – we're very close to a model – there's already Mutual Aide, and we are working towards an Automatic Aide model for some of these people that are linking into this system. So we need time to do it and I think its come down to the time to implement it and the funding mechanism. Without knowing what all your intimate conversations were or your ultimate goals were. ,I can't recommend at this point but I can take it back to the Broward League of Cities. I wouldn't recommend any changes unless there was clarification of what the funding source was going to be and that it was to facilitate closest unit first response. Those are the two only issues that I can see even you tackling, to open up a can of worms for the Charter Review amendment in regards to any of these specific issues. In light of -- be careful what you ask for, because no matter what, in any scenario it is going to come down to money, and any decisions this group makes or the County decides to mandate as they did. case It is going to be every single taxpayer that has to pay for it. I would ask the question: is there any type of risk? Are we jeopardizing any types of security, are our municipalities' doing any of those things? – I think closest unit communications actually addressed some of that because we said yes. There's no reason why Davie men can't be responding to an emergency situation if they are across the street. Now how you get there and if there is a time frame of funding to put it in place, that's kind of where we came from.

Mr. Mena stated that he does not understand Mayor Cooper's comments; he advised that what the Committee is trying to do is enhance a Council that already exists. He explained that at the time the FRC was created in 2002, the PSSC has never received any information as to what was accomplished back then in 2002. Mr. Mena requested information relevant to the Fire Rescue Council.

**Mayor Joy Cooper:** You said he did not make that presentation, and he told me he did make that presentation.

Mr. Mena informed Mayor Cooper that Mr. Carpani has made two presentations before the PSSC.

**Mr. Carpani:** One presentation was a strategic plan; the presentation I did not make was a copy that I have there, that I shared with the Fire Rescue Council. It gives our progress on radio interoperability and common CAD platform which both support closest unit response.

Mr. Mena advised Mayor Cooper that the Committee is discussing a different issue.

**Mayor Cooper:** I think that's critical and that's what's going to be – you need to know that – I think there's an impression, that there's no progress.

Mr. Mena advised that he does not believe that is the impression. He stated with regards to the politics, the politicians are a necessary evil and kind of like a catalyst. He stated that what's happened since 2002 is that the FRC has created some ideas; some were not implemented and some things could have been better. They've talked about it, but nothing has been done, why? Because there's no money – it's always about money. He stated that he is on the Transportation subcommittee also and there's no money for Light Rail, for Buses, it's always about the budget. Mr. Mena stated that something needs to be at least offered to the main Charter Review Commission to offer to the County Commissioners, so they'll have some fresh ideas in 2007 in order to move on. Mr. Mena advised that his point has been that we need to coordinate the police. He advised that he never said BSO only, as it has always been the police or law enforcement. He does not want to see an exclusivity of BSO, as he'd like to see other police departments involved too. He stated that the natural assumption is the Police Chief's Association represents everyone as he understands it. He added that the PSSC have been discussing this issue for the last few weeks and one of the things that came up was that the EOC which is implemented only and during emergency needs a little bit of help to make it perform better. What does that have to do with communication? I do not know. He advised that the Committee is here to learn and recommend.

**Mayor Cooper:** I don't know what your recommendations are, but at this point – and I don't have a copy of them. If you want to add EOC to this Committee – you are going to add EOC – the point I'm making is the goal and objective of the Committee in their original realm is that everyone could reach consensus on communication, and that the County should fund the infrastructure, the management of this infrastructure. Not just to make interoperability, but to facilitate closest unit first response. Now all of the voters voted for that.

Mr. Mena informed Mayor Cooper that this was never discussed.

**Mayor Cooper:** – No. I guess historically and I guess as a Charter Review body you are wearing a Charter Review Committee hat. You can change any membership you want on this Committee and we can commit and make an Advisory Board recommendation to the County. We can recommend all we want because we have the plans. The question is the funding and where is it going to go. So what happened was, I believe that in and of itself funding has created some conflicts, and I don't know where you address that. If that does become part of the Charter amendment that needs to be clarified, at what point do we set a guideline or timeframe to implement this. I think that maybe this is the teeth that you are looking for, but you can start adding as many people as you want – we could implement a plan tomorrow if we had....

