

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, August 28, 2019 – 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400, San Francisco, California, 94102**

The Video can be viewed by clicking this link:

http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=33894

President Nakajo called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Commission President	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commission Vice President	Francee Covington	Present
Commissioner	Michael Hardeman	Present
Commissioner	Ken Cleaveland	Present
Commissioner	Joe Alioto Veronese	Present
Chief of Department	Jeanne Nicholson	Present
Victor Wyrsh	Deputy Chief -- Operations	
Jose Velo	Deputy Chief --Administration	
Sandy Tong	EMS	
Dan DeCossio	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Khai Ali	Airport Division	
Dawn DeWitt	Support Services	
Michael Cochran	Homeland Security	
Joel Sato	Training Division	
Assistant Chiefs		
Charles Crane	Division 2	
Nicol Juratovac	Division 3	
Staff		
Mark Corso	Deputy Director of Finance	
Olivia Scanlon	Communications and Outreach	

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Denise Louie, who lives on Mount Davidson at the edge of Glen Canyon Park spoke of her concerns about wildland-urban interface fires in that neighborhood and stated that due to climate change, the tops of the trees are now brown and dead when they used to be green for years and she suggested that the City follow Cal fire vegetation guidelines.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on August 14, 2019.

Commissioner Cleaveland Moved to approve the above meeting Minutes. Commissioner Hardeman Seconded. Motion to approve above Minutes was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

4. 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 July 10, 2019, including budget, academies, special events, communications and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Nicholson's report covered events and activities since the last meeting on August 14, 2019. She announced that she, Chief Wyrsh and Chief Velo met with the NERT Advisory Board and added that they are an incredible group of volunteers. The Loma Prieta 30th anniversary will be commemorated at the biannual NERT drill on October 19th at Saint Ignatius High School from 8:00 a.m. to noon. She also mentioned that she met with all the employee groups, including EMS Officers Association and Los Bomberos. She has attended numerous meetings about the Ambulance Deployment Facility gate and stated they have a great working relationship with the artist, Michael Bartelos, and they have a final review and approval by the Arts Commission before it gets presented back to the Fire Commission. She met with San Francisco Unified School District, as well as Supervisor Walton to discuss fire science and EMT classes in high schools and communities. She touched on the meeting she and Commissioner Cleaveland had with board members of the GOTC about working on a strategic and business plan. She stated that she welcomed 20 recruits to the 15th EMS academy class of H-3 Level-1's on Monday and they are due to graduate on October 4, 2019. She announced that the Department of Real Estate has engaged a broker for the search of a new training facility site. She also announced that the Department will take care of business with the opening the Chase Center and she has no doubt that they will be able to protect the lives and property of everyone in and around Chase Center as well. She touched on the upcoming stair climb scheduled for September 7, 2019, that she and Olivia Scanlon will be participating in, the 9/11 commemoration ceremony at Station 5 starting at 6:45 a.m., and the police/fire mass scheduled for September 29, 2019.

There was no public comment.

Vice President Covington thanked the Chief for her report and asked for more details on the measures the Department is taking to ensure safe and prompt response to the area around Chase Center. Chief Nicholson stated that they have done their due diligence by administering a drill as well as their continued and ongoing conversations with MTA, Department of Emergency Management and the Chase Center stakeholders. Chief Cochrane added that Chase has been very open and transparent and that they have a very robust Homeland Security division and have conducted citywide tabletop meetings where they have discussed preparedness. Chief Nicholson stated she is confident they are ready and good to go.

Commissioner Cleaveland confirmed that the Chase Center has contracted with a private ambulance company to provide services during events and will have their medical plan in the facility.

Commissioner Veronese asked that Chief Nicholson share the art drawings for the gate on the new Ambulance Deployment Facility, as there were concerns on some of the earlier renditions that were presented to the Commission. He confirmed that the Department is gathering data around the time on task and time the ambulances are sitting at hospitals.

