

Item Title: Recognition of First Responders who Assisted with the Five-Alarm Fire in Downtown Raleigh

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners recognizes representatives from the departments and agencies who responded to the massive fire that started in The Metropolitan apartment building in downtown Raleigh on March 16, 2017.

Item Summary:

On the night of March 16, 2017, a fire broke out at The Metropolitan, a five-story apartment building on Jones Street that was under construction in downtown Raleigh. The massive blaze burned through the complex quickly and then began to spread to other nearby buildings such as the Link Apartments, The Residences at Quorum Center and the N.C. League of Municipalities headquarters.

At 10 p.m., firefighters rushed to the scene of what had become a five-alarm fire. It took three hours for firefighters to control the fire, which some are calling the biggest blaze the city has seen since the 1920s. After getting it under control, they sprayed water on the buildings for another 12-15 hours to ensure the fire was completely out before crews could go inside to begin investigating.

The fire destroyed The Metropolitan and displaced numerous people who lived in the buildings damaged by the flames. Remarkably, no one was killed or seriously injured during this event.

The cause of the blaze is unknown at this time. The Raleigh Fire Department, State Bureau of Investigation, and the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives are still investigating.

Numerous local departments and agencies dutifully assisted with the skillful response to this fire. They include:

- City of Raleigh Fire Department;
- City of Raleigh Police Department;
- City of Raleigh Transportation Department;
- City of Raleigh Development Services;
- Cary Fire Department;
- Garner Fire Department;
- Rolesville Fire Department;
- Swift Creek Fire Department;
- Wake Forest Fire Department;
- Wendell Fire Department;
- Wake County Emergency Medical Services; and
- Wake County Fire Services (Response Division and Emergency Management Division)

Attachments:

1. List of Representatives Attending