

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE COMMISSION

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Wednesday, Jun 8, 2016 - 9:00 a.m.

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 416, San Francisco, California, 94102

The Video can be viewed by clicking this link:

http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=25547

President Covington called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

1. ROLL CALL

Commission President	Francee Covington	Present
Commission Vice President	Ken Cleaveland	Present
Commissioner	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Michael Hardeman	Present
Chief of Department	Joanne Hayes-White	Present
Mark Gonzales	Deputy Chief – Operations	
Ken Lombardi	Support Services	
Dan DeCossio	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Richard Brown	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Jeff Myers	EMS	
Rudy Castellanos	Airport Division	
Assistant Chiefs		
Kevin Burke	Division 2	
Dave Franklin	Division 3	
Staff		
Mark Corso	CFO	
Clement Yeh	Medical Director	

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. PROPOSED LEGISLATION FROM THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE *[Discussion and possible action]*

File No.: 160422 Ordinance amending the Fire Code and the Housing Code to require building owners provide tenants with an annual written notice of smoke alarm requirements and require building owners file a statement of compliance with annual fire alarm testing and inspection requirements every two years; amending the Fire Code and Building Code to require building owners to upgrade existing fire alarm systems by July 1, 2021, or upon completion of \$50,000 or more of construction work, whichever occurs earlier; amending the Building Code to require owners of Apartment Houses damaged by fire to submit an Action Plan to the City within 30 days of the fire and requiring owners of buildings in Group R occupancies with six or more units to install fire blocks in open accessible attics when performing \$50,000 or more of construction work; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; making findings under the California Health and Safety Code; and

directing the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to forward this ordinance to the California Building Standards Commission upon final passage as required by State law.

Supervisor Campos' aide, Carolyn Goossen gave a brief overview of the proposed legislation and answered questions.

Vice President Cleaveland asked that the legislation specify that the ordinance pertains to residential occupancies only. Ms. Goossen stated she would add that wording into the document. It was also suggested by President Covington and Commissioner Nakajo that the legislation be amended to include that the Commission would support the legislation only if there was adequate funding and personnel provided to the Department in order to successfully accomplish the tasks outlined in the legislation.

Commissioner Nakajo Moved to approve the legislation as amended. Vice President Cleaveland Seconded. Motion to approve above legislation as amended was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF APPRECIATION *[Discussion]*

Presentation of Award from the State of California in recognition of the NERT Program.

Chief Hayes-White introduced Lt. Erica Arteseros and Mr. Pegueros, representatives from NERT. She gave a brief history on the award being presented on behalf of the Governor and announced that President Covington was NERT certified. She added that the Disaster Code Unit received the California Disaster Volunteer Program of the Year award and it honors an outstanding California disaster volunteer program that demonstrated an unwavering service commitment to the local community. Lt. Arteseros extended her gratitude of receiving the award and thanked all the volunteers and mentioned that it was years and years of volunteer service preparing to respond in a disaster environment that led to the award. She also introduced NERT volunteers Maxine Fasulis, Shelly Carol and Stiger.

There was no public comment.

All the Commissioners congratulated the NERT members and thanked them for their services.

President Covington acknowledged Lt. Arteseros' enthusiasm and all the good work that she and her volunteer Board Members do and she encouraged everyone to go to the website and join NERT.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on May 11, 2016

Commissioner Hardeman Moved to approve the May 11, 2016 regular meeting Minutes. Vice President Cleaveland Seconded. Motion to approve above Minutes was unanimous.

There was no public comment:

6. OVERVIEW ON AIRPORT DIVISION *[Discussion]*

Overview and update from Assistant Deputy Chief Rudy Castellanos on the current developments at the Airport Division.

Chief Castellanos shared the attached PowerPoint Presentation: <http://sf-fire.org/sites/default/files/COMMISSION/Fire%20Commission%20Support%20Documents%202015/airport%20division%20powerpoint%20presentation.pdf>

Chief Castellanos provided a brief history of the San Francisco International Airport starting from when it opened in 1927. He added that San Francisco is recognized as one of the most beautiful, progressive and busiest airports in the world. He continued with explaining the slides in his presentation and concluded by stating they've been acquiring a lot of new equipment and describing the construction of Fire Station 3.

Vice President Cleaveland thanked Chief Castellanos for his report and confirmed that the extra training required to work at the airport is a 40-hour curriculum which is put together by the FAA and has 11 different training components that firefighters have to spend a certain amount of hours preparing for and is required annually.

Commissioner Hardeman thanked Chief Castellanos for his report and acknowledged what an amazing vehicle the Oshkosh Striker 45000 is. He also acknowledged Airport Director John Martin, who recently retired and his leadership and partnership that has provided good things for the Fire Department.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Castellanos for his comprehensive report. He acknowledged that there are three fire houses at the airport and that usually one Battalion Chief oversees the three fire houses, with the assistance of the Captain. There was brief discussion on the different types of boats and water craft housed at the airport and the personnel needed to use them.

