



**GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS**

14575 Collier Boulevard • Naples, FL 34119
Phone: (239)348-7540 Fax: (239)348-7546

J. Nolan Sapp, Fire Chief

September 11, 2023

Collier County Legislative Delegation
Collier County Govt. Complex Bldg. F
3299 Tamiami Trail East
Naples, FL. 34112

Re: Alligator Alley Public Safety Center (MM63)

Dear Collier County Legislative Delegation,

Please allow this correspondence to serve as my formal request for your support to revise the statutory language to provide adequate funding and asset allocation that will maintain the toll financing that is currently in place for the MM63 Public Safety Center until a long term dedicated funding solution can be reached with FDOT.

As a result of your approval of SB 2152 in 2011 and a small (18 cents/car) fee to Alligator Alley travelers, the addition of the MM63 Public Safety Center facility has proven to deliver many benefits including:

- Overwhelming reduction in response times (by over 80%) to major accidents along I-75 which dramatically reduces loss of life by extending the golden hour of trauma care;
- Substantial reductions in impact to intrastate commerce by having emergency responders on- scene quickly to help clear accidents and mitigate highway closures;
- Rapid response to nearby fires that could close the interstate due to smoke management concerns;
- Immediate assistance to the traveling public. The MM63 Public Safety Center is adjacent to the Rest Area and receives numerous visits by walk-ins who are sick and are seeking immediate assistance;
- The MM63 Public Safety Center becomes a command post location for FDOT/FHP for intrastate contraflow monitoring as well as Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant evacuation;
- The Old Florida Trail has a trailhead at the MM63 Public Safety Center which has provided search and rescue assistance in the Everglades to stranded or injured hikers;
- The MM63 Public Safety Center has a helipad for both wildfire operations, medical evacuation, and search and rescue. The Center can provide water and logistical services for helicopter operations;
- The MM63 Public Safety Center also provides dedicated office space for report writing for FHP

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Board of Fire Commissioners
Nick Biondo, Mark Cherney, Brian Cross, Patrick Dearborn, Al Duffy



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We are hopeful that the State will be desirous of maintaining a financial stake in the operation of the MM63 Public Safety Center given its location, statewide population it serves, and uniqueness in function/use. Annually, the Public Safety Center at mile marker 63 responds to over 600 calls and exclusively serves I-75 travelers. Annually approximately only 12% of emergency calls from this station involve Collier County residents. Since the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District has assumed management of this service area, it is our desire to continue providing this essential public safety service without adding an additional tax expense to the Greater Naples residents who are over 35 miles away.

If you would like any additional information or to discuss the issue further, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. We are appreciative of any assistance you can provide to assure adequate funding to provide these essential services along Alligator Alley. On behalf of the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District Board of Fire Commissioners, allow me to thank you for your continued support of fire rescue and emergency services in Collier County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Nolan Sapp".

J. Nolan Sapp, Fire Chief

cc: Al Duffy, GNFD Chairman

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