

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

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**April 13, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400 ■ San Francisco ■ California ■ 94102

**This meeting was held in person and remotely on WebEx**

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The Video can be viewed by clicking this link:

[https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=180&clip\\_id=40727](https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=40727)

President Feinstein called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Commission President	Katherine Feinstein	Present
Vice President	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Francee Covington	Present
Commissioner	Armie Morgan	Present

Robert Postel	Deputy Chief -- Operations
Thomas O'Connor	Deputy Chief --Administration

Sandy Tong	EMS
Simon Pang	Community Paramedicine
David Brown	Airport Division
Ken Cofflin	Bureau of Fire Prevention
Shayne Kaiialoa	Division of Training
Ramon Serrano	Support Services
Erica Arteseros	Homeland Security
Natasha Parks	Health and Wellness

Staff	
Mark Corso	Deputy Director of Finance

President Feinstein read the Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement.

**2. RESOLUTION 2022-07 [Discussion and possible action]**

Resolution making findings to allow teleconferenced meetings under California Government Code Section 54953(e)

Vice President Nakajo Moved to adopt the Resolution. President Feinstein Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

**3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES [Discussion and possible action]**

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Special Meeting on February 24, 2022 – 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Covington Moved to approve the 2/23/22 minutes and Commissioner Morgan Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

There was no public comment.

- Minutes from Special Meeting on February 25, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Covington Moved to approve the 2/23/22 minutes and Commissioner Morgan Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

There was no public comment.

- Minutes from Special Meeting on February 28, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Covington Moved to approve the 2/23/22 minutes and Commissioner Morgan Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

There was no public comment.

- Minutes from Special Meeting on March 3, 2022 – 9:30 a.m.

Commissioner Covington Moved to approve the 2/23/22 minutes and Commissioner Morgan Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

There was no public comment.

- Minutes from Special Meeting on March 16, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Covington Moved to approve the 2/23/22 minutes and Commissioner Morgan Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

There was no public comment.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on March 23, 2022.

Commissioner Covington Moved to approve the 2/23/22 minutes and Commissioner Morgan Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

There was no public comment.

##### **5. CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT *[Discussion]***

###### **REPORT FROM CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT, JEANINE NICHOLSON**

Report on current issues, activities, and events within the Department since the Fire Commission meeting on April 13, 2022, including budget, academies, special events, communications, and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Nicholson provided a COVID update stating that two members are out with COVID, three are in quarantine, and seven have been out longer than 30 days for a total of 12. She announced that on Monday, she was able to welcome the H-3Level 1 class that started a few weeks ago. She mentioned that they have offered paid internships to 10 members of the 9910 cohort from the city EMT program to get their 500 hours of ambulance experience. She also swore in two Jesuit Chaplains to represent the Department. She mentioned that old Station 49 is currently being renovated to

accommodate the growing community paramedic division and Chief Pang and his team hopes to get folks in there over the next few weeks. She added that this week is Dispatchers Week and she, Chief Postel, and Chief O'Connor visited their dispatchers yesterday to thank them for the hard work they do every day and that Chief Tong, and her team treated the dispatchers to some goodies as a sign of their appreciation. Chief Nicholson touched on the big fire at the Benicia Port where she deployed the fireboat for mutual aid. She also talked about budget issues.

There was no public comment.

Vice President Nakajo thanked Chief Nicholson for her report and stated it's very good to hear about the COVID numbers decreasing in the Department. He also commented on the EMT program in terms of the pipeline wherein 4 members were offered positions.

Commissioner Morgan commended the Chief on a great job of dealing with the fire in Benicia. He also acknowledged the great work being done by the street response teams and that he enjoyed meeting the Chaplains yesterday as he thinks it's good for people's spiritual and religious needs and that they serve a very important purpose.

President Feinstein commended the chief on the creation of the city EMT program and stated it is exactly what the city needs and is going to be a benefit to the participants and benefit to the citizens. She also acknowledged everyone who participated in recognizing the dispatchers.

#### REPORT FROM OPERATIONS, DEPUTY CHIEF ROBERT POSTEL

Report on overall field operations, including greater alarm fires, Emergency Medical Services, Bureau of Fire Prevention & Investigation, Homeland Security, Airport Division.