President Covington asked if the five year plan that Chief Castellanos alluded to was separate from the strategic plan that is under development and Chief Castellanos stated it was separate. President Covington suggested that it is such an important element, that it should be an appendix to the Department's overall strategic plan. She also suggested that a thank you from the Fire Commission to the Airport Commission should be provided for all the wealth of resources they have provided to the Airport Division. She also mentioned how brilliant the mobile medic bike program is. There was discussion on how Airport assignments are on a volunteer basis and how the FAA certification process works.

There was no public comment.

7. CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT [Discussion]

REPORT FROM CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

Report on current issues, activities and events within the Department since the Fire Commission meeting of May 25, 2016, including academies, strategic planning, 150th Anniversary update, special events, communications and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Hayes-White's report covered the period following the Commission meeting on May 25, 2016.

With regard to the budget, she thanked everyone for the collective approach and thought it really paid off. She is indebted to the Commissioners who have been very engaged throughout the process. She acknowledged the men and women who operate the apparatus each and every day, sometimes very challenging with the older rigs, but they make it work and she appreciates that.

Chief Hayes-White acknowledged the Division of Training for their good work in getting the recruits to where they are at and she was proud to announce that they graduated 30 H-3 Level 1 EMT's on Friday and thanked Commissioners Cleaveland and Hardeman for attending the ceremony. She mentioned the bump up academy currently in place and she has made selections for the 120th academy which will begin on June 20th and she's anticipating starting the 121st academy in November.

With regards to the 150th Anniversary planning, Chief Hayes-White stated they had a meeting on May 26, 2016 and the next meeting is June 29th. She stated they are currently working on a volunteer day in August, the commissioning of the fireboat, date to be determined because of

delays, 9/11 ceremony, a civil celebration on 9/24 and 9/25 and that the committee decided last month, as opposed to having it in lot A in conjunction with the SF Giants, AT&T Park, they will move the venue to the Fisherman's Wharf area and that is being headed up by retired Deputy Chief Richard Kochevar. She added that the film fest that President Covington is working on and doing a great job on, is scheduled for November and the final event on December 3, 2016.

With regards to special events, Chief Hayes-White touched on the Memorial Day service at the Presidio, the opportunity to meet with the new Consul General from Korea and the meeting with Sam Dodge who is overseeing the Mayor's Hope Program. She concluded her report by acknowledging the anniversary of the deaths of Lt. Perez and Firefighter/Paramedic Valero who lost their lives in the line of duty.

President Covington stated that she thinks a lot of citizens don't know it's the Department's 150th Anniversary and suggested we have some type of banner to display at parades and things of that sort. Chief Hayes-White stated they are working with DPW on putting up banners along the Port and other locations.

REPORT FROM OPERATIONS

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

Chief Gonzales report covered the month of May.

He gave a brief overview of the stolen ambulance that crashed on Treasure Island.

Chief Gonzales stated that there were two greater alarms during his reporting period. One was a second alarm at 1966 35th Avenue. There were two civilian injuries, one firefighter injury and a K-9 fatality. Red Cross was called for the 13 adults and two children who were displaced. The cause of the fire was accidental due to an electrical failure. Assistant Chief Siragusa was the Incident Commander. The other greater alarm was also a second alarm at 610 Webster Street. There were no injuries and Red Cross was called for six people who were displaced. The cause of the fire was accidental. Assistant Chief Postel was the incident commander.

Chief Gonzales touched on the May 22, 2016 incident of the person under a BART train at Embarcadero Station, and the water rescue of the victim found under Pier 30.

Chief Gonzales acknowledged the great work of PIO Jonathan Baxter for his community outreach and getting safety messages out to the public. He stated that PIO Baxter attended the FEMA advanced PIO training to gain knowledge on how to keep the community informed during daily incidents, major incidents, and large scale disasters.

He touched on the H-8 training and stated they have 28 H-8 Paramedics in the field and his goal is to have at least 100 per diem's backing up the permanent force as it has proven to be successful and the response times have improved.

In regards to Bureau of Fire Prevention, he mentioned the number of permits, notice of violations, high-rise inspections and total annual permit inspections. He also mentioned they are working with the City Attorney's office on the properties located at 3941 20th Street, 2205 Mission Street and 2874 16th Street in regards to accelerated code enforcement.

The commissioners thanked him for his comprehensive report and there was brief follow-up on the Accelerated Code Enforcement and hoarders. Chief DeCossio said neighbors usually call in hoarding complaints and the Department responds to every complaint and if they are not let in, they cannot take action so they refer it to the City Attorney's Office and deal with it as a team.

There was no public comment.

