



CITY OF VENICE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Fire Chief James Warman

August 23, 2013

TO: Mayor and Council

THROUGH: Ed Lavalle, City Manager

FROM: Jim Warman, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Fire Department Company Citation Award

On January 17, 2013, members of the Venice Fire Department were dispatched to a 32' sailboat that was in distress and in danger of capsizing. The seas were reported to be in excess of seven feet with high winds and red tide in the area. The Captain of the vessel reported there were two people and three pets aboard, with the vessel having lost power and was adrift. In an effort to rescue the victims as quickly as possible, the Fire Department jetski was launched from the beach. Under hazardous conditions and at personal risk, firemedics used the jetski to approach the vessel and began to extract each victim (including pets) and take them shore. The boat would later wash ashore and capsize. LTD

An event such as this takes great teamwork and training. Under less than desirable conditions each firemedic used their training and skills to save the lives of two people and their three dogs. I hereby award a Company Citation to Lt. Derek Lowery, Firemedic Gerry Staue and Firemedic Joshua Hunter for their heroic actions. The citation is also awarded to the crew members serving in support functions which include Lt. Tony Fitzgerald, Firemedics Richard Lanigan, Michael Brantley and Chad Meyers.