



## LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**FROM:** Scott Morgan, Interim City Manager

**THRU:** Daniel Waite, Acting Recreation Director

**DATE:** February 20, 2025

**RE:** Consideration of an agreement with Florida Fish and Wildlife to utilize the Palm Bay Aquatic Center for training purposes.

### SUMMARY:

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approached the City of Palm Bay Recreation Department with a request to utilize the Palm Bay Aquatics Center for essential training exercises. This partnership would allow FWC's pilot rescue swimmers to use the lap lanes once a week and the dive team to access the diving well once every six months. Scheduling will be coordinated with the Aquatic Center Supervisor to ensure that all training sessions occur during non-peak operational hours. Importantly, there will be no cost to the City, as the facility will already be open and staffed during these times.

#### 1. Enhanced Public Safety & Emergency Response Capabilities

- FWC is a vital state law enforcement and public safety agency engaged in community-oriented policing.
- FWC conducts critical operations, including search and rescue efforts, vessel accident investigations, and wildlife incident responses.
- Their presence enhances safety on both land and water within Palm Bay and the surrounding areas.

#### 2. Significant Public Safety Resources in Palm Bay

- FWC has 18 marked patrol units assigned within Palm Bay city limits.
- Two helicopters and one aircraft stationed at Melbourne Airport provide aerial support for emergency responses.
- 16 marked patrol vessels are assigned to officers working in and around Palm Bay.

#### 3. Strengthened Interagency Collaboration

- FWC's Dive Team frequently collaborates with Palm Bay and other local law enforcement agencies, improving water-based search and rescue operations.
- Advanced sonar capabilities enhance evidence recovery efforts, benefiting ongoing investigations.
- Coordinated training exercises improve the readiness of both FWC and Palm Bay emergency response teams.

4. Increased Community Engagement & Outreach

- FWC actively participates in local career days and youth outreach programs at Palm Bay and Brevard County schools.
- Their presence fosters positive relationships with the community and educates residents about public safety and conservation.

5. Efficient Use of City Resources

- This partnership allows the City to maximize the use of existing aquatic facilities without incurring additional costs.
- Scheduling training during non-peak hours ensures minimal disruption to public programming while supporting vital public safety training efforts.

This agreement and partnership aligns with Palm Bay's commitment to public safety, Interagency cooperation, and efficient resource utilization. It strengthens relationships between local and state agencies while ensuring our community benefits from well-trained rescue personnel and enhanced emergency response capabilities.

**REQUESTING DEPARTMENT:**

Recreation

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Motion to approve and authorize the City Manager to execute the MOU between the City of Palm Bay and Florida Fish and Wildlife for use of the Aquatics Center for training purposes.

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU)