

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, August 26, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.
This meeting was held remotely on WebEx**

The Video can be viewed by clicking this link:

https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=36475

Vice President Feinstein called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m.

Commission President	Francee Covington	Present at 5:40 (could not log on)
Commission Vice President	Katherine Feinstein	Present
Commissioner	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Ken Cleaveland	Present
Commissioner	Tony Rodriguez	Excused
Chief of Department	Jeanine Nicholson	Present
Victor Wyrsh	Deputy Chief -- Operations	
Jose Velo	Deputy Chief --Administration	
Dawn DeWitt	Support Services	
Joel Soto	Training Division	
Sandy Tong	EMS	
Mark Johnson	Airport Division	
Dan DeCossio	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Natasha Park	Health and Wellness	
Staff		
Mark Corso	Deputy Director of Finance	
Olivia Scanlon	Communications and Outreach	

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on August 12, 2020.

Commissioner Cleaveland Moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Rodriguez Seconded. The motion was unanimous. There was no public comment.

4. BUDGET OVERVIEW [Discussion]

Mark Corso, Deputy Director of Finance and Planning to provide an overview of the current budget.

Mr. Corso gave an update on the budget process during an unusual year. He reported that last-minute negotiations last night and this morning completed the process on the Fire Department's

end. He mentioned that the Department worked closely with the Board's budget analyst on proposed reductions in advance of their recommendations to the committee and where the Chief and Mr. Corso provided justification and documentation for the submitted budget. He added that the initial reduction proposal that they received from the budget analyst was approximately 2.2 million dollars and was heavily focused on one time savings from fleet and equipment allocations and they worked to narrow down the list of reductions and were successful in almost all aspects except for a ladder truck and command vehicles. Next, they set off to make their case at the committee hearing and the Chief did a great job advocating for the Department highlighting the work that was done on the fleet plan and given COVID and the City's budget reductions the fleet allocation was already reduced in the mayor's budget so she fought hard to demonstrate the needs and priorities and by the end of the hearing there was recognition from the Board and the committee members about the needs for the Department and agreed to a \$600,000 reduction over two years which will mainly come from overtime. As a result of agreeing to that reduction, they were able to secure funding for both the truck and the command vehicles. He mentioned that the reductions that were agreed to will not impact frontline services in the coming budget years. He also mentioned that the Crisis Response Team and the joint effort between the Department's EMS-6 program and the Department of Public Health had a \$2,000,000 allocation from the Mayor's office and if there is additional bond money off the ballot initiative that would be available if passed, that it would expand the program, so they are hopeful for additional resources to support that. He concluded by stating it is anticipated that the budget will be forwarded to the board for a vote in late September and then signed off by the Mayor on October 1st.

Commissioner Rodriguez confirmed that the Crisis Response Team is a joint operation between the Fire Department and the Department of Public Health where they respond to calls of mental health and behavioral health issues by patients on the streets of San Francisco.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Mark, Chief Nicholson, and the managers that did a great job advocating for the Department during the budget process and he confirmed that the agreed reductions total \$600,000 over two years and he thinks that is an astonishing accomplishment given the scenario that's occurring presently with the city and county of San Francisco. He added that he also recognized the credibility and the professional work that is being done with the EMS-6 program.

Vice President Feinstein thinks that everyone on the commission would agree that the work done on the budget proposal is a remarkable accomplishment given the circumstances of the City and County of San Francisco and she congratulated the whole team that worked on it.

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 August 12, 2020, 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 August 12, 2020. Regarding the budget, she mentioned that it was a team effort and that she is pleased with the outcome.

She touched on mutual aid by stating she was proud of everyone who deployed to Vacaville in an immediate need and they were able to save a lot of homes, and two other fires that Chief Velo will cover in his report. She added that a current member of Station 49 lost his rental home in a fire and that there is an account set up at the Fire Credit Union website for anyone that can help. She added that a retired member's home also burned down. She touched on the Physician's Office, where Dr. Brokaw is out having knee surgery. She touched on the racial equity action plan the Department is working on and coming up with parameters and guidelines to diversify hiring and promotional opportunities.

