



**BERTHA W. HENRY**, County Administrator

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 409 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-7362 • FAX 954-357-7360

June 11, 2018

To: Municipal Managers

**Subject: Implementation of Closest Unit Response**

Dear Municipal Managers:

In 2002, the voters amended the Broward County Charter requiring the County to provide infrastructure necessary to facilitate Closest Unit Response (CUR). Specifically, certain emergencies would require the closest Fire or Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Unit to be dispatched to an event in a "prescribed" manner. Through the years, the County has invested millions of dollars in infrastructure to support and implement CUR. A successful pilot was conducted by several Broward cities, which now awaits full implementation. One of the crucial steps in this process is to establish the operational processes and protocols. As fire rescue stakeholders will be involved in these responses, the Fire Chief's Association of Broward County (FCABC) has taken the lead in proposing these procedures (see attached letter).

The next step is to submit these protocols to the Operational Review Team (ORT) for review and approval before they are implemented, consistent with the process for operational changes affecting the system as outlined in the Fitch Report. All changes require the majority vote of the participating municipalities. Accordingly, we will be reaching out to your respective Fire Chief to ensure that they have reviewed the proposal prior to voting. If approved by the ORT, the County will be meeting with the Fire Chiefs and Communications staff to develop a project plan and timeline to support the implementation countywide.

The final step in the process involves the municipalities and may include the approval of automatic aide agreements and possibly a process to reconcile any financial obligations that result from "runs" outside of your community.

Currently, the County is receiving requests to replace existing mobile data terminals (MDTs) in frontline fire rescue vehicles. These MDTs are the means in which these vehicles receive information regarding an incident. While the County has prioritized the repair of MDTs, we are encouraging municipalities to acquire their MDTs immediately if they need replacing. Once the implementation plan for CUR has been finalized, a status of all MDTs will be submitted to the County Commission for review and approval and municipalities will be reimbursed by the County for any purchases up to the amount that the County would otherwise have paid for the MDT itself.

Broward County Board of County Commissioners

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Municipal Managers  
Implementation of Closest Unit Response  
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We look forward to discussing this with you further and have asked to be placed on the July 19<sup>th</sup> BCCMA Agenda. If you have any questions prior, please contact me or Alphonso Jefferson, Jr., Assistant County Administrator, at 954-357-7352.

Sincerely,

  
Bertha Henry  
County Administrator

Attachment

cc: Board of County Commissioners  
Monica Cepero, Deputy County Administrator  
Alphonso Jefferson, Jr., Assistant County Administrator  
Tracy Jackson, Director, Regional Emergency Services and Communications



May 8, 2018

Mr. Brett Bayag, Acting Director  
Office of Regional Communications and Technology  
115 S. Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Dear Mr. Bayag,

Please be advised that the Fire Chiefs Association of Broward County and all of its member departments support the Closest Unit Response model to Life Threatening, High Priority calls. There are 19 different agencies providing fire, rescue, EMS, and special operations services to the residents and visitors of Broward County. All of these agencies have agreed to this program defined as follows:

**Closest Unit Response is an agreement among public bodies to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries based on an available unit's proximity to a life threatening, high priority call as determined by the Fire Chiefs Association of Broward County. The unit must be in available status and the call must be within a specified proximity of the available fire rescue unit as defined by the Fire Chiefs Association of Broward County. The specific proximity will be defined as a mile driving distance; this may be refined after the project is up and running, and further evaluations take place.**

It is the intent of the FCABC to use the current **International Academies of Emergency Dispatch Priority Dispatch Systems Protocols** for both medical and fire in defining what life threatening, high priority calls are, based on guidelines set forth in the protocols, until such time the current communication system implements any new dispatch protocols.

We are ready to start closest unit response as soon as possible. Please advise this body in writing of a launch date for this model.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Frank Babinec, President

CC: Bertha Henry, County Administrator  
Alphonso Jefferson, Jr., Assistant County Administrator

**President**

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