



# CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Riviera Beach Police and Fire Rescue Departments Enhance First Responder Communications with FirstNet

*Riviera Beach Police Department becomes first Palm Beach County  
agency to issue all police officers smartphones on FirstNet*

RIVIERA BEACH, Fla., April 2, 2019 — Riviera Beach Police and Fire Rescue provides first responders with a communications upgrade by transitioning to [FirstNet](#) – a groundbreaking new communications platform. This move lets us take advantage of the early benefits of FirstNet, and it sets us up for continued success as the solution evolves. Our police and fire departments have been recognized for our technology-oriented focus on public safety. We are always seeking to leverage new technology to better serve the residents and visitors of Riviera Beach.

FirstNet is the nationwide communications platform dedicated to America's first responders and public safety community – available when and where we need it. Being built with AT&T, in a public-private partnership with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority), it gives our communications capabilities a major boost, providing a reliable and highly secure connection.

By subscribing to FirstNet, we can help our first responders stay connected to the critical information we need. And it will help us easily and quickly communicate with one another during emergencies, natural disasters, and other critical situations.

Police Chief Michael Madden said, "In conjunction with our recent body camera deployment, we issued each of our Police Officers a smartphone on FirstNet, causing a major shift in the way we collect and share information imperative to our mission. It bridges many gaps on the technology forefront and drastically improves communications between first responders and with our community at large."

Our decision to join FirstNet was based on 3 critical factors:

- **Groundbreaking Technology** – FirstNet is the only platform that gives first responders always-on priority and preemption. That means we'll have access to the connection we need – even when the network is congested. This will help us keep ourselves and those we serve safe and secure. We look forward to taking advantage of additional mission-critical capabilities as the technology continues to advance.
- **System Reliability** – FirstNet is the only system purpose-built to the high standards of public safety based on an understanding of our needs. Plus, AT&T is held accountable by the FirstNet Authority to deliver on their commitment to design and build a solution that meets our needs for years to come.
- **Affordability with No Speed Limits** – We demand a lot from a mobile communications provider, but cost is always a factor and sometimes a barrier. FirstNet gives us the mission-critical capabilities we need with the affordability we require. We can now have access to the important information we need – without the concern of being throttled anywhere in the country.

When a major event occurs, it's important to share data with other responders. FirstNet gives us a single, interoperable solution to easily communicate across agencies and jurisdictions.

"The FirstNet priority and preemption feature creates an environment of clear and constant communications. This new capability will prove to be essential during times of hyper telecommunication activities which would otherwise limit access to the network," said Fire Chief John Curd.

"We took action when first responders said they needed better tools to keep their communities – and themselves – out of harm's way. FirstNet will help first responders in Riviera Beach, Florida and across the country perform at the highest levels," said Joe York, president, AT&T Florida. "We're honored to play a part in that transformation and applaud Riviera Beach Police and Fire Rescue Departments for helping to lead the way."

"FirstNet is the exclusive communications platform built with AT&T for public safety, inspired by public safety – there is no substitution for this network that they fought for," said Edward Parkinson, Acting CEO, FirstNet Authority. "We look forward to supporting the Riviera Beach Police and Fire Rescue Departments' use of FirstNet, making sure it delivers what they need, when they need it."

To learn more about the Riviera Beach Police and Fire Rescue Departments, go to [www.rivierabch.com/police](http://www.rivierabch.com/police) or [www.rivierabch.com/fire](http://www.rivierabch.com/fire) or connect with us on Facebook and Twitter. For Riviera Beach media inquiries, please contact Rose Anne Brown at 561-379-4673 or by email at [RAbrown@rivierabch.com](mailto:RAbrown@rivierabch.com).

To learn more about FirstNet, go to [FirstNet.com](http://FirstNet.com). For agencies wanting to subscribe to FirstNet, contact Zoila Hernandez at 561-213-4752 or [zh4955@att.com](mailto:zh4955@att.com). Individual first responders can subscribe to FirstNet at an AT&T store.

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