

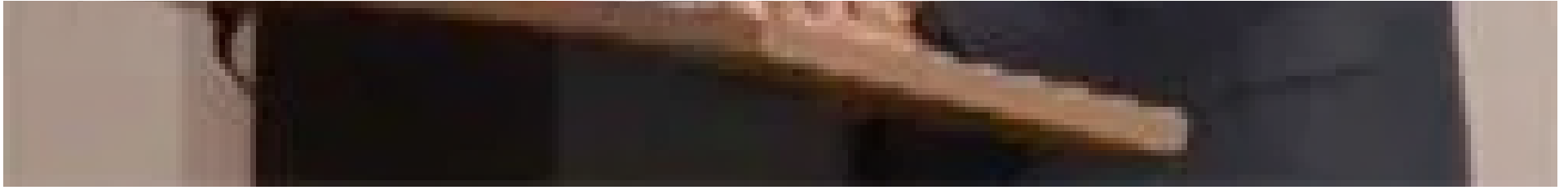
https://www.keysnews.com/news/government/state-drops-charges-against-ex-fire-chief/article_347e4d14-b237-44dc-963d-34d4dd1e207e.html

FEATURED

State drops charges against ex-fire chief

STAFF REPORT
Jun 26, 2026





Former Marathon Fire Chief James Muro addresses the Marathon City Council during its May 12 meeting.

CITY OF MARATHON

The state will not pursue charges against former Marathon Fire Chief James Muro, who was fired in May following his involvement in a crash after work while driving a city vehicle.

In late April, Marathon officials posted on the city's Facebook page that Muro allegedly left the scene of an April 8 crash without providing information, which is a potential criminal violation, and was cited for careless driving.

"I am glad this matter is resolved fairly and quickly," Muro said Thursday. "This confirms my reporting of the facts to the City of Marathon related to this unfortunate event. Body and dash cam footage clearly showed me first on scene, assisting patients and directing incoming units to assist. I do wish that this exculpatory evidence had been reviewed prior to any ticket being proposed by [the Florida Highway Patrol] and by the City of Marathon interim leadership team before making any public statements or decision."

Interim City Manager Steve Williams, who is also Marathon's city attorney, initially placed Muro on administrative leave before terminating him for alleged policy violations related to the four-vehicle crash in Islamorada.

The careless driving citation issued by FHP was later dismissed and the Monroe County State Attorney's Office declined to pursue any criminal charge.

Muro, who has disputed the city's claims, asked the Marathon City Council to restore his status to administrative leave during a May council meeting. Muro said city leadership never asked him about his role in the incident.

Council members noted their hiring and firing authority is limited to the city manager and attorney positions, so they could not entertain Muro's request for reinstatement.

"In light of these developments and dismissal of all citations, the facts supporting my reporting, I am hopeful that the City of Marathon will allow me to return to a public service career in the City of Marathon," Muro said Thursday. "I remain available to partner with them to attain that goal.

"I am greatly appreciative and flattered to have the support received from the community and the members of Marathon Fire Rescue in my role, specifically Sheriff [Rick] Ramsay and the Monroe County Sheriff's Office in getting the facts out on this event."