

## **Mayor's Monthly Message: February 2019**

I'd like to begin by congratulating Captain Bill Bruin for completing the Managing Officer Program through the Nation Fire Academy in Edinburg, Maryland. The program is new, and there have been approximately 250 members nationwide who have completed the program. The National Fire Academy's Managing Officer Program is a multiyear curriculum that introduces emerging emergency services leaders to personal and professional skills in change management, risk reduction, and adaptive leadership. Acceptance into the program is a major step in professional development as a career Fire/Emergency Medical Services manager and includes all four elements of professional development: education, training, experience, and continuing education. The skills gained build on foundational management and technical competencies, learning to address issues of interpersonal and cultural sensitivity, professional ethics, and outcome-based performance.

At the first meeting this month, we will hear the first reading of Ordinance No. 670-19 amending Town of Florence Code of Ordinances, Title V11, Chapter 72, by Adding a New Section 72.05 Relating to the Use of and Held Mobile Devices including severability; Establishing an Effective Date and Repealing Conflicting Ordinances. The use of cellphones while driving has been found to be a significant cause of vehicular accidents. Many states have enacted some type of restriction on cell phone use while driving. Senate Bill (SB) 1165 has been introduced which prohibits driving while holding, typing or manually operating a portable device unless the driver is stopped at a red light, a railroad crossing, or is parked. Drivers may operate their devices that are attached to a windshield, center console, or dash board so long as it does not hinder the driver's view of the road and it is operated with a single tap or a swipe with their hand. There are also exemptions outlined in the bill for those in emergency situations and for emergency and law enforcement personnel, if acting in their official capacity. During the first meeting in February, I presented a local ordinance that will mirror SB 1165. The proposed ordinance would prohibit hand held cell phone use while operating a motor vehicle. The violation will be a civil offense that would include a \$250 fine. Appropriate exemptions would apply including if the driver was commuting to an emergency, communicating during an emergency, to emergency personnel. During our February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mr. Brendan Lyons, Founder of "Hands Free Arizona" will present to the Council and outline how "Hands Free Arizona" came to be. His goal is to bring awareness and ignite change. Through the support of the local ordinance, it is our goal to impact state wide awareness and change.

To find upcoming events and activities, please visit our Town website: [www.florenceaz.gov](http://www.florenceaz.gov). As always, stay safe and enjoy. ☺

Sincerely,

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