8. OVERVIEW OF FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET [Discussion]

Update and overview from Mark Corso on the current budget

Mark Corso gave the attached budget presentation: <http://sf-fire.org/sites/default/files/COMMISSION/Fire%20Commission%20Support%20Documents%202015/budget.pdf>

Mr. Corso stated the Mayor presented his city wide balanced budget to the Board of Supervisors on May 21, 2016. He highlighted what was actually proposed on behalf of the Fire Department including the hiring/staffing plan which is projected to graduate five H-2 firefighter academies over the current budget cycle and the fleet and equipment allocation. He also touched on the Capital and IT project allocations. He thanked Local 798 and the Budget Committee for their support throughout the budget process.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Mr. Corso for his comprehensive report and acknowledged the Budget Committee, Local 798 and the Mayor's Budget Office for their good work.

Commissioner Hardeman thanked Mr. Corso for the good job done on the budget as well as the Chief and staff that worked very hard. He added that it was so refreshing to see that patience has paid off for all the equipment they will receive.

Vice President Cleaveland thanked Mr. Corso for his report and his leadership on the financial aspect and he thanked the Mayor's office for recognizing that the fleet replacement program was the number one priority and the need to have ongoing commitment for financial support. He also applauded the Chief for her leadership and the mayor and his leadership for making sure the Department is the best it can be.

President Covington thanked Mr. Corso for his presentation and also agreed that patience has paid off. She recognized it was a team effort and was euphoric that the Department is finally going to make a dent in all of the things that are needed regarding the fleet and she hopes that there will be more good news forthcoming.

There was no public comment.

9. SUPERVISORY MODEL FOR STATION 49 UPDATE [Discussion]

Update and discussion on Supervisory Model for Station 49

At the call of President Covington, she elected to hold this item over for a later date.

10. AGENDA FOR NEXT FIRE COMMISSION MEETING [Discussion]

Discussion regarding agenda for the June 22, 2016 regular meeting.

- Update on Security measures
- Strategic Planning Update
- RC-4/Station 49 Update

There was no public comment.

11. Case No. 2015-05: COMMISSION DELIBERATIONS ON PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT, AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF FACT REGARDING COMMISSION'S DECISION ON EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION APPEAL [Action item]

In accordance with Article 40, Section 4005 of the Rules and Regulations the employee has appealed a six-day suspension for violation of the Rules and Regulations as follows:

Section 3909 – False Reports
Section 3919 – Proper Behavior

Section 3923 – Acts Detrimental to the Welfare of the Department
Section 3924 – Disobedience
Section 3925 – Insubordination

At a Special Meeting of the Fire Commission on April 25, 2016, the Commission deliberated and decided member's appeal of a six-day suspension previously imposed by the Chief of Department in the above-noted matter.

Member pled not guilty to the charges of violating San Francisco Fire Department Rules and Regulations Section 3909 – False Reports; Section 3919 – Proper Behavior; Section 3923 – Acts Detrimental to the Welfare of the Department; Section 3924 – Disobedience; and Section 3925 – Insubordination.

By a vote of 3 to 1, the Commission voted to uphold all of the charges against member and to uphold the penalty of a 6-day suspension imposed by Chief of Department. (Ayes: Cleaveland, Nakajo, Hardeman; No: Covington.)

The Commission is now considering proposed Findings of Fact in relation to that decision.

This case may be heard in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b) and San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.10(b).

A. Public Comment on Special Meeting Agenda Item; Possible Closed Session

Members of the public may comment on this Agenda item, including the proposed Findings of Fact and whether to consider the matter in Closed Session. [Government Code §54954.3(a), Administrative Code §67.15(b)]

There was no public comment.

B. Vote on Closed Session:

1. Vote on whether to conduct deliberations on proposed Findings of Fact in Closed Session. **[Action]**

Vice President Cleaveland made a motion to hold deliberations in Closed Session. Commissioner Hardeman seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. (4-0; Covington, Cleaveland, Nakajo, Hardeman,)

The Commission held deliberations in Closed Session at 11:35 a.m.

C. Deliberations and Possible Action

1. Deliberations and possible action on proposed Findings of Fact (in Open or Closed Session, per the Commission's vote). **[Action]**

The Commission reconvened in Open Session to report action taken at 11:44 a.m.

Action Taken:

By unanimous vote of 4-0, the Commission adopted the proposed Findings of Fact as presented by Counsel for the Department. The Findings will be finalized by Counsel for the Commission, working with the Commission Secretary, and issued to the parties. There was no public comment.

D. If Closed Session is held, reconvene in Open Session

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]**

Commissioner Hardeman made a motion to not disclose discussions held in Closed Session. Commissioner Cleaveland seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. (4-0; Covington, Cleaveland, Nakajo, Hardeman)

There was no public comment

12. ADJOURNMENT

President Covington adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.