Commissioner Hardeman was glad to hear she is still meeting with employee groups. He also complimented Chief Nicholson on her attitude on the issues around the Chase Center as he doesn't think there is a whole lot to worry about as the Giant's attendance has dropped significantly over the last couple of years. He was also glad to hear that the Department of Real Estate has employed a broker and he agrees the less known the better on revealing potential sites for the training facility.

President Nakajo confirmed that the NERT drill will be on October 19th at St. Ignatius and the 30th-anniversary celebration of Loma Prieta will be on October 17th at Clair Lilienthal near the Marina. He also confirmed that the EMT graduation will be October 4, 2019, at the John Adams campus. He added that with regard to the Chase Center drill, they do what they need to do to be prepared and as Chief Nicholson stated "we take care of business" and part of that is being proactive and whatever it takes for us to do and let the citizens of San Francisco rest assured that the San Francisco Fire Department is on the job.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION, DEPUTY CHIEF JOSE VELO

Report on the Administrative Divisions, Fleet and Facility status and updates, Finance, Support Services, Homeland Security, Training within the Department.

Chief Velo's report covered the Month of August. He highlighted some of the incidents contained in the attached comprehensive report. <https://sf-fire.org/sites/default/files/COMMISSION/Fire%20Commission%20Support%20Documents%202015/aug%20admin%20report.pdf>

He touched on some of the highlights of his report including ongoing projects he's working on with his divisions and has engaged all employees, workgroups and committees and they have submitted to him all the work plans for the year and the goal is for every member of the Department to know what each group is doing, including manual and policy revisions. He mentioned that he has also been working with Chief Cochran and Chief Wyrsh on Incident Management Team development and training techniques and drills. He attended the Fire Reserves graduation where 29 members graduated from their six-month academy. He touched on the balancing tour project they are working on, the vacancy bids for Station 49 and the Support Services Division. He announced the selection of the new Water Supply Officer, Captain Brent Stuckert who will be working with PUC on projects. He mentioned the new battery-operated fans, five new engines now in the pre-construction phase and six new chiefs' vehicles which are due in September. He also covered events that were held throughout the reporting period.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Hardeman thanked him for his report and stated that the public speaker who commented on fire danger in the Glenn Canyon area brought up a good point and he asked if the city has access to a helicopter. Chief Velo confirmed that because the Department belongs

to Cal Fire, which is located in the Santa Cruz area, they can call for mutual aid and they will respond with their helicopter in 15 minutes. Chief Velo also confirmed that the Department has very good plans of what to do if there was a wildland fire in the City.

President Nakajo thanked Chief Velo for his report and thanked Chief DeWitt for being on top of her responsibilities and for taking care of business.

5. COMMISSION REPORT [Discussion]

Report on Commission activities since last meeting on July 10, 2019

Commissioner Hardeman stated that he took the advice of Commissioners Alioto-Veronese and Cleaveland and he and his wife visited the Fire Department's museum where they were greeted by two volunteers, Nick Farack and Jeff Aguirre. He compared the museum to a shrunk down Smithsonian and was impressed with the museum.

Commissioner Cleaveland confirmed that he met with Chief Nicholson and representatives of the Guardians of the City to come up with an action plan going forward. He stated he felt encouraged following the meeting and that they will have better lines of communications between the Department and GOTC going forward.

Present Nakajo thanked Commissioner Hardeman for visiting the museum and Commissioner Cleaveland for attending the meeting with the GOTC. He also announced that regarding the Civil Grand Jury report, he received a request from PUC and the Mayor's office for more time to review it and will have it on the September 11th Commission meeting agenda as the responses are due by September 15th. He added that staff lobbyist representative, Olivia Scanlon will be reaching out to each of the commissioners to give input in terms of the work that has been occurring within the Grand Jury report responses.

There was no Public Comment.

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

Discussion regarding agenda for the next and future regular meetings.

- Civil Grand Jury update
- Department Physician's Office Presentation
- Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation

There was no Public Comment.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE LAST MEETING

- Letter from Rasha Harvey, Civil Grand Jury

There was no Public Comment.

8. ADJOURNMENT President Nakajo adjourned the meeting at 5:51 p.m.