

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Wednesday, August 24, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.

This meeting was held remotely on WebEx and in person at City Hall, Room 400.

The Video can be viewed by clicking this link:

https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=41906

President Feinstein called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Commission President	Katherine Feinstein	Present
Vice President	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Armie Morgan	Present
Commissioner	Marcy Fraser	Present
Chief of Department	Jeanine Nicholson	Present.
Robert Postel	Deputy Chief – Operations	
Thomas O’Connor	Deputy Chief –Administration	
Sandy Tong	EMS	
Ramon Serrano	Support Services	
Ken Cofflin	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Patrick D’Arcy	Airport Division	
Shayne Kaialoa	Division of Training	
Ken Cofflin	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Erica Arteseros	Homeland Security	
Assistant Chiefs		
Patrick Rabbit	Division II	
William Storti	Division III	
Staff		
Mark Corso	Deputy Director of Finance	

2. RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President Feinstein read the Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement.

3. RESOLUTION 2022-12 [Discussion and possible action]

Adoption of resolution setting forth findings to allow teleconferenced meetings under California Government Code Section 54953(e).

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

There was no public comment.

4. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES [Discussion and possible action]

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from regular Meeting on July 27, 2022.

Commissioner Morgan Moved to approve the minutes as amended and Commissioner Fraser Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

- Minutes from regular Meeting on July 13, 2022.

Commissioner Morgan Moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Fraser Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

There was no public comment.

6. PRESENTATION AND UPDATE ON FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO BLACK FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION [Discussion]

New leadership of the San Francisco Black Firefighters Association to provide an update on their association.

Lt. Antione Davis, President of the Black Firefighters Association introduced himself and his executive board, including VP John Smith, Sergeant at Arms Zachary Pumphrey, Executive at Large Nicolas Thurston, and Corresponding Secretary Seiua Vaesau. He provided a brief history of the association, which was founded in 1972 by the charter membership, which includes Earl Gage, Audrey Lee, John Harris, and Frank Scales. He mentioned that the SFBFA is a chapter of the International Association of Professional Black Firefighters. He provided the attached PowerPoint Presentation: <https://sf-fire.org/files/2022-08/SFBFA%20Presentation%20edited.pdf>

He added that they will be celebrating their 50th year as an organization on September 10, 2022, at a Gala at Hotel Nikko San Francisco, with a Legends of Honor Reception scheduled for September 9, 2022. Members touched on the Youth Academy, City EMT, and the Bayview NERT for disaster preparedness classes which are all held out of their offices as well as Mission Bay, which is a local nonprofit which teaches youths and adults how to code. They also described community involvement in the organization and their goal is to be there for the community as well as recruitment and membership development.

Vice President Nakajo thanked the BFA for presenting and that he enjoyed it and appreciated the format by including the executive board members present as well. He was also impressed by their succession plan and leadership development.

Commissioner Morgan thanked them for their presentation and the good work helping the Youth Academy.

Commissioner Fraser congratulated them on their 50th anniversary and added that their continuity in the community and its reputation is outstanding.

7. 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 May 11, 2022, including budget, academies, special events, communications, and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Nicholson reported on activities since the last meeting. She stated that there was a bump-up class on the EMS side with 10 members going from level 1 to level 2, EMT to Paramedic on August 1st. She mentioned that the community paramedic chief and his staff will be participating in an audit of all the street teams within the city because there are quite a few. This audit will be carried out by the budget and legislative analysts and should be complete by 2023. She announced that Chief Tong and Chief Rabbit participated with the mayor's office in an active shooter tabletop conversation which was engaging and informative. She touched on the COVID numbers within the Department and events that she attended including a trip to Sacramento where Firefighter Jason Cortes and Christopher Yock had their names added to the memorial wall. She added that the Department was also a part of the school backpack giveaway recently and that the PIO secured a total of one thousand backpacks filled with school supplies and members, along with the PD and Sheriff giving the backpacks away in person to children throughout the city. She and her command staff participated in the Pistahan parade and an AAPI community honors dinner in Chinatown for PD leadership.

Commissioner Morgan appreciated her update and stated, "keep up the good work."

Vice President Nakajo acknowledged receiving the various information and updates from the Chief on the Street Response Teams and he appreciates the strong descriptive of the effect they are making and the good work they are doing.

President Feinstein acknowledged the United Fire Service Women in their efforts at fundraising to contribute two vans that are sorely needed in Ukraine.

Commissioner Fraser stated that she happened to be a couple of blocks from the McAllister Street fire yesterday when the third alarm came over her phone she proceeded to the location and she was amazed and impressed with the work from the SFFD.

There was no public comment.

REPORT FROM OPERATIONS, DEPUTY CHIEF ROBERT POSTEL

Report on overall field operations, including greater alarm fires, Emergency Medical Services, Bureau of Fire Prevention & Investigation, Training within the Department., and Airport Division.

Chief Postel reported on Operations during July. He thanked the BFA for their presentation. He described the third alarm fire on McAllister and Divisadero which started on the second floor in a unit on the west end of the building and that the crews did a phenomenal job. He mentioned that during July they had three greater alarms. The first was a second alarm on Sea Cliff Avenue, the second was at 1182 Fitzgerald and the third was a second alarm at 2874 16th Street. In addition, there were 13 working fires in July, 12 water rescues, and three cliff rescues. With regards to the EMS Division, he confirmed it is now a standalone pillar in the Fire Department under the leadership of Deputy Chief Sandy Tong and will no longer fall under his supervision and oversight. He touched on the Bureau of Fire Prevention and Investigation, the Airport Division, and the Division of Training.

