MINUTES
BROWARD COUNTY MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION
March 6, 2025, 2:00 PM
Plantation Heritage Park
1100 S Fig Tree Lane
Plantation, FL 33317

I CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Chair John Fiore.

II ROLL CALL: Roll was called; a quorum was present.

Members:

Jerry Baer	Peter Grady	Jo Stanley
Doug Beals	Julie Greenfield	Clive Taylor
Penny Cutt	David Ide	Barry Webber
John Fiore	Amanda Noon	

Staff:

Jay Sanford, Staff Liaison, Broward County Parks & Recreation Division
Lisa Totten, Administrative Assistant, Broward County Parks & Recreation Division

Guests:

Matthew Gioielli, Broward Sheriff's Office
Marc Johnson, Fort Lauderdale Police Department
Travis O'Neal, Fort Lauderdale Police Department
Dayna Bhaggan, Fort Lauderdale Police Department
John Faul, Hallandale Beach Police Department
Louis Mastandrea, Hillsboro Beach Police Department
Paul Laskowski, Hollywood Police Department
Joshua Czerenda, Hollywood Police Department
Alexander Chang, Hollywood Police Department
Robert Marren, Hollywood Police Department
Christopher Alban, Hollywood Police Department
Joshua Tripplett, Hollywood Police Department
Matt Masi, Lighthouse Point Police Department
David Turner, Wilton Manors Police Department
James McEntee, Pompano Beach Power Squadron
Dave Johnson, Tactical Advantage Consultants
Bob Knight, Tactical Advantage Consultants

III PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

IV APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Peter Grady made a motion to approve the February 6, 2025, meeting minutes and Clive Taylor seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

V CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

VI OLD BUSINESS: Manatee Weekly Survey: Jay Sanford reported that the manatee population in Broward County has declined, with a significant drop from 546 manatees on January 28 down to only 104 on February 5. Chair Fiore noted that the changes to how the power plant operates has resulted in fewer manatees up the New River. Mr. Sanford mentioned there have been some sightings of manatees in the New River and during a waterway cleanup event.

VII NEW BUSINESS:

Articles from the Sun Sentinel "DeSantis wants to stop 'unwarranted' inspections of Florida boaters." and "Florida boaters say they were mistakenly arrested - and jailed - despite being sober."

Mr. Sanford discussed articles about boat safety inspections and erroneous arrest of a boater. He also emphasized the importance of law enforcement agencies in maintaining safety on the water. Chair Fiore and Mr. Sanford discussed the professionalism and effectiveness of local law enforcement agencies.

Sgt. Matthew Gioielli from BSO provided an update on a recent water rescue offshore Pompano Beach, highlighting the importance of having officers patrolling during EMLEG hours.

Five Minute Presentation of FY 2025–2026 EMLEG Applications by Applicants, Followed by Appointment of MAC Members for EMLEG Reports.

Broward County: Mr. Sanford reviewed the Broward County application to send three officers from each agency (six from BSO) to marine law enforcement training. Mr. Sanford noted EMLEG training funds are available for agencies to use, not just for the TAC classes, but also for other training like obtaining captain's licenses. Mr. Sanford encouraged agencies to take advantage of the training opportunities, especially if they have new officers that have not gone through the advanced TAC class.

Bob Knight stated that TAC has been providing the advanced marine law enforcement training for the EMLEG program for about 13-14 years. They offer both basic and advanced courses, alternating between the two each year. The advanced course this year is very popular, with various agencies already signing up. Mr. Knight encouraged the agencies present to send in their applications for the advanced course so he can plan accordingly. Mr. Knight emphasized that

TAC provides high-quality training and instructors and noted that TAC also offers certification training for airboat operations.

Peter Grady volunteered to review the Broward County application and meet with Mr. Sanford.

Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO): Sergeant Matthew Gioielli reviewed the BSO EMLEG application and provided a detailed presentation on the unit's operations, including patrol hours and boating accidents. They have 11 deputies that actively get on boats, with plans to add 2 more positions. They cover the entire Broward County coastline, except for areas with their own marine units. They have a fleet of 25 boats of various types to handle different incidents and operations. Sgt. Gioielli noted BSO also has freshwater canals in the Everglades. In the previous year, they averaged 98.84% usage of the EMLEG hours for aggressive patrols, and 89.5% usage of the weekend hours. They logged 6,126 patrol hours on the water through the EMLEG program and responded to 4 boating accidents after hours. They had 3,293 public contacts during the previous year.

Julie Greenfield volunteered to review BSO's application.

City of Fort Lauderdale: Sergeant Travis O'Neal reviewed Fort Lauderdale's EMLEG application. They currently have 7 Officers and 1 Sergeant, for a total of 8 members in the unit. They have 10 boats, most of which are patrol boats, a connector boat for shallow water rescues, and a 17-foot Boston Whaler also for shallow water and underneath low bridges. In the previous year, they used 1,741 hours, mostly for patrol and aggressive hours. They had 1 reported boating accident during the EMLEG hours, which was a boat fire. They made 5,173 contacts with the public during the previous year.

Chair Fiore volunteered to review Fort Lauderdale's application.

City of Hallandale Beach: Sergeant John Faul reviewed Hallandale Beach's EMLEG application. Hallandale Beach Police Department has 1 boat and covers the southern border area. They implemented a no-speed zone, which has reduced the number of speeding tickets they issue. They utilized around 700 of the 1,200 EMLEG hours allocated to them. They have 7 officers who can operate the boat, with 5 being the most active. They are trying to add 3 more officers to the unit to help with rotation and coverage. The reduction in hours used is partly attributed to some staffing challenges.

Jerry Baer volunteered to review Hallandale Beach's application.