Mr. Mena advised that it is not the matter of just putting a bunch of people on the Council.

**Mayor Cooper:** Well, that's what I'm saying, so I don't know.

Mr. Mena advised that the PSSC has not discussed where to get the money for the program that Mr. Carpani has presented.

The Chair stated that the Committee has no control over funding. He stated that he believes that the focus of the Fire Rescue Council should be the same as initially set up. There were discussions that Fire Rescue should be more involved with communications and it gave credence to change the name to make it a Public Safety Committee.

He referred to an email received advising that the scope of the Committee is so narrow that it didn't lend itself to additional members; the police and the PSSC didn't need to do that. He advised that other discussions have been had about Emergency issues, many of them post-storm and EOC related. He stated that the PSSC is just throwing it out today as far as increasing the scope. He advised that the main focus should be what it has been. The Chair stated that he believes there should be an EOC member on the Committee and a member from the Public Safety Communications Committee to ensure Rick Carpani has a voice on that Committee. He advised that adding additional police was voted on as a group as a good idea. He stated that it is now at 13 members and more discussion is due. He asked if is it watering down the Committee; is it changing the focus; does adding the additional members improve the Communications part of it and should we add the other issues? He advised that the PSSC has already voted as a group to add minimum standards as an issue, not that the PSSC is going to decide what they are as that is for the Council to decide.

The Chair asked for additional comments.

**Mayor Cooper:** Maybe I would like for the Committee to share with me, so I can take back to my body individually, what your thought process was in approving a minimum standards, and what documentation you read to actually justify the proposal of minimum standards.

Chief Sullivan asked if it is minimum standards across all disciplines.

Ms. Kaletta advised that the Committee is not going to decide minimum standards.

**Mayor Cooper:** But, I'm saying that you're recommending it to the main body.

Ms. Kaletta replied no, and explained that the Committee is recommending that the Council have the authority to make the recommendations, and it would be them, the Fire and the Police who would be the ones to make the minimum standards. She advised that the Committee started out initially with looking at what is in the Charter and what the Charter says is, "There shall be corporation between municipalities and the Commission will" and it says that, "the County shall provide funding for communication and all service providers, the communications infrastructure shall facilitate closest unit response."

She added that this is the only actual thing that is said in here; the others are very general. "There shall be established a Broward County Fire Rescue Council that will be advisory and shall facilitate coordination between County and Municipalities in carrying out." Ms. Kaletta stated that the PSSC started out with putting more strength to this, and not having it so nebulous. Right now it looks good on paper, but it really doesn't say a whole lot. She advised that her thoughts were, looking at it to give more impact and more strength so that it could accomplish something. She is not saying that things haven't been accomplished; but is simply saying, to give more direction. Ms. Kaletta advised that the other thing is Commissioner Mena insisted that the Committee include Police which she believes is a valid point, as you do want to have Police incorporated with this because it's not just a Fire situation. Ms. Kaletta advised she does not feel emphasis should be put on how many are on the Council or the fact of how much has been done, as it is just what today's agenda was dealing with. Ms. Kaletta informed Ms. Cooper that what was said in the main meeting today is that the CRC wants to look at getting better ,not looking at mistakes that have been made and not trying to correct things that have been done. She advised that the CRC is simply in a position to do things to give us a focus, to be better 10, 15, 20 years in the future.

**Mayor Cooper:** That's pretty commendable, and I understand from what my education of being involved in this issue is, you can do a minimum standard. Okay – that's your prerogative, you want to recommend it and put it to the voters that you will create an unfunded mandate. I would

look at it and say, if in fact we are going to create that and it's going to be implemented from each municipality and the County is in fact truly benefiting each municipality, and is it truly benefiting every City. I'm saying it, and I spoke at the other Committee as far as – my Fire Chief might have 20 people on shift, it doesn't mean that there are 4 people on every truck – you might have more trucks. There's different ways to look at minimum standards from my understanding. The question is, are we in fact at risk of putting anybody in Broward County at risk. I philosophically went through this historically – in fact I've looked at the documentation, I've looked at one size fits all, some people have volunteer stations. There are places in the Country that still have volunteer Firefighters. My concern is what – if you do the minimum standard, and you are saying great, this is what we are going to do; we are going to do 3 on a truck...

