



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #V.A.

DATE: MAY 15, 2023

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CLEAN CITIES COALITION TO OFFER FIRST RESPONDERS TRAINING FOR EV FIRES IN SOUTH FLORIDA

The Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) have identified first responder training needs for LEPC Region 10, which includes Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties. The electric vehicle and lithium-ion training will help ensure public safety continues to be a priority. In June 2023, the Coalition plans to provide alternative fuels and electric vehicle training for first responders in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties (LEPC Region 10).

Florida has the second highest rate of electric vehicle (EV) adoption in the United States. Florida leads the Southeast United States in EV market share with 6.7% market share in Q4 2022 and is second with charging infrastructure deployment. Fire rescue data reports that EV and lithium-ion generated fires are extremely high-risk situations for public safety. EV and lithium-ion generated fires are known to generate fire bursts, explosions, and rapidly reach temperatures over 3,000° Fahrenheit. First responders must understand how to properly manage electric vehicles and lithium-ion devices in the event of an emergency.

To meet critical training needs in the region, the Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition has partnered with Florida Transportation Systems, Inc., and the LEPC to bring two (2) novel first responder training courses to LEPC Region 10. The training will be provided by Florida Transportation Systems, Inc., Florida's only authorized Blue Bird™ bus dealer. The Broward County training will take place at the Hollywood Fire Rescue Training Center on May 18, 2023. The training will cover electric and propane school buses recently delivered to Broward County Public Schools. Opportunities for First Responder Training in Monroe County are being explored.

The Miami-Dade County training is scheduled for later this year. The Coalition and Florida Transportation Systems, Inc., are working with the Miami-Dade County School District to move the training to coincide with the release of Miami-Dade County electric school buses later this year.

Recommendation: Information Only.



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