



February 2, 2015

Commissioner Steven Abrams

*Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners*

Contact: Lucia Bonavita, 561-355-2204, [lbonavita@pbcgov.org](mailto:lbonavita@pbcgov.org)

## News Release

### 911 on the High Seas *County and Coast Guard Working Together*

Commissioner Steven Abrams announced today that the Board of County Commissioners has agreed to work with U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) in integrating smart phone technology and GPS locations in Coast Guard search and rescue missions. This agreement is a critical step towards integrating new and existing technologies to quickly identify and track the location of distressed boaters.

“This will save lives out on the seas,” said Abrams, whose commission district comprises 22 miles of the county’s coastline.

Today, approximately 60% of mariners in distress use smart phones to call 911, instead of a radio.

In a series of 911 test calls, the USCG successfully dialed 911 from 10 nautical miles off the county’s coastline. The 911 center then transfers calls to USCG, which then mobilizes search and rescue efforts. Previously, it had to be done by radio communication. This agreement will provide the USCG access to the county’s new Next Generation 911 system, so they can continue field testing in conjunction with the existing system.