

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

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**Wednesday, February 23, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.  
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=40638](https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=40638)

Vice President Nakajo called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Commission President	Katherine Feinstein	Excused
Vice President	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Francee Covington	Present
Commissioner	Ken Cleaveland	Present
Commissioner	Armie Morgan	Present
Chief of Department	Jeanine Nicholson	Present.
Robert Postel	Deputy Chief -- Operations	
Thomas O'Connor	Deputy Chief --Administration	
Sandy Tong	EMS	
David Brown	Airport Division	
Ken Cofflin	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Shayne Kaialoa	Division of Training	
Ramon Serrano	Support Services	
Erica Arteseros	Homeland Security	
Brice Peoples	Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	
Simon Pang	Community Paramedicine	
Staff		
Mark Corso	Deputy Director of Finance	

Vice President Nakajo read the Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement.

**2. RESOLUTION 2022-02 [Discussion and possible action]**

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

Commissioner Covington Moved to adopt the Resolution. Commissioner Cleaveland Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

**3. 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 February 9, 2022.

Commissioner Covington Moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Cleaveland Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

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 January 12, 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 announced that she and her command staff attended the Lunar New Year Parade, and she thanked the Asian Firefighters Association for hosting dinner afterward. She mentioned that COVID 19 is still on a downward trend with 13 members in quarantine and 26 people off work. She touched on the budget and stated that they started an H-3 Level 2 class yesterday with 20 people. She announced that they presented to the Port Commission last night about the purchase of the Port property for a new training facility and she thanked Vice President Nakajo and Commissioner Morgan for calling and offering their support. She stated that she has been doing meet and greets for the new H-2 firefighter class and she is seeing some good candidates.

Commissioner Covington confirmed that the discussion at the Port Commission meeting consisted of the necessity to move into a new training facility, how the time was running out and they broke down into the components that they need for suppression, emergency vehicle operations training course, and different types of buildings that they need, and how it needs to be a clean and green facility as well as they highlighted all the community partnerships that they want to expand upon once they are out in the Bayview Hunter's point and how they want to partner with the community. Commissioner Covington acknowledged Representative Ting for his support in this effort. She confirmed with the Chief that there has been a significant decrease in mandatory overtime over the last month.

Commissioner Cleaveland confirmed that the Port still needs to vote to approve the sale of the property for the new training facility.

Vice President Nakajo thanked Chief Nicholson for her report and remarked on the importance of the paramedic class and stated he is thrilled to have a Level 2 paramedic class and that they will be hitting the ground running once they graduate. He acknowledged the great job Chief Nicholson and Chief O'Connor did presenting at the Port Commission meeting and observed that every port commissioner that did speak, spoke in support of the department and the training facility. He added that it was impressive because part of the discussion was just not training but the influence of the

community, jobs, and the influence of trying to recruit members of color from the community.

Commissioner Morgan stated that he feels they made a dent in the Port Commission Discussions and made their presence known and that he is a proponent of the new training facility. He added that it would create good construction jobs, union jobs for local hire and supplement apprenticeship programs, and put people to work.

There was no public comment.

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

Chief O'Connor touched on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office overseen by Assistant Deputy Chief Brice Peoples where they participated in two separate city job fairs as well as spoke at the Mission High School Fire Science Program and EMS class and that Lt. Hashim Anderson from the Office of Outreach, Recruitment, and Development spoke virtually to students at Castlemont High School in Oakland about careers as firefighters as part of Black History Month. He also attended the Santa Rosa Junior College Fire Academy to recruit candidates. Chief O'Connor touched on NERT, the Physician's Office, the Investigative Services Bureau, and Support Services. He spoke about the return of Chief Matt Alba after his battle with cancer.

Commissioner Cleaveland confirmed that the members in COVID 19 quarantine went from 300 to 13 over January. He also confirmed that the Department currently has 4 hose tenders in service, one in development, and three ready to purchase. There was robust discussion on the process of getting the hose tenders built and tested.

All the Commissioners expressed their joy at the return of Chief Alba.

Commissioner Covington mentioned that the member who was terminated for a positive drug/alcohol test will serve as an example to everyone.

Vice President Nakajo thanked Chief O'Connor for his comprehensive report and asked Chief O'Connor to provide the PowerPoint presentation he showed to the Port Commission to the Fire Commissioners. Vice President Nakajo confirmed that Captain Lars Aspelin took the position previously held by Captain Jose Zalba. He clarified the steps the department is taking to minimize overtime. He also confirmed that the AWSS is now under Support Services and that Captain Vince Wong is overseeing the Bureau of Equipment. He stated that he appreciates the city EMT program.

Chief Nicholson announced the arrival of the two new therapy canines Marley and Sadie that were brought into the Department and acknowledged the Thor's Hope Foundation and that NFRF is supporting the canines and that former Commissioner Alioto-Veronese is the founder of that 501(C) (3). Commissioner Covington thanked former Commissioner Veronese for his continued support.

Captain Hutchinson, President of the Veteran's Association spoke in support of their Veteran's Association's Leadership Symposium scheduled for March 5 at the Marines' Memorial Club and he invited members of the command staff and the Fire Commission to the event. He announced who the guest speakers will be and the topics that will be addressed at that symposium.

**8. AGENDA FOR NEXT AND FUTURE FIRE COMMISSION MEETINGS**

*[Discussion]*

Discussion regarding agenda for next and future Fire Commission meetings.

There was no discussion regarding this item.

There was no public comment.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 8**

Public comment on all matters pertaining to Items 8 below, including public comment on whether to hold Items 8(b) in closed session.

There was no public comment.

**8. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION REGARDING PERSONNEL MATTERS**

**a. VOTE ON WHETHER TO CONDUCT ITEMS 8(b) IN CLOSED SESSION**

*[Action]*

The Commission may hear Items 8(b) in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b) and Administrative Code Section 67.10(b).

*Commissioner Covington Moved to conduct 8(b) in closed session. Commissioner Cleveland seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.*

*The closed session started at 6:11 p.m.*

**b. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE, CASE NO. 2021-04: COMMISSION DELIBERATIONS ON PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT, AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF FACT REGARDING COMMISSION'S DECISION FOR A NON-PUNITIVE MEDICAL SEPARATION [Action]**

At a meeting on December 15, regarding the above-referenced matter, the Commission deliberated and reached a decision for a non-punitive medical separation. The Commission is now considering proposed Findings of Fact in relation to that decision.

*Also, in closed session for this item was: Deputy City Attorney Brad Russi  
Commission Secretary, Maureen Conefrey*

*Commissioner Cleveland Moved to adopt the Findings of Fact. Commissioner Covington Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.*

**9. REPORT ON ANY ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION [Discussion and possible action]** as specified in California Government Code Section 54957.1(a) and San Francisco Administrative Code section 67.12(b).

**10. 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 Covington Moved to not disclose. Commissioner Cleaveland seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.*

**11. ADJOURNMENT** President Feinstein adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.