Ms. Kaletta advised Mayor Cooper that she did not mention minimum standards; she stated that the Committee is looking at how things could be better and improving on the Council. Making sure that Council has the right people on it, then they would have the right to look at minimum standards. It may not be minimum standards that are across the board; it could very possibly be minimum standards that are applicable to each community.

**Mayor Cooper:** Just as a point of order, we are doing that, we're doing that as a Council. The one hold up that really is to implement is funding. What we are doing is, we are working with a template, we already have mutual aid. We're working with a template for automatic aid.

**Mr. Benavides:** It doesn't exist, not true. An exchange ensued between Mayor Cooper and Mr. Benavides.

The Chair stated that the PSSC is not deciding what the minimum standards are; he advised that the PSSC is saying that the Council should decide what the minimum standards are and come up with them. He asked if there is a problem with that and doing it in that manner.

**Mayor Cooper:** Yes, because I don't think we should be setting minimum standards – I think it's the job of the technical Fire Chief's in every department. Whether it is the County department, or the municipal department to figure out what is best for their community because every community is different. Coral Springs is different from my City. I am a very highly dense City. I have elderly population; they have a younger population. I have different needs than Coral Springs.

The Chair advised that these are minimum standards.

**Mr. Benavides:** I would just like to say three points here and I am not going to disrespect any of the people here because we have worked together for a very long time. They know what my goal is – my goal is to increase the response protocol and standards and the way we operate to better the community. Period. But the issue is very simple; where they said they've done this they've done that. The County, when we first did the Fire Rescue Communications Council authorized a \$50,000 grant for DECCAN program for every City to use.

Every City got a copy of the DECCAN program. It's a program that generates automatic radius response criteria for the municipalities. It generates any overlaps, any redundancies, anything that would aide in the response for the closest unit response. Six months ago, I sent out a letter to every City asking through Public information what criteria, and what they got from the use of the DECCAN program. I did this thoroughly because the Fire Rescue Council was going to use that program to coordinate, facilitate, and evaluate what's going on with the closest unit response. One City in Broward County used the DECCAN program for radius response – no one else uses it and the ones that are using, used it internally to see how their units are responding inside their own municipalities. They did not use it as a coordinated radius map-out for the County. This is the problem when you go from City to City. Everybody wants a standard; everybody wants a Fire Department, but nobody wants to make it one solid unit that's going to respond County-wide to everybody with the same standard protocol and evaluation process. That is what's wrong with this system, and as long as everybody wants their own little world, and they don't want to use the tools that are out there, we are going to be doing this debate. I sit here today – I respect everyone, they have to represent their constituents. I represent the Firefighters, one united group that responds daily in Broward County from border to border. It is not fair to say to the Firefighters, run your standard different here, apply your protocols different here, and make sure that everything balances out at the end of the day. I think it has to start at the top and we have to make available all the tools to make it happen right. So, if we don't even use the DECCAN program which was given to the Cities free to evaluate closest unit response in a radius protocol profile, then we haven't started to do the work that we were put to task to do 5 years ago. That is why the Fire Rescue Council today has no valued response when we said we need X amount of dollars to do this. We have no idea yet how many units are in each City that would go under the closest unit response automatic vehicle locators and all that because the Cities have not given that information. So at the end of the day, we can make up all these other Committees and they're all wonderful Committees. They are still powerless to impose or implement anything. You as a Committee have the ability today to create a standard Council with one sure-foot, and that is to create a Public Safety Model that's going to respond to everybody in the same form with the same process, and the

same funding. The funding is a different area, but the reality is, if the Cities haven't even used the DECCAN program which is \$50,000 for maintenance up-keep for every year, then I suggest to you, they will not follow any Advisory Boards. They all want to do things their own way. So, until we put it in a format that we can see what everybody's doing honestly, we will not know what real response is because no one knows.

