

National Public Safety Telecommunications Week Celebrates Melbourne's Behind-the-Scenes Heroes

Every hour of every day dedicated communications officers are standing by ready to help whenever someone calls 911. To recognize the critical role they play in keeping our community safe, the Melbourne City Council annually joins with communities nationwide in designating the second week of April (April 14-20) as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.

When an emergency occurs, the prompt response of law enforcement, firefighters and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property. Melbourne's Communications Center receives, classifies and prioritizes calls from the public and dispatches calls that require police or fire rescue response. In addition to handling a tremendous number of calls (an average of 130,000 per year), they often help de-escalate volatile situations and help police officers and detectives stop and solve crimes.

"All citizens owe a debt of gratitude to these unseen emergency responders for their speed, tireless professionalism and commitment to caring for others," said Mayor Kathy Meehan. "Our communications professionals deserve our lasting respect, and we encourage everyone to thank them for their dedication to our community."

PHOTO ATTACHED:

During the April 9 City Council meeting, Mayor Kathy Meehan presented the official proclamation designating April 14-20 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week in the City of Melbourne. Pictured left to right are Jarid Simms, Communication Officer III; Ashley Murphy, Communication Officer I; Lindsay Stevens, Communication Officer III; Mayor Kathy Meehan; Police Chief David Gillespie; and Fire Chief Chuck Bogle.

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