Town of Hillsboro Beach: Sergeant Louis Mastandrea reviewed Hillsboro Beach's EMLEG application. Hillsboro Beach P.D. has 12 certified marine operators. They have 1 marine unit that they try to utilize as much as possible to fulfill their EMLEG obligations. Last year, they maxed out their EMLEG hours, using over 1,700 engine hours. They conducted over 1,500

vessel traffic stops and responded to 24 calls for service. They are currently fully staffed, but have experienced some challenges with losing their main boat operator, which has impacted their ability to get the boat out as much.

Ms. Sanford noted EMLEG only funded 700 hours, the rest were funded through the Town.

Amanda Noon volunteered to review Hillsboro Beach's application.

City of Hollywood: Lieutenant Alexander Chang and Assistant Chief Paul Laskowski reviewed Hollywood P.D.'s EMLEG application. Lt. Chang stated that they were allotted 832 regular 400 aggressive EMLEG hours and fulfilled approximately 97% of that. They did over 1,800 patrols, over 100 business checks, over 600 marine warnings, and over 1,000 vessel checks.
They currently have 39 certified boat operators to assist with marine operations. They have successfully addressed derelict vessels, with no current active derelict cases. They also implemented a 45-day anchorage rule to help manage long-term anchoring in their waterways.

Lt. Chang advised that the City of Hollywood is establishing a partnership with Nova University to have a permanent office space and boat storage facility near the inlet. This will allow them to have 7-day coverage and quick response times to the Port Everglades area. He mentioned that with the new partnership with Nova University they believe they now have the personnel, resources, and capabilities to successfully fill the hours and coverage needed in Zone VII.
He further stated that this is a great opportunity for all concerned, and they have put other pieces in place that would allow them to take on the responsibilities of that zone.

Chair Fiore inquired if Hollywood P.D. would be able to provide the level of service that BSO is currently providing in one of the busiest zones in the County. Mr. Sanford added that this applies beyond EMLEG hours.

Assistant Chief Laskowski emphasized that the department has made the Port Everglades area a priority, allocating an additional officer this budget year. They are committed to continuing to grow the marine unit and provide the necessary resources and manpower to serve that area. The partnership with Nova University is seen as a long-term, legally-binding agreement to solidify their presence and operations in that region.

David Ide volunteered to review Hollywood's application.

City of Lighthouse Point: Officer Matt Masi reviewed Lighthouse Point EMLEG application. Ofc. Masi stated that they have 8 officers that split the EMLEG patrol duties. They recently acquired a new 29-foot Fluid patrol boat to replace their previous vessel. In the previous year, they used 255 hours of the 400 aggressive patrol hours and 522 hours of the 832 weekend hours. They were not able to use all the scheduled hours due to maintenance issues and weather. Their

patrol activities included 750 extra patrols, 178 vessel stops, 178 warnings and education, 4 calls for service, and 195 public contacts.

Jo Stanley volunteered to review Lighthouse Point's application.

City of Wilton Manors: Sergeant David Turner reviewed Wilton Manor's EMLEG application and stated Wilton Manors P.D. has 6 law enforcement officers that operate their single marine unit boat. They are requesting the same 616 hours for the EMLEG program as they have in the past. Last year, they used all their allocated EMLEG hours. Currently, their agency is fully staffed, but 7 of their officers are either in the academy or just finishing field training. This temporary staffing situation should not impact their ability to meet their EMLEG grant obligations.

Doug Beals volunteered to review the Wilton Manors' application.

Pompano Beach Power Squadron: James McEntee thanked the Committee for their support and reviewed the Pompano Beach Power Squadron's EMLEG application. The Pompano Beach Power Squadron is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization that specializes in safe boating education. The EMLEG funding helps subsidize the cost of their in-person boating safety courses, reducing the cost from $50 to $10 for kids and from $85 to $40 for adults. They use the EMLEG funds to advertise their classes extensively in local media like the Sun Sentinel, Facebook, and Google. Their certified instructors provide hands-on training and a wealth of boating experience to students taking their courses. In addition to the classes, they also distribute the Broward County Safe Boating guides.

Jo Stanley volunteered to review the Pompano Beach Power Squadron's application.

VIII CHAIR'S REPORT: Chair Fiore stated that the MAC oversees two key programs – the Broward Boating Improvement Program that assists in the funding of public marine facilities, and the important EMLEG program that puts more law enforcement officers on the water. Chair Fiore emphasized the critical importance of the EMLEG program, stating that 10 people are alive today thanks to the law enforcement presence funded by this program. He thanked the law enforcement agencies present for the work they do to make Broward County one of the safest places for boating in the yachting capital of the world. He noted that other counties and agencies from outside the area are amazed that Broward County funds this type of program, as it helps subsidize the cost of having officers on the water. He expressed pride in the Committee's efforts to continue supporting and expanding this valuable program.

IX DANIA BEACH MAB REPORT: NONE

X HOLLYWOOD MAB REPORT: NONE

XI POMPANO BEACH MAB REPORT: NONE

XII LIAISON'S REPORT: Mr. Sanford emphasized the importance of the EMLEG program in funding law enforcement presence on the water, citing the recent rescue by BSO as an example of the program's impact on boater safety. Mr. Sanford advised that somebody from each agency should come back for the April MAC meeting for final presentations, MAC Member reports, and for the formal adoption of recommendations to the County Commission of FY 2025-2026 EMLEG program.

Mr. Sanford discussed the recent successful waterway cleanup efforts, with increased participation and focus from a Commissioner to help clean up the North Fork of the New River by Delevoe Park. Mr. Sanford also provided an update on the final stages of construction for the mooring field project, which will provide a new boating destination in Broward County.

XIII MAC MEMBER COMMENTS: NONE

XIV ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM by Chair Fiore.