

MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # **430-2016**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: October 17, 2016

SUBJECT: Miami Beach Fire Boat 4 Launching Ceremony

The purpose of this LTC is to invite the Mayor and members of the City Commission to the launching ceremony of the Miami Beach Fire Boat 4. The ceremony will take place at Fire Station 4 (6860 Indian Creek Drive) on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 10AM.

As we are all aware, the City of Miami Beach is a barrier island that has a total area of 18.7 square miles, of which 7.0 square miles is land and 11.7 square miles or 62.7% is water. There is a vast amount of water related response territory including the Intracoastal Waterway, Biscayne Bay and the beaches on the ocean side that cannot be accessed by land craft. The Fire Department had no waterborne immediate life-saving response capabilities and will soon fill this gap by putting our fire boat into service. The City of Miami and Miami Dade provide mutual aid to the surrounding municipalities of Key Biscayne, Coral Gables as well as Miami-Dade County. This makes them responsible for an enormous geographical area creating a gap that cannot be closed. With the acquisition of the combination fire and rescue boat, staffed by a highly trained Waterborne Response Team will help close this gap and enhance regional service to the South Florida area by providing not only service in Miami Beach waters but responding to mutual aid calls in the region.

The City of Miami Beach has a history of waterborne related incidents. These incidents include persons falling from seawalls, cars in canals, airplane accidents, children drowning in canals or at the beach, frequent boat crashes and numerous marine vessel fires.

We are accessible from the mainland only by causeway, air or through the water. If any of these causeways were compromised by either natural or man-made acts, the vessel will facilitate evacuation or re-entry immediately. The fire boat will help secure the Intracoastal Waterway, the ocean side as well as the large and small waterways in the City of Miami Beach and effect rescues in a waterborne or near water emergency.

Of utmost importance is the need to complement an aging water supply. While the Fire Department works with Public Works to flow test and flush hydrants; the department at times has less than ideal fire flows to many of our island communities. The fireboat will serve as a lifeline in these situations by pumping water from the bay that can be used for firefighting.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Fire Chief Virgil Fernandez.

All Aboard!



You are cordially invited to join us in a ceremony to welcome the newest addition to the Miami Beach Fire Department.

Miami Beach Fire Boat 4

November 15, 2016 - 10:00AM

Fire Station 4 (Dock)

6860 Indian Creek Drive

Miami Beach, Florida 33141



MIAMI BEACH