President Feinstein confirmed that an incipient fire is a fire in its initial stages. She stated her concern about the boarded-up building on 16th Street which caught fire and wondered how long the Department leaves buildings that are fire traps and nuisance attractions. Chief Postel responded that when they have a fire on a building, they retain control of that building until the fire is extinguished and are assured that they don't have to do any more overhauls and that the investigation into its cause is completed. If there are structural deficiencies in the building that the Incident Commander is concerned about, they call DBI who can red tag it, at that point, it becomes an issue between DBI and the building owner so the Fire Department has no more control over the building once they relinquish it there.

Vice President Nakajo thanked Chief Postel for his comprehensive report as well as for the update on the McAlister fire. He acknowledged the teachers from Rosa Park grammar school that rescued tenants from a building fire on May 13, 2022, in the Western Addition.

Commissioner Fraser thanked Chief Postel as it was informative and helps her continue to learn more about all the various things that happen. She confirmed that the MTA is paying for the study on the Streetscape problems regarding response times that have gone up steadily over the last four to five years and that coincide with Streetscape changes.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION, DEPUTY CHIEF TOM O'CONNOR
Report on the Administrative Divisions, Fleet and Facility status and updates, Finance, Support Services, and Homeland Security.

Chief O'Connor presented his July 2022 administration report. He touched on Homeland Security, NERT, the Health, Safety, and Wellness Division, the Physician's Office, the

Investigative Services Bureau, and Support Services. His report is attached: https://sf-fire.org/files/2022-08/July%20Admin%20Report_0.pdf

Commissioner Morgan and Vice President Nakajo thanked Chief O'Connor for his report.

Commissioner Fraser confirmed that the Health, Safety, and Wellness programs include a variety of programs, such as Coffee with a Clinician where they have the behavioral health specialist go out and meet members in an off-campus setting, the Behavioral Health Unit operates a very confidential setting for members seeking help, and the peer support dog program, which is a new program where the dogs go back and forth between different firehouses.

There was no public comment

8. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 9

Public comment on all matters pertaining to Items 9 below, including public comment on whether to hold Items 9(b) (c) (d) and (e) in closed session.

There was no public comment.

9. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION REGARDING PERSONNEL MATTERS

a. VOTE ON WHETHER TO CONDUCT ITEMS 9(b) (c) (d) and (e) IN CLOSED SESSION [Action]

The Commission may hear Items 9(b) (c) (d) and (e) in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b) and Administrative Code Section 67.10(b).

Commissioner Fraser recused herself from Items 9(b), (c), and (d) as she was not at the hearings.

President Feinstein Moved to conduct deliberations on Proposed Findings of Fact in closed session. Commissioner Morgan Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting convened in closed session at 6:49 0.m.

In closed session were President Feinstein, Vice President Nakajo, Commissioner Morgan, Commissioner Fraser, Deputy City Zachary Porianda, and Commission Secretary Conefrey.

b. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE, CASE NO. 2021-11: COMMISSION DELIBERATIONS ON PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT, AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF FACT REGARDING COMMISSION'S DECISION ON VERIFIED COMPLAINT FILED WITH THE COMMISSION BY CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT [Action]

At a meeting on April 25, 2022, regarding the above-referenced matter, the Commission deliberated and reached a decision on employee non-disciplinary separation. The Commission is now considering proposed Findings of Fact in relation to that decision.

Commissioner Morgan Moved to approve the Proposed Findings of Fact. Vice President Nakajo Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. (3-0)

- c. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE, CASE NO. 2021-13: COMMISSION DELIBERATIONS ON PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT, AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF FACT REGARDING COMMISSION'S DECISION ON VERIFIED COMPLAINT FILED WITH THE COMMISSION BY CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT [Action]**

At a meeting on May 4, 2022, regarding the above-referenced matter, the Commission deliberated and reached a decision on employee non-disciplinary separation. The Commission is now considering proposed Findings of Fact in relation to that decision.

Commissioner Morgan Moved to approve the Proposed Findings of Fact. Vice President Nakajo Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. (3-0)

- d. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE, CASE NO. 2021-17: COMMISSION DELIBERATIONS ON PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT, AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF FACT REGARDING COMMISSION'S DECISION ON VERIFIED COMPLAINT FILED WITH THE COMMISSION BY CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT [Action]**

At a meeting on March 29, 2022, regarding the above-referenced matter, the Commission deliberated and reached a decision on employee non-disciplinary separation. The Commission is now considering proposed Findings of Fact in relation to that decision.

Commissioner Morgan Moved to approve the Proposed Findings of Fact. Vice President Nakajo Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. (3-0)

- e. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE, CASE NO. 2022-03: COMMISSION DELIBERATIONS ON PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT, AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF FACT REGARDING COMMISSION'S DECISION ON VERIFIED COMPLAINT FILED WITH THE COMMISSION BY CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT [Action]**

At a meeting on June 24, 2022, regarding the above-referenced matter, the Commission deliberated and reached a decision on employees' termination. The Commission is now considering proposed Findings of Fact in relation to that decision.

Vice President Nakajo Moved to approve the Proposed Findings of Fact. Commissioner Morgan Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. (4-0)

- f. If Closed Session is held, reconvene in Open Session**

Reconvened in Open Session at 7:07 p.m.

1. Report on any action taken in Closed Session as specified in California Government Code Section 54957.1(a)(5) and San Francisco Administrative Code section 67.12(b)(4).

2. Vote to elect whether to disclose any or all discussions held in Closed Session, as specified in San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(a). **[Action Item]**

Commissioner Morgan Moved to not disclose. Commissioner Fraser Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 10. ADJOURNMENT** President Feinstein adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.