

## **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**JULY 9, 2025**

A Joint Meeting between the Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte County and the City of Punta Gorda was held at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center, 75 Taylor Street, Punta Gorda, FL.

The following Board of County Commissioners members were present: Chair Tiseo, Commissioner Constance, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Doherty, and Commissioner Truex. The following City of Punta Gorda Councilmembers were present: Mayor Deborah Lux, Councilmember Janis Denton, Councilmember Greg Julian, and Councilmember Jeannine Polk. Also in attendance were: County Administrator Flores, County Attorney Knowlton, Interim City Attorney Steven Leskovich, Interim City Manager Melissa Reichert, Minutes Clerk Welsh, and various County staff members. The following members were absent: Councilmember Melissa Lockhart.

**The Meeting was called to order at 8:00 am,** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Administrator Flores highlighted June 12, 2025 and July 8, 2025 Primary Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Task Force Meetings, fact finding mission, response times, financial impacts, facility tours, data exchange and collection methods, Interlocal Agreements (ILA), consolidation models, surrounding counties, best practices, and research time extension request.

### **1) Public Input – Agenda items Only**

Jeff Lustig discussed 911 call handling processes, emergency and non-emergency call volumes and classification, call center operators, and consolidation impacts.

Charles Polk mentioned County's average age, response times, service levels, and Highlands County.

Robert Davis spoke against Primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Task Force Update: 911 Consolidation.

Kathleen Davis noted elder population, City of Punta Gorda, public services, residential fire, tax dollar funding, 911 dispatch, medical transport, and county comparisons.

Dianne Vanbeek spoke to meeting notice, Punta Gorda City Council, 911 Consolidation, and information availability.

Wendy Young remarked on April 22, 2025 Regular and Land Use Meeting, authority, Punta Gorda City Council vote, PSAP Task Force recommendations, Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Prummell, consolidation impacts, and dispatch staffing.

Cynthia O'Hara spoke against Primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Task Force Update: 911 Consolidation.

Wendy Mueller mentioned response times, City of Punta Gorda, and emergency medical technician (EMT) certification.

### **2) Discussion Items**

**Chair Tiseo** commented on July 9, 2025 City of Punta Gorda Council Meeting, discussion topics, citizen input, meeting notice, and transparency. **Commissioner Doherty** noted joint meetings and discussion topic process. **Commissioner Truex** spoke to meeting publication and derelict vessels status.

**Mayor Lux** remarked on discussion topics, joint meetings, and derelict vessels. **Councilmember Polk** discussed change request, derelict vessels, and Resolution 2025-203.

County Attorney Knowlton interjected on sole discussion topic meeting publication.

a) Primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Task Force Update: 911 Consolidation

**Chair Tiseo** mentioned PSAP participation agreement, 911 consolidation, governance, response time impacts and improvements, tax payer savings and funding, public safety, Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), equipment upgrade costs, dispute resolutions, Punta Gorda Fire Department, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, dispatch processes, call center standards and protocols, Sheriff's Administration and Next Generation (NG) 911 Facility construction completion, technology, net benefit, and timing. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to radio encryption and compliance, network systems, process and response time comparison interim report, standardization, oversight committee, PSAP Task Force, best practices, April 22, 2025 Regular and Land Use Meeting, local control, May 13, 2025 Regular Meeting, ongoing progress, City of Punta Gorda, state mandate, and consensus. **Commissioner Deutsch** commented on Sheriff's Administration Center and 911 Facility, dispatch consolidation, response times, data comparisons, cost savings, system upgrades, and benefits. **Commissioner Doherty** noted total 911 consolidation process and mandate, threshold decision, PSAP Task Force, collaboration, Florida Sheriff's Association (FSA), preparation, dispatcher placement, and ILA. **Commissioner Truex** discussed total 911 consolidation, Englewood Fire Department Chief Kevin Easton, Sarasota County dispatch consolidation, PSAP Task Force, safety concerns, process improvements, response times, community benefits, implementation, communication, best practices modification, technology upgrades, and recommendations.

**Mayor Lux** mentioned costs, population, public safety, response times, 911 consolidation, Englewood Fire Department, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, medical community oversight committee members, and elected officials. **Councilmember Denton** commented on response time sustainability, 911 call handling process and dispatch times, medical community oversight committee members, Punta Gorda Fire Department, and medical emergencies. **Councilmember Julian** noted first responders, computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system unification, and Charlotte County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) radio encryption costs. **Councilmember Polk** spoke to Code Red drills and processes, Resource Officers, panic buttons, technology, and alert notifications.

County Administrator Flores remarked on total consolidation model and impacts, personnel and equipment upgrade costs, governance, ILA, response times, independent agencies, and Leon County.

Interim City Manager Melissa Reichert responded to equipment upgrade costs.

Punta Gorda Police Department Chief Pam Smith replied to response time calculations, 911 call handling protocols and process differences, radio encryption benefits, equipment upgrade costs, interoperability impacts, communication challenges, advanced life support (ALS), Punta Gorda Fire Department, ILA, Memorandum of Agreements (MOA), work and decision-making group delineations, PSAP Task Force, simultaneous alert broadcast, category classifications, and standard permission policy.

Charlotte County School District Security and Emergency Management Coordinator Joe King responded to Punta Gorda Police Department, CCSO, students, response levels, 911 call handling and information distribution, resources, technology, panic buttons, active assailant situation, and emergency notifications.

Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Prummell remarked on radio encryption and equipment upgrades, compatibility, communication challenges and improvements, Lee and Sarasota Counties, FSA, Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA), and Florida Fire Chiefs Association (FFCA) Joint Meeting, Representative Danny Alvarez, dispatcher positions and placement, dispatch and response time definitions, best practices, improvements, and new technologies.

Chief Jason Fair, Public Safety Director replied to radio systems, interoperability, accreditations, best practices, call classification, response and patient care need determination, ProQA, and American Heart Association's Chain of Survival.

Punta Gorda Fire Chief Holden Gibbs responded to 911 call handling processes and dispatch consolidation, time impacts, technological options, PSAP, apparatus deployment, information gathering delays, CCSO call transfers, and medical response calls.

**ADJOURNED: 9:09 am**

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**Joseph M. Tiseo, Chair**

**DATE ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTEST:**

**ROGER D. EATON, CLERK  
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND  
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Deputy Clerk**