Mr. Mena asked for the correct spelling of the DECCAN program.

**Mr. Benavides:** DECCAN. It is a program that Mr. Corwin will tell you – everybody had the option to use and to date one City used it.

Mr. Mena stated that there might be a reason why no one uses it, the Committee needs to know that.

**Mr. Benavides:** There is a reason – they don't want you to see what closest unit response can do County-wide and that's the reality. That's my personal opinion, of course.

**George Danz, Director of the Broward County Trauma Agency.**

**Mr. Danz:** Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is George Danz; I am the Director of the Broward County Trauma Agency and also a member of the Fire Advisory Council. I don't want to throw a wrench into the system, but my editorial opinion is that we should sunset and eliminate the Fire Rescue Council. Let me say that and let me give a brief background – I served for 22 years as Fire Chief, ten of those years I also was a certified Law Enforcement Officer in charge of a Police agency. I've been in Broward County for 22 years now, when Dr. Benson was on the Committee that selected me when I came here. I also served on the Board of Directors of International Fire Chief's and currently serve as the Vice President of the National Fire Chief's Association Foundation. I say that just to give you a little background of where I am coming from. The Fire Rescue Council, when it was put in the Charter was very narrow in scope, communications, strictly communications when you talk about first unit response. I think that system is developed, but the capability is there to do that, that capability with the County.

I hear a lot of discussion today about how many members should be on the Rescue Council, but my concern is what is the authority and responsibility of that Council? If it's going to continue to be just communications in scope, I think its job is done. If it's going to expand for some other reason or into standards or other things, then I guess that's another issue. But I guess my personal opinion is – and I've heard somebody say here, we need to operate as one standard

solid unit throughout the County. I think that decision – the chance for that decision was missed about 25 years ago.

I think these days with Home Rule Cities with 30 some Cities in Broward County, with many of them having their own Fire Departments, I think through the County Fire Chief's and Emergency Coordinating Council, through a number those resources, you are getting to about as much standardization as you are going to get. I think with the Home Rule responsibility of Cities – I don't think you are ever going to have standardization unless you have some mechanism. I don't know whether it's illegal for you to force standards upon Cities, but that's the only way it's going to be done. I don't expect in my lifetime, I'll ever see that happen. I think we have a fantastic system in Broward County. I came here as the Director of Fire and Emergency Medical Service for the EMS when I came here 22 years ago. I was in charge of that system for 10 years before I took over the Trauma Agency, and I also served as Chief of Operations in the Medical Management. I can say that when you look around the Country and see what resources we have and the capability with Fire and Emergency Medical Services, I think we are the envy of the Country. We've got highly trained Paramedics; we have all of the resources; we have response times. Yes, there are some deficiencies – closest unit response at least in my mind still hasn't been fully implemented; the capability is there, but it certainly hasn't been implemented.

Ms. Kaletta asked Mr. Danz why.

**Mr. Danz:** Well I think one is, people are on different communications systems. Different dispatch centers, different dispatch systems, and things like that which hinder our closest unit response. One unit is on this side of the street, and another dispatch center is on the other side; they don't know what to do or what each other are doing.

Ms. Kaletta asked Mr. Danz if that is what the Fire Rescue Council was supposed to take care of in 2002 and here six years later it hasn't been.

**Mr. Danz:** I think that Council was charged with making the capability there; the capability is there. The technical capability is there – there's no question about that. But I think the political will is not there. The Communities want to do something unique, want to do their own thing and they have that right. I don't think, as I see it, that it's going to change.

Ms. West stated that the Committee has said 2 or 3 times that they are looking forward, Broward County is changing, its responsibilities are changing and we keep talking about money. Money is a big issue. Cities are faced with big cuts. She stated that she heard today that

Miramar is now looking at a \$12 million budget cut. Now, as we look forward that would probably affect some of the services that they provide. Ms. West asked hypothetically, what happens when some of the cities get in a tight and they can't afford the Fire Rescue. She advised that looking forward this could be an issue. She suggested that as the Committee talks about looking forward, we still have to look forward as a community. She suggested the conversation focus on how to make it all work together. She called for recommendations from those who are in the field.

