

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

January 25, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400, San Francisco California, 94102

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

https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=42860

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

1. ROLL CALL

Commission President	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Vice President	Armie Morgan	Present
Commissioner	Katherine Feinstein	Present
Commissioner	Marcy Fraser	Present
Commissioner	Paula Collins	Present
Chief of Department	Jeanine Nicholson	Present.
Tom O'Connor	Deputy Chief – Administration	
Sandy Tong	Deputy Chief – EMS and Community Paramedicine	
Ken Cofflin	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Shayne Kaialoa	Division of Training	
Niels Tangherlini	EMS	
Shon Bufford	Equity, Diversity & Inclusion	
Erica Arteseros Brown	Homeland Security	
James Kotter	PUC Liaison	
Darius Luttrupp	ESER Project Manager	
Matt Alba	Health, Safety & Wellness	
Simon Pang	Community Paramedicine	
Patrick D'Arcy	Airport Division	
Assistant Chiefs		
Bill Storti	Division II	
Nicol Juratovac	Division III	
Staff		
Mark Corso	Deputy Director of Finance	

RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President Nakajo read the Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement.

President Nakajo read the land acknowledgment.

There was no public comment.

2. GENERAL 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 January 11, 2023.

Commissioner Feinstein Moved to approve the minutes and Vice President Morgan Seconded. The motion 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 January 11, 2023, including budget, academies, special events, communications, and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Nicholson highlighted some of the important issues since the last meeting. She went to the swearing-in of the District Attorney as well as attended several events for Martin Luther King, Jr. day. She mentioned that the city has re-upped the funding for the City EMT program. She addressed the 131st academy, and she attended the swearing-in of the new Board of Supervisors and dinner for the newly elected president of the Board, Aaron Peskin. She also attended with Shon Buford the Racial Equity Plan check-in with Director Dr. Cheryl Davis of the Human Rights Commission. She announced that the Chinese New Year's parade is on February 4, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. and the Black History Month kickoff is on February 3rd.

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 Homeland Security.

Chief O'Connor presented his report for December 2022. He touched on the Homeland Security Division, where they were busy activating a severe weather operations center for New Year's Eve; the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office; the Health, Safety, and Wellness Division where he played a short video of the recent monumental testing of 1,450 active and retired firefighters for cancer screening. He mentioned that under the Office of Employee Health with Dr. Brokaw and Registered Nurse Stephanie Phelps, they had 40 promotional and end-of-probation exams and 15 return-to-duty exams along with the last 10 candidates for the 131st fire academy. He mentioned that under the Investigative Services Bureau, they discovered that the rigid testing that they had for the fireboat was unnecessary and according to the coast guard, they can go back to their normal departmental testing program which will save the Department roughly \$5,000.00 a

month. He announced that Station 39 was the winner of the Station holiday decoration competition for 2022. He acknowledged the Fire Service Women for hosting volunteers for the Toy Program in December. He added that applications are open for the City EMT program.

Commissioner Fraser thanked Chief O'Connor for his interesting report and stated that she saw many of the great decorated stations.

Commissioner Feinstein commended everyone who participated in the holiday station decorating as it makes the Department so much a part of the community.

Vice President Morgan thanked Chief O'Connor for his report and was feeling optimistic with the COVID graph showing numbers coming down. He also offered his condolences to the family and friends of the woman who was killed when a tree branch in Golden Gate Park fell on her.

Commissioner Collins thanked Chief O'Connor for his excellent report. She also was able to visit many of the decorated fire stations and was fascinated by the port's fire station. She added that she is looking forward to getting out with Chief Postel to tour more of the facilities which will give her a better understating of how inadequate the budget is for facilities that need to be maintained. She mentioned that she is very proud of the cancer screening program.

President Nakajo commented that he was a guest at the Asian Firefighters Association today at their first general meeting where he was impressed with their presentation on health, safety, and wellness as well as their peer group. President Nakajo confirmed that an SFFD ambulance was stolen and recovered with some damage but should be back in service.

There was no public comment.

5. FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET – FISCAL YEARS 2023-2024/2024-2025 [Discussion]

Presentation from mark Corso, Deputy Director of Finance and Planning on the Fire Department's operating budget for omission review and discussion. Discussion of SFFD base budget and budget structure, as well as issues and priorities.

This item was called out of order to hear item 6 first.

Director Corso provided an overview of the base budget, an explanation of what that is as well as some additional discussions on the challenges and priorities that they are facing.

He went over important budget timelines and the city's five-year financial plan. He added that all departments are being requested to reduce their general fund support from the city by five percent in the first fiscal year, and eight percent in the second fiscal year which is equivalent to about 6.9 million dollars and 11 million dollars for the Fire Department. His report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/2699/download?inline>

Vice President Morgan thanked Mr. Corso for his comprehensive report, and he questioned how they are going to decide as to what areas they're going to make these cuts, as he feels there is no flexibility and it's going to be challenging.

Commissioner Collins thanked him for the review of the budget, and she has been noodling on the fact that so much of the budget is dependent on the general fund and imagining what arguments are the most forceful for holding fast to the general fund allocations, if not increasing it as she doesn't see a decrease in the work of the Fire Department.

President Nakajo confirmed that the critical date is June 1, 2023, to present the mayor's budget and from there, the Board of Supervisors has a concept of add-backs and where the commission will advocate for those add-backs if necessary. President Nakajo gave examples from over the years where they dealt with similar deficits and how they approached those challenges, including selling Fire Department property. He confirmed that the Department is in a position to increase charges for services, but they are very minimal.

There was no public comment.

6. FIRE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN 5.12 [Discussion and possible action]

Discussion and possible action to adopt the Fire Department Administrative Bulletin 5.12 as presented.

Chief Cofflin provided an overview of Admin Bulletin 5.12 after the Fire Marshal's office met with members of the solar industry to discuss their concerns regarding the bulletin. He added that each participant had a chance to discuss their concerns along with their suggested changes to the bulletin and the revised bulletin as presented was what Fire Marshal Cofflin is recommending that the Commission adopt.

Public Comment:

Ben Davis with California Solar and Storage Association expressed his concerns with the proposed bulletin and stated solar batteries are incredibly safe and asked that the department do their due diligence and delay adopting the bulletin as revised.

Mark Baldassari, Director of Code and Standard at Enphase Energy stated he supports the idea of looking at UL 9540A reports for consideration of reduced spacing and he also recommended a delay to come up with better long-range solutions.

Jeanine Cotter, co-founder of Luminalt acknowledged the hard work of Fire Marshal Cofflin and asked if the Commission does approve the fire bulletin, that they do it for six months so they can revisit it once they have data that will show what the impact of the bulletin has on the ability of San Franciscans to be able to install solar battery energy storage systems.

Vice President Morgan Moved to adopt Fire Department Administration Bulletin 5.12 as revised. Commissioner Feinstein Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

7. **ADJOURNMENT** President Nakajo adjourned the meeting at 6:51 p.m.