



February 8, 2019

Madeira Beach Fire Chief Accepts 2-Week Suspension Without Pay

MADEIRA BEACH, FL – Madeira Beach Fire Chief Derryl O'Neal has accepted a suspension of two weeks without pay and has been ordered to pay \$2,320 in restitution to the City of Madeira Beach. The suspension and restitution penalty was handed down by City Manager Jonathan Evans in a meeting with Chief O'Neal this morning. In addition, Chief O'Neal has been fined \$2,000 by the Florida Commission on Ethics.

On January 25, 2019, the Florida Commission on Ethics ruled that Chief O'Neal who served as the Fire Chief, and acting City Manager, for the City of Madeira Beach, violated Section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes, by keeping or storing his jet ski on a City jet ski lift between 2015 and 2017 without paying to do so. Chief O'Neal argued that the jet ski was used to supervise water rescue training by fire department staff and that the former City Manager gave his permission for the jet ski to be stored on the city lift.

Records showed that while the jet ski was used to supervise the training, the amount of time it was used was minimal. The \$2,320 restitution to the city is the amount O'Neal would have paid for storage of the jet ski. The \$2,000 fine will be paid to the state. Both amounts are due to be paid within 30 days.

When handing down their final order, the Florida Commission on Ethics said it took into consideration O'Neal's acceptance of responsibility for the action, as well as, his many years of public service as a first responder. O'Neal's suspension will begin on Monday, Feb. 11, 2019.

For more information contact Curt Preisser, City of Madeira Beach Public Information Officer at 727-391-9951 x299 or cpreisser@madeirabeachfl.gov.

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