Chief Nicholson stated that Mayor Breed is focused on getting businesses open safely and that means extra work for Fire Marshal De Cossio's office with a total of almost 1,700 business applications for street changes to allow opening and they have been able to approve over 1,200 of them as well as the many transit-only lanes throughout the city that are coming forward from MTA. She mentioned that they are in talks with the Real Estate Division on a fire training facility.

President Covington asked how a person becomes a member of a workgroup on the list of committees she received. Chief Velo stated that there is an application process announced through a General Order where members submit their interests to him and he and his assistant compile them based on their preferences and expertise and he and Chief Nicholson assign them to a workgroup based on that criteria. Chief Tong weighs in on the EMS workgroups. Chief Velo stated he would get the Racial Equity workgroup list to her, as it came after the general order was issued, but there are about 20 members on that committee. President Covington suggested that the Department add a Grants Committee as she thinks it would be a good way for members of the Department to be involved in the process. Chief Nicholson added that Chief Velo works with all the committees and that part of the directive is for those committees to come up with both priorities in terms of asks, as well as any grant opportunities they find and to get that up the chain to Chief Velo, Mark Corso, and Grant Writer Shilo Kaho.

There was no public comment.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION, DEPUTY CHIEF JOSE VELO

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

Chief Velo presented his report for July. Highlights of his report included the mutual aid response where 51 members deployed to two different fires, the CZU August Lightning complex fire in Santa Cruz, San Mateo County, and the LNU lightning complex fire in Sonoma, Lake, and Napa counties. He added that the City of Vacaville asked for help for their neighbors because the city was burning down on their western side, so they responded there for 23 hours. He touched on a few other deployments and stated he is very proud of the Department and what they are doing out there.

Chief Velo mentioned that Vice President Feinstein presided over the graduation of the 15th EMS Advancement Academy where they added 12 new members. He acknowledged the great work of the Fire Reserves that have been busy assisting at all the fires over the last couple of months in the City. He touched on the Division of Training, NERT, and the Division of

Health, Safety, and Wellness under Chief Parks, who participated in a COVID-19 Q and A session and which was published for members to utilize; the Investigative Services Bureau under Captain Alba. Support Services under command of Chief DeWitt where it was announced that Station 35 is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2021 and Station 49 is scheduled for completion sometime between mid-December to early January. He announced that Dr. Janie Bryant joined the Department as a per diem physician and will be helping Dr. Brokaw in the office.

An unidentified male congratulated the SFFD on all the mutual aid.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Velo for his comprehensive report and confirmed there were about 24 separate workgroup committees and he was impressed with the list and encouraged members to participate in these committees and affinity groups.

Commissioner Cleaveland confirmed that a 2807 injury report is an injury that does not require treatment by either an emergency room visit or ambulance transport such as a minor issue that requires just putting ice on it or taking ibuprofen and waiting to see how it is the next day, because if it turns into an injury that has to be treated, then it's documented for the future. He added that a 5020 report is when you have an injury that requires professional treatment. Commissioner Cleaveland also confirmed that DP stands for disability pay and that all fire stations have emergency generators. He also confirmed that there are three hose tenders left in the budget and that there is a uniform committee that is trying to find gear and equipment that does not have PFAS and that there are about five main manufactures that produce PPE for firefighters.

Commissioner Rodriguez confirmed that the strike teams that get deployed to wildfires volunteer and come from a list of about 250 qualified firefighters that have done the extensive wildfire training and that the Department gets reimbursed by the State through FEMA for all wildfire deployments.

6. COMMISSION REPORT *[Discussion]*

Report on Commission activities since last meeting on August 12, 2020.

Nothing reported.

There was no public comment.

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

Discussion regarding agenda for the next and future regular meetings.

- Los Bomberos update
- Closed Session findings of fact Case No.: 2020-01

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURNMENT President Covington adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.