**Mayor Joy Cooper:** That is exactly what we are looking to do, but it's technical and it takes money. For one issue as far as you know, it's there and the capabilities are there. Some of the cities really have invested in their own infrastructure, and they really firmly believe it's the best infrastructure.

Ms. Kaletta stated that her concern came from a statement made by Mayor Cooper stating that it should be up to the Fire Chiefs to decide what is best for their community. She stated that she is not sure that they can always make the decisions or that they do always make those decisions on best practices, because they are impacted by funding and political pressures. She added that she believes that there needs to be some oversight, not just the Fire Chiefs as good as they are. She stated, it speaks to politics and funding. Therefore, there needs to be some avenue that is broader-based in helping to make the decisions.

**Mr. Danz:** But will this Council have that authority to provide that oversight?

Mr. Mena advised that the Committee is trying to gather those recommendations.

**Mayor Joy Cooper:** We are an Advisory to the County Commission, and it goes back to my initial comment – We can advise all we want. Tell a County to do this – this is our recommendation; you have to have the will to do whatever you want do to make it happen. So, you know it goes back to funding and the will.

Ms. Eisinger stated that at least in this respect, it's an Advisory Council created from professionals in the field. She stated shame on those who politically would choose not to accept it. She stated that the Committee is talking about the health, welfare and safety of the residents. The bottom line is that the State Legislature has not made it easy on municipal operations throughout the State of Florida right now, and all we heard when they passed the statutory amendment was that there are going to be major cutbacks in Police and Fire; we are jeopardizing (we meaning the political entity) in terms of looking at City budgets and cutting back. She asked are constituents being jeopardized by cutting back. Ms. Eisinger stated that

she is afraid that to totally abolish the Fire Rescue Council, would definitely be taking a step backwards.

**Chief Sullivan:** There's only one point that I wanted to make – pretty clear, that I find as a concern was that it appears that we are creating or recommending - creating an Advisory Board where there are already Advisory Boards in place and there would be conflict there. So I would just urge this Committee to research that further. The ECC is a very strong Board; it's been well established – nobody is denying that it didn't work as well as it should. It is already an Advisory Board in place, and what we would be doing is creating competing Advisory Boards for the same issue. My personal opinion as a Fire Chief is that there's a Fire Rescue Council establishing Fire Rescue issues, and I'd like to see it that way. I see that there has been significant investment and significant progress made – I disagree that it was a waste of a Board. I think that we have seen a lot of progress, and Mr. Carpani could prove that to you given the opportunity.

The Chair advised that he would like to have another few minutes of discussion and then move forward.

**Mr. Trower:** Just one more question, just for clarification on my part. Maybe, I am just missing it here. Section 5.03 A of the Fire Rescue Council empowering article says “The County shall provide funding for the communications infrastructure and all service providers will utilize the elements of the communications infrastructure.” Is this what we are talking about, that the plan is there, but the funding is not there; the County is not funding it. I am trying to find out whether what's in the existing Charter, has indeed been successfully implemented.

There were multiple responses from the guests– No.

**Mr. Corwin:** When the Charter was passed, the Board implemented a 5 year Capital Program, \$30 million dollars. **I believe that we debate success, less than success.** The foundation of achieving - in my mind, the objective outline in that Charter was interoperability. We had \$30 million dollars and a long way to get there. I'd say we made great progress. The second element of the technical infrastructure that you need for closest unit response gets into CAD and that's where it gets a little persona;, my CAD's better than yours and that kind of stuff, but it gets more technical than just the radio stuff and we've made progress. I don't know if you can put great in front of that, but we've definitely made progress; so, I would say that the County Commission put money behind that mandate in the Charter to make improvements.

