

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: December 19, 2007

Division: Emergency Services

Bulk Item: Yes No

Department: Fire Rescue

Staff Contact Person: Susan Hover

AGENDA ITEM WORDING: Presentation of Years of Service Award for 15 years of service to Michael Saunders, Firefighter/EMT.

ITEM BACKGROUND: None.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION: None.

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES: None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Approval.

TOTAL COST: _____

BUDGETED: Yes No

COST TO COUNTY: _____

SOURCE OF FUNDS: _____

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes No **AMOUNT PER MONTH** _____ **Year** _____

APPROVED BY: County Atty N/A OMB/Purchasing N/A Risk Management N/A

DOCUMENTATION: Included Not Required

DISPOSITION: _____

AGENDA ITEM # _____

**Years of Service Award
15 Years
Michael Saunders**

Michael Saunders was hired by Monroe County on September 20, 1992, as a firefighter with Airport Fire Rescue in Key West. On May 9, 1995, he transferred within the County and became a crew chief in Recycling Operations. On February 15, 1998, he transferred again and became a Firefighter/EMT with Monroe County Fire Rescue, his current position. During the initial part of his employment with Monroe County, Michael also volunteered as a firefighter with the Conch Key Volunteer Fire Department.

Firefighter Saunders has regularly advanced his training within the Fire Rescue field. He is also a Florida Certified Paramedic and holds current certifications in: Advanced Provider of Trauma Life Support, Advanced Airway Certification, Advanced and Basic Cardiac Life Support, Aerial Operations and Tactics, Company Officer, and several Incident Command System Classes. Recently, he completed training to become a train the trainer for the Florida State C.E.R.T. Program, which stands for Community Emergency Response Team. With this training he will be going out into the local communities and training its residents on what to do prior to help arriving and how to best assist first responders.

Of special note, is that Firefighter Saunders was awarded a Phoenix Award in March 2007, by Monroe County Fire Rescue, for the complete and successful resuscitation of a cardiac arrest patient.

What is most noteworthy about Firefighter Saunders is not only that he is a longtime homeowner in Grassy Key, a committed and loving husband and father of two daughters (one in college), maintains top physical health, follows orders and direction with spirit, always striving to do the best possible job, but is his tremendous work ethic. He is currently stationed at Fire Station 17 on Conch Key and works extremely hard to assure his equipment and apparatus are in tip top shape; ready to assist, help, and save Monroe County residents and visitors when in need. All this and he maintains an almost perfect record of attendance.

Monroe County is truly fortunate and honored to have a man such as Michael Saunders choose a career in public service, with Monroe County Fire Rescue.