Chief Postel reported on operations from March. He stated that March was a relatively quiet month, and they had no greater alarms. He mentioned that as March wrapped up, things quickly got busy, and they had two greater alarms plus the fireboat incident in Benicia. The first greater alarm was a second alarm on the Upper Terrace and was an incredibly challenging fire as it was wind-driven, and it was a large apartment building at the top of the hill. He added that everyone did an outstanding job. The second fire was the Dubose Triangle incident which was a third alarm and Chief Thompson was the Incident Commander. He mentioned that it was a very tough fire, and the crews did an outstanding job. The third incident that he highlighted was the fireboat's mutual aid response to Benicia as the SFFD has the only fireboat on the bay that has the under-pier nozzles that can attack a fire like that and once on scene they made a huge impact on that fire. He touched on the H-3 Level 2 Advancement Academy that graduated on March 18<sup>th</sup> and the H-3 Level 2 academy class that started on March 28<sup>th</sup>, the Community paramedicine teams that will be moving into old Station 49 and will be sharing that facility with the Bureau of Equipment. He added that EMS-6 continues to connect the high utilizers of the 9-1-1 system with services and assistance, and the Street Crisis Response Team which had 779 calls for service in March, the Street Overdose Response Team responded to 108 incidents and the Street Wellness Response Team had 353 encounters during the month. He touched on the Bureau of Fire Prevention and Investigation, the Airport Division, and the Division of Training. He reported that he, Assistant Deputy Chief Kaialoa, and Assistant Deputy Chief Serrano toured the new Hayward training facility which is still under construction but far advanced and they

gained a lot of insight in the process and took away some wonderful ideas on concepts for their facility that will be upcoming.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Covington asked Chief Postel to elaborate more on the Slow Street barriers that caused interference with the Duboce Triangle fire. Chief Postel stated that neighbors had placed some hard barricades in the street, concrete planters, and things that restricted access into the fire block itself as well as for laddering purposes at the building, and those issues have been brought up through the Bureau of Fire Prevention and brought to MTA's attention that they need to be diligent about removing these non-approved barricades. Commissioner Covington asked Chief Thompson if he had anything to add, as he was the Incident Commander for this fire, and Chief Thompson explained the challenges they faced, including getting dispatched to the wrong address, the overhead wires, trees, and barricades. He added that it was one of the most challenging fires he's seen. Chief Cofflin explained in detail how the process works to have these illegal barricades removed. Commissioner Covington thanked Chief Cofflin for his overview of the process and stated that she thinks it is important for her fellow citizens to know the kind of obstructions that exist during a crisis and that when someone needs help, every second counts and the Slow Streets have not been well thought out. She confirmed that the St. Francis Fireboat was dispatched to the Benicia Fire and the Phoenix is in dry dock in Sausalito.

Vice President Nakajo thanked Chief Postel for his comprehensive report and stated that he appreciates his articulation and summaries in his report. He acknowledged the various chief's out in the field assisting on all the fires as well as the members, including the fireboat and crew and staff for being able to deal with all the fire suppressions they have had to respond to. He added that the Department is getting a lot of recognition in terms of the work they are doing with paramedicine and EMS. He asked Chief Postel to comment on the accident that happened between two fire trucks at Laguna and Greenwich. Chief Postel stated that Engine 38 and Engine 16 were responding to a call for service when they collided. He added that it was a four-way stop and they are investigating the speed of the rigs and whether there was driver fault and how it could have been avoided. He added the investigation is ongoing. He added that they were two of the newer engines that were involved in the accident, and they are both out of service for an extended period, which impacts the reserve fleet, and depending on whether they can be repaired they will be down two more engines if they can't be repaired. Vice President Nakajo confirmed that no members were seriously injured in this accident, which he is very grateful for. He confirmed with Chief Pang that there are 14 street teams in addition to EMS-6, which has four units. He touched on the new Medicare payment model titled Emergency Triage Treat and Transport which will collect revenue for the Department. Vice President Nakajo confirmed that there are currently 47 recruits in the 129<sup>th</sup> academy class that is slated to graduate on June 3, 2022, and that the 130<sup>th</sup> academy class is tentatively scheduled to start on June 27<sup>th</sup> with 52 recruits.

President Feinstein thanked Chief Postel for his report and expressed her concern about the process of getting barricades removed from streets. Chief Postel added that whenever they see something that they view as a potential impediment to them being able to respond to an incident, they will report that and take action to try and have it

removed, and they work with the Bureau of Fire Prevention to get it done through MTA as the Fire Department does not have any enforcement capabilities. He added that it is his understanding that the MTA contacts DPW to get the barricade removed. President Feinstein confirmed that at the Noe Street fire, the barricades did not get moved and they were forced to move around them in responding to the fire. She confirmed that high-risk stratification scores are patients that are costing Anthem Blue Cross a lot of money. She stated that Buprenorphine is a tool that she thinks the Department should have access to and she respectfully thinks that should fall to the health system to facilitate and ensure the SFFD should have it, and she thanked Chief Pang for pursuing it and she hopes he can get it on the rigs and begin the process. She commended all the firefighters who responded to the recent greater alarms that were brilliantly and efficiently handled and the fact that nobody was seriously injured or killed just goes to show the good work they do and she appreciates them all.

There was no public comment.

## **6. AGENDA FOR NEXT AND FUTURE FIRE COMMISSION MEETINGS**

### ***[Discussion]***

Discussion regarding agenda for next and future Fire Commission meetings.

- Introduction of the newly sworn Chaplains
- Update from Jim Conners on the City College Program
- Update from Chief Peoples on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Fire Reserve update from Chief Phil Buckley
- Update from GOTC

**7. ADJOURNMENT** President Feinstein adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.