

**FORT MYERS BEACH FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Fire fighters raise more than \$8500 for fallen officer**

**Fort Myers Beach, FL – Fire fighters from Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District (FMBFCD) took to the streets today on Fort Myers Beach to help raise funds for fallen Fort Myers Police Officer Andrew Widman. Fire Fighters along with members of Lee County Sheriff’s Office (LCSO) collected \$8647.00 in just over 3 hours. FMBFCD Fire Chief Mike Becker and LCSO Captain Matt Powell spearheaded the fundraising event. “We are trying to help out anyway we can” said Chief Becker.**

**Fire fighters and Sherriff’s deputies collected the funds by utilizing boots attached with a photo of Officer Widman displayed as a way to inform motorists of the departments’ plea. Local restaurants and vendors also donated to their cause by providing food and water to the groups collecting funds as a sign of support. When asked about the conditions by a pedestrian, one fire fighter responded “he gave his life; the least we can do is give our sweat.”**

**Fire fighters, sheriff deputies, EMS workers and police officers constitute the frontline in the protection of our communities. The death of Officer Widman is not only a shocking tragedy, it is a somber reminder of what these first responders and their families face every day.**

**For more information or photos from the event please contact the PIO Ramon Looby.**

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