

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

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**November 9, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

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

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The meeting video can be reviewed by clicking the below link:

[https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=180&clip\\_id=42447](https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=42447)

President Feinstein called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Commission President	Katherine Feinstein	Present
Vice President	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Armie Morgan	Present
Commissioner	Marcy Fraser	Present
Commissioner	Paula Collins	Present
Chief of Department	Jeanine Nicholson	Present.
Robert Postel	Deputy Chief – Operations	
Thomas O’Connor	Deputy Chief –Administration	
Sandy Tong	Deputy Chief – EMS and Community Paramedicine	
Ramon Serrano	Support Services	
Ken Cofflin	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Shayne Kaialoa	Division of Training	
Niels Tangherlini	EMS	
Erica Arteseros Brown	Homeland Security	
Simon Pang	Community Paramedicine	
Patrick D’Arcy	Airport Division	
Assistant Chiefs		
Ken Yee	Division II	
Brook Baker	Division III	
Staff		
Mark Corso	Deputy Director of Finance	
Olivia Scanlon	Communications and Outreach	

**2. RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

President Feinstein read the Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Osgood spoke regarding his concerns with alarm testing at the Rincon Center Apartments and he thought the lack of a response from the Fire Department was dangerous and reckless.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on October 26, 2022.

Commissioner Morgan Moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Fraser Seconded. Commissioner Collins abstained. The motion was approved 4-0 (Ayes: Feinstein, Nakajo, Morgan Fraser).

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 26, 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 welcomed Commissioner Collins to the Fire Commission and added that she appreciates every single one of the fire commissioners. She mentioned that they are currently conducting interviews for the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chief as well as 60 candidates going through medical background for the next academy class that is scheduled to start in January. She added that the current H-2 firefighter academy is graduating on November 18, 2022.

There was no public comment.

REPORT FROM OPERATIONS, DEPUTY CHIEF ROBERT POSTEL

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

Chief Postel reported on Operations during October. He also welcomed Commissioner Collins to the greatest fire commission, the greatest fire department in the world. He stated that they had 20 working fires with one being a greater alarm, seven water rescues, and one cliff rescue. He described the greater alarm fire which occurred at 1926 Palou, which started in the rear of a single-family dwelling, and that the incident commander was AC Dustin Winn and he reported that there were no displacements due to the fire. He touched on Fire Prevention and Investigations under the leadership of Fire Marshal Ken Cofflin where they completed 2,100 inspections as well as responded to 380 fire code violation complaints and issued 413 operational permits; the Airport Division under the leadership of Chief Pat D'Arcy where they continue to train; the Division of Training under the leadership of Chief Shayne Kaialoa where they had a high rise drill that included new elevator technology and that Fire Protection Engineer Sagiv Weiss-Ishai attended that drill as he is a worldwide expert in Highrise fire protection systems. Chief

Postel described the central subway training they have been doing and stated that the Chinatown station is 10 stories below grade. He also touched on NERT and described the photos in his written report. His report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/2636/download?inline>.

President Feinstein confirmed that the first responders can identify the new occupant evacuation elevators by a firefighter helmet symbol by the elevator door and that these elevators are still being used by members of the public. She also confirmed that currently, there are only three such buildings with these new occupant evacuation elevators.

Commissioner Fraser thanked Chief Postel for his report and stated that she appreciates the detail and his expression of pride in the members.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Chief Postel for his great report and commended the members on their response to the Palou fire. He confirmed that the Department is looking to fill the position of Assistant Deputy Chief of ESER to oversee the training center and other rebuilds and repairs that are often under Support Services.

Commissioner Collins confirmed that besides the training the firefighters do for high-rise training, the tenants, landlords, and property managers must also train to evacuate. Chief Postel added that when he chaired the high-rise committee, they worked very closely with BOMA and they were very good at helping facilitate those contacts to get buildings that the Department members can do drills.

Vice President Nakajo also welcomed Commissioner Collins to the Commission and expressed how exciting it is for the commissioners to finally have all five seats filled. He thanked Chief Postel for his comprehensive report and confirmed that the new central subway goes from 4<sup>th</sup> and Brannan, and it runs 1.7 miles along the way there is a station at Yerba Buena/Moscone Center, at Union Square, and Chinatown. Chief Postel described the stations and how the Department will respond in an emergency. Vice President Nakajo confirmed that the subway should be operational in the next couple of weeks and that once there is a soft opening and it is deemed safe, they will take the commissioners on a tour. Vice President Nakajo went through the pages of the report and received clarification to his questions from Chief Cofflin and Chief Kaialoa.

There was no public comment.

REPORT FROM EMS AND COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE, DEPUTY CHIEF SANDRA TONG

Report on the EMS and Community Paramedicine Divisions

Chief Tong announced that Kevin Chocker has been promoted to EMS Operations Section Chief and Craig Gordon to Section Chief of EMS Administration. She mentioned that they had about 350 responses per day which is a seven percent increase from last year. She stated that on October 11, 2022, she, Chief Nicholson, ADCs Pang, and Tangherlini, and the section chiefs participated in a town hall meeting at Station 49 120 members participated and it was an opportunity for the chiefs to be able to discuss the visions they have in mind for the next year, including academies, career development, wellness for members, schedules, and research. She described some of the notable incidents they responded to including the evacuation of elderly seniors from a senior assisted living facility in Alameda where they used their two multi-casualty busses for that evacuation. She touched on Community Paramedicine under ADC Simon Pang and the research studies around the community paramedic programs and how they may help better understand how interventions actually might improve a client's long-term health outcome and a second one to better help understand the morale hazards or the morale injury that might occur as healthcare providers working with patients in challenging environments and the trauma that can be experienced as a result of not being able to service clients in the way they feel like they should. Her report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/2637/download?inline>

Vice President Nakajo thanked Chief Tong for her report and was impressed with the participation in the Station 49 town hall meeting as well as her explanation on the mass casualty bus. He had Chief Pang explain what "moral hazards" are. Chef Pang explained in detail and gave several examples such as a system failure or a failure in policy where they cannot help someone the way they want such as if somebody who is experiencing homelessness and sitting in a pile of trash but does not meet the narrow criteria for a 51/50 hold and they say they don't want anything and want the EMT/Paramedic to go away those members have to leave. It creates burnout in all those members and creates anger and frustration. Vice President Nakajo confirmed that Buprenorphine is an opioid substitution, and is considered medication-assisted treatment that you can get from a pharmacy.

President Feinstein confirmed that the Community Paramedicine Team does not work closely with the Public Guardian's Office, but they do work closely with the Office of the Conservator. She confirmed that all the receiving hospitals except for the VA and Chinese Hospital take people on psychiatric holds. She also confirmed that although their members only had two 51/50 holds for the reporting period, an additional 30 to 40 holds were placed by the Street Crisis Response Teams which are written by the behavioral health clinicians.

Commissioner Fraser appreciated the example stories told that lead to morale hazards and moral injury and that it makes her sad. She mentioned that she was happy that the availability of Buprenorphine is better and that it's a drug for the treatment long term. She also stated she was happy the 1998 busses made it back to San Francisco. She expressed her frustration with the challenges of making a 51/50 hold stick because an emergency room is a terrible place for someone who is on a 51/50 hold and that nothing is healing about it.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Chief Tong and Chief Pang for their great report and was also glad that the busses made it back to San Francisco. He added that he is a great fan of the street response teams and to keep up the great work.

There was no public comment

**6. ADJOURNMENT** President Feinstein adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.