**Mr. Trower:** Let me stop you for a minute Pete. That is specifically on the Communications piece, not the CAD and the closest unit response.

**Mr. Corwin:** They go together; I'd say they go together. Communications, CAD, it's all the same.

**Mr. Trower:** My thinking would be the County is still on the hook for the remainder of the service – is that right?

**Mr. Corwin:** BSO has developed a plan to take it to the next step. To go further, and also probably replace the stuff that's obsolete. So, the County Commission is going to have to wrestle with how to fund that. With any funding decision you can buy the Lexus, you can buy the Corolla or you can buy the Camry and we haven't had that discussion. There's room for disagreement and having an Advisory Board as this is set up for a function that the County is responsible for, Communications. As you just read from the Charter, probably makes sense to bring the various parties together. Where Joe and I would disagree is, if you broaden this and you get into standards, how many people should be on the truck. To me, and I may not be answering your question because I'm going in a different direction here, that does not make sense because the County is not in that business anymore. Fire Rescue Service is a City responsibility. We have one and one half stations left in the unincorporated areas. We are out of the business; why would the Board advise the County Commission on something we're out of the business of. It's the Cities' responsibility. Now the DECCAN software, which we funded, which would help Cities if they chose to use that for Automatic Aide Agreements, that's fine and it fits in with closest unit response. But, I don't personally think that this Advisory Board should advise a group that's not in the business anymore.

**Mr. Benavides:** Just a point of clarification, when Pete says that there's a different development. The closest unit response area, I believe the Charter clearly suggests that we should be working to make that happen. But on the other part, when we say that the County isn't in the Fire Rescue business, I can make this hypothetical suggestion to you, that if in fact this constitutional amendment passes, and they take 30% off the top. I believe 12 Cities are in trouble in Broward County to pay for the Fire Rescue system. The reality of the County's Charter says "that if a City does not want to supply Fire Rescue Services or Police Services – that the County shall provide and must provide those services." So, whether they want to be in the Fire service business or not they still collectively could have 10 departments next year.

**Ms. Starkey:** One of the things, I think you should consider and this is clearly for your consideration is most of the time – and I will tell you, I know police and I know fire. I have family members in both fields. I will tell you that it's always a debate on police and fire –even at the simplest level. You are going to have now – creating a Committee is something to think about that you are going to be competitive in requests and recommendations, and that might be an issue for you to consider also. There are always competitions between police and fire; then there is funding. Maybe the Council is still sufficient, but perhaps in the Charter you may want to look at, that there is an oversight of those recommendations like we mentioned earlier or perhaps a timeframe that we would make these recommendations and then follow up and find out why these recommendations weren't acted upon. There has to be some kind of accountability if these Advisory Boards are going to make recommendations. I served on the Human Rights Board. For 2 years I was an appointee to the Human Rights Board for Broward County. I will tell you, I quit and the reason I quit was because many of the recommendations were going upon deaf ears; many of the things that were being done were just not really considered. Yet this human issue of the Human Rights Board was extremely important to me – to me and my communities. It was just the way the structure was itself. I will tell you that the Fire Council – I believe has done what they were supposed to do; I believe it's not quite there yet. That the recommendations, unfortunately, were not available to Mr. Benavides while he was in Tallahassee; He couldn't make recommendations from the last meeting, and I am sorry you didn't get the minutes because they probably hadn't been typed at the moment – I don't know. Those recommendations to move to the funding and requesting the County Commission – I don't even know if its made it to their agenda yet, but as of the last meeting, the final components of what this Committee had been working on had come to fruition. They finally made those recommendations and moved it along.

Having added maybe some language now, I believe the Charter under their scope, might be appropriate to add teeth to some kind of accountability or timeline which is what I believe I am trying to hear you say. Looking at the other Committees that also are equally responding, but to have those recommending an advisory Board Committee not be a department of redundancy, but to actually work independently on their recommendations, then go to the coordinating Council which is advisory by ordinance to coordinate and bring those final recommendations back together, perhaps that might the better way to go.

