

## FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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**Wednesday, October 13, 2021**  
**This meeting was held 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=39831](https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=39831)

President Feinstein called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Commission President	Katherine Feinstein	Present
Vice President	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Francee Covington	Present
Commissioner	Ken Cleaveland	Present
Commissioner	Armie Morgan	Present
Chief of Department	Jeanine Nicholson	Present.
Bryan Rubenstein	Deputy Chief -- Operations	
Jose Velo	Deputy Chief --Administration	
Shaine Kaialoa	Division of Training	
Sandy Tong	EMS	
David Brown	Airport Division	
Ken Cofflin	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Dawn DeWitt	Support Services	
Erica Arteseros	Homeland Security	
Tom O'Connor	AWSS	
Simon Pang	Community Paramedicine	
Natasha Parks	Health and Wellness	
Staff		
Mark Corso	Deputy Director of Finance	

President Feinstein read the Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement.

**2. RESOLUTION 2021-04 [Discussion and possible action]**

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

Commissioner Cleaveland Moved to adopt Resolution 2021-02. Vice President Nakajo 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 Regular Meeting on September 22, 2021.

Commissioner Covington Moved to adopt the minutes. Commissioner Cleaveland Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on October 27, 2021.

Commissioner Cleaveland Moved to adopt the minutes. 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 October 27, 2021, including budget, academies, special events, communications, and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Nicholson reported on activities since the last meeting on October 27, 2021. She announced that yesterday, the Board of Supervisors, the mayor, and Supervisor Safai introduced a supplemental budget request for an additional 50 paramedics to be funded, which is in addition to the 10 that were previously granted in August and does not include the 35 community paramedics that were added in the budget, which totals 95 new FTE's to be hired into the EMS Division. She thanked the Commissioners, Shon Buford, Local 798, Olivia Scanlon, Mark Corso, Jesus Mora, Sandy Tong, CD2, and CD3 for advocating for the Department. She added that they were also granted an additional H-2 academy class for next year, which means they will have 3 academy classes with 50 recruits in each next year. She mentioned that she has spent a significant amount of time holding administrative hearings regarding the vaccine mandate and she had forwarded those non-vaccinated members to the commission for the next phase of the process. She stated that she attended the following events since the last commission meeting: the swearing-in of the new city attorney, David Chiu, a retiree luncheon, and reception honoring first responders in Chinatown.

(President Feinstein lost connection to the meeting, so Vice President Nakajo took over chairing the meeting)

Commissioner Covington congratulated Chief Nicholson on the wonderful news about the monies that are going to be available for three academies. She also thanked the mayor and her staff as well as the Department members and Local 798 who were involved for their support in pushing for this.

Vice President Nakajo echoed what Commissioner Covington said. He acknowledged the various advocates and supporters, including Local 798, and Supervisor Safai. He added that nothing could be better than this kind of relief in this kind of situation at this given time and he thinks the numbers are good. (President Feinstein was logged back in.)

There was no public comment.

## REPORT FROM OPERATIONS, DEPUTY CHIEF BRYAN RUBENSTEIN

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

Chief Rubenstein reported on Operation activities for October 2021. He mentioned that there was a second alarm fire on Clay Street where the crews were able to contain the damage to mostly the roof area. He added that a resident had fallen asleep in his bedroom and a local person in the neighborhood saw he was in distress and drove his van up underneath the window, climbed on top of his van, pulled the ladder up, and rescued this individual. He provided a damage update from the recent storms. He stated that the Public Information officer was busy and hosted a tour for the Civil Grand Jury. He mentioned that October was cancer awareness month and that the Fleet Week activities in San Francisco were the only live Fleet Week in the nation. He described the various photos in his PowerPoint presentation. He touched on the Bureau of Fire Prevention and Investigation, San Francisco International Airport, and Homeland Security. He added that the Department and Presidio Trust are developing opportunities for training at the Presidio as they have many unused buildings.

Commissioner Covington thanked Chief Rubenstein for his report and acknowledged the gentleman who was fast thinking enough to move his vehicle under the window so the young man could make a safe exit. She added that she would ordinarily suggest that they invite that gentleman to a meeting to honor him, but since Chief Rubenstein stated he was shy, that probably will not happen. She thanked Chief Rubenstein for coordinating with the Presidio Trust on training opportunities. She mentioned that having Fleet Week in San Francisco helped people feel a sense of normalcy and she acknowledged Chief Arteseros for making sure that everything went smoothly.

Vice President Nakajo thanked Chief Rubenstein for his comprehensive report, and he also acknowledged the citizen that drove his van back and put up the ladder and would like to know his name as he thinks this citizen ought to be recognized for saving that individual from serious injury. He went through pages of Chief Tong's submission and confirmed what different topics were and confirmed that the EMS Advancement Academies are so that current ambulance EMT's with a paramedic license can bump up to a paramedic rank and he thinks it is important for the Commission to take and embrace the concept of the bump up. He added that he always looks at the issue of staff shortages, over time, burn out and the news about the approval of the supplemental budget will be a great relief in the sense that the reinforcements are coming. He suggested that regarding Chief Pang's portion of the report, specifically Community Paramedic Monthly Fire Commission Report if it could be set up where they expand on the individual programs.

President Feinstein confirmed with Chief Rubenstein that the fire hydrants in the Presidio are different than the hydrants in San Francisco in their design and outlets and the members have all the appliances they need to make use of them and that Engine 51 has a program where they go around and test hydrants usually on Saturday mornings. She also confirmed that the San Francisco Fire Department is not responsible for the maintenance of those hydrants but should truck 51 find any problems with them, they would report those problems to the Presidio Trust who would have them taken care of. She commented that everything that the Department did

during Fleet Week with the Navy and Marine personnel, bodes well for the future of the city and commended Chief Rubenstein and those under his command for all the effort that went into that event. She acknowledged Chief Tong and Chief Pang for the highlights on their reports and stated it shows the depth of skill, ability, and service that the Department is providing to the City. She stated that she heard Station 49 was somewhat impacted by the heavy rain recently and commended both Chief Tong and Chief Pang who oversaw that those operations continued flawlessly, and she commended Chief DeWitt, who jumped right on it and a response was had and attention was paid to getting a situation that could have endangered operations, and making sure that operations continued effectively. President Feinstein also confirmed that there has been a bit of an increase in response times in the last couple of months and that has been part of their argument around getting additional staffing and given the increase in call volume, they needed more staff.

There was no public comment.

**6. COMMISSION REPORT** *[Discussion]*

Report on Commission activities since last meeting on September 22, 2021.

There was nothing reported

There was no public comment.

**7. AGENDA FOR NEXT AND FUTURE FIRE COMMISSION MEETINGS** *[Discussion]*

Discussion regarding agenda for next and future Fire Commission meetings.

- Update from Fire Marshal Cofflin
- Budget update/Grants
- Update from Guardians of the City.

There was no public comment.

**8. ADJOURNMENT** President Feinstein adjourned the meeting at 10:09 a.m.