The Chair asked Mr. Carpani what would be a reasonable end date timeframe to accomplish what Ms. Starkey is speaking of.

**Mr. Carpani:** Listen, I've only been here 13 months now and I can't answer that question, because in working with a number of the Cities, I think we are making great progress. In my opinion, it doesn't matter from a technology perspective whether the person wears a red, white, and blue uniform or a patch. They should all leverage the same technology; there are economies of scales there, so that may help some of the funding issues instead of City aide paying for its own radio system. Take those funds and redirect them somewhere else; maybe hire additional firefighters and police officers and utilize the common technology platforms. To answer your question how long will it take....

The Chair asked the guest what would be a reasonable timeframe.

**Ms. Starkey:** When they fund it.

**Mayor Cooper:** I think Mr. Trower referenced the actual amendment language; we delved in this as far as the Council language. There's language saying that the municipalities – I don't have it in front of me, will, shall, and must utilize the system – I don't know what the language was – the question is – is the political will, and is the County Commission the actual legal body to say, guess what, we've done this and we've funded it; you will use it and if you're not, is there a legal challenge. I am not an attorney, but I am sitting here, and that's why I was laughing. The language there is they will use it, and everybody has paid for it with County dollars.

Ms. Kaletta referred to a comment that said the County is not in the business of Fire Rescue anymore. She advised that the health and safety of everyone in this County belongs to the County and if they have to fund it, well then maybe they have to fund it.

**Mr. Benavides:** Its dollars and cents; at the end of the day the County put up X amount of dollars – they put up \$30 million. The County put up a lot of money, when you look at the whole picture. For example, this is where the Cities and the County are at this point. There's an extra \$30 or \$40 million required to create the radio system; the vehicle locator system has to go on all the units. That is a part of the system where the Fire Rescue Council is supposed to make a recommendation. I believe we are very close to that point to make that recommendation.

Now what that vote is going to be, I can't tell you, but I do believe at the end of day, if the Fire Rescue Council says we want to make a recommendation, that you fund the whole infrastructure so everybody shall be on the same system or shall be able to be on the same system. It's just a matter of time; Rick doesn't want to give you a time frame. I might because I feel a lot of things out there. I would suggest to you that a radio system lasts 5 to 7 years. If we, the County, if we make a recommendation and the County says okay we will do it, I would

suggest to you, that in 5 or 7 years at the latest, that City is going to have to put a new radio system in place.

At that time, that City may say I want to get the full bang for my buck and get everything where it should be. I believe personally this is something that could've, should've, and we must get done within the next 5 to 7 years. If the radio systems live that long – and that's an honest statement which was provided by us by the technology world; then I believe we are that close to having a full infrastructure where closest unit response and the County may or may not fully fund it; that's the issue. That's my opinion, I see we can get there, but somebody has to put the money up.

**Next Meeting - August 29, 2007 at 12:00pm**

Ms. Eisinger advised that the Public Safety Committee of the Charter Review is why we are working together with Public Safety in terms of what language they recommend putting on the Charter. The whole idea to go from even a Broward Fire Rescue Council to a Broward County Public Safety Council came with the input from the professionals through several meetings. She added that Rick Carpani and Joe Benavides were very helpful and there have been others. She advised that the PSSC is here listening and taking testimony and formulating the ideas. The in- put is coming from your side of the table. This was the first time that the PSSC heard a comment about sun-setting the whole Committee. She advised that the Committee is listening to you; we are putting everything together, but we need all of your input and we are going to need it particularly when it comes time for the final verbiage, i.e., whether there is a Charter question, what do the professionals say should be presented to the public.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming.

**IV. Input from Members of Broward County Fire Rescue Council**

See section III for this Summary of Discussion.

**V. Discussion of Report on Recommendations for Proposed Ballot Topics (Review of CRC Public Safety Subcommittee Summary of Issues)**

See section III for this Summary of Discussion.

**VI. Public Comment**

None

## **VII. Adjournment**

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 4:36 pm.

The minutes of this meeting are recorded on CRC-PSSC CD # 8.08.07 (BCGV CTR)