

FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 416, 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=42958

President Nakajo called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.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.
Bob Postel	Deputy Chief -- Operations	
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		
Patrick Rabbit	Division II	
Bill Storti	Division III	
Staff		
Mark Corso	Deputy Director of Finance	
Lt. Nick Oxford	Stations 5 & 21	

2. RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President Feinstein read the Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement.

3. RESOLUTION 2023-01 *[Discussion and possible action]*

Adoption of resolution setting forth findings to allow teleconferenced meetings under California Government Code Section 54953(e).

Commissioner Feinstein Moved to adopt the Resolution. Commissioner Fraser Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

5. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Deputy Chief Robert Postel to provide overview of fire at 3017 20th Street, on January 13, 2023, and Fire Commission to present certificate of appreciation to Josue Contreras for his heroic efforts rescuing residents from the burning building.

Chief Postel provided a detailed description of the fire and rescue at 3017 20th Street on January 13, 2023, where Josue Contreras took a great personal risk at this second alarm fire where his actions contributed to the saving of two lives.

Mr. Contreras stated he was raised by two good parents and was in the right place at the right time. The Chief of the Department acknowledged his bravery as well as each of the commissioners whereby he was presented with a Certificate of Acknowledgement signed by the SF Fire Commissioners.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on January 25, 2023.

Commissioner Feinstein Moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Morgan 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 25, 2023, including budget, academics, 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 announced that the new housing initiative that the mayor has put forward to create 82,000 units over the next eight years will certainly impact the department in terms of permits, which will require additional resources. She touched on events she attended including the two lunar new year events and the kickoff of Black History Month. She mentioned that the Department is working with Supervisor Ronan on the installation of barricades on Capp Street to make sure the Department has access.

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 January 2023. He mentioned that there were 14 working fires, 2 were greater alarms, 17 confirmed water rescues, and two cliff rescues. He described the two greater alarms in detail, the first on January 13, 2023, at 3017 20th Street and the second on January 22, 2023, at 1312 Hayes Street. He touched on the Bureau of Fire Prevention and Investigation where they continue to work with the MTA on the street changes; the Airport Division where they continue to train and prepare for disasters that they hope never come; the Division of Training where the 131st recruit academy started on January 18, 2023.

Vice President Morgan thanked the battalion chiefs and the companies for doing a great job on the two greater alarm fires that were mentioned.

Commissioner Fraser thanked Chief Postel for his great report and confirmed what a below-grade fire is. She also confirmed that the 17 water rescues are unusually high for January and the average response time for BLS calls is about 6.10 minutes where it should be, according to EMSA, 4 minutes and 30 seconds 90 percent of the time. Commissioner Fraser confirmed that a further study of street changes as it relates to response times will be conducted. They discussed the challenges they are seeing with driverless cars and confirmed that it is the DMV that licenses them. She acknowledged the folks that work at the clothing depot and how courteous they are.

Commissioner Collins thanked Chief Postel for providing her with the tour of six firehouses and stated she was appalled at some of the living and working conditions the members endure, such as seismically unsound buildings. She added that she was impressed at how pristine the firehouses were.

Commissioner Feinstein thanked Chief Postel for his informative report. She expressed her concern over the amount of traffic on city streets and how there is nowhere for cars to pull over when an emergency vehicle is trying to get by, and something needs to be done to address this issue. Chief Postel responded that stations are adjusting their response routes based on some of the street changes.

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 provided her January report. She mentioned that the BLS ambulance pilot project is still in effect. She touched on some 2022 highlights including 122,879 calls for service that were dispatched for ambulances, and a 13 percent increase in where Narcan was administered. She announced that the Street Crisis Team and the Street Wellness Team have been combined and will now be called the Street Crisis Response Team. She mentioned that they have also created a lecture series for Community Paramedicine. Her report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/2708/download?inline>

Vice President Morgan confirmed that there has been an 85 percent increase in call volume since 2003.

Commissioner Fraser thanked Chief Tong for her great report and acknowledged what a great job the artist did on the gates to Station 49. She also thought it was a great idea to combine the two street teams. She expressed her concerns about the lack of connections and resources that are available to the Street Teams

There was no public comment.

8. LT. NICK OXFORD TO PRESENT DATA ANALYSIS ON THE COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE PROGRAM [Discussion]

Lt. Nick Oxford to present the work he has done regarding CP data analysis and provide an overview of how the Community Paramedicine teams are doing since the implementation of the various Street Teams

Lt. Nick Oxford introduced himself and stated that he is back in the field after spending the last year doing data and policy analysis and he provided a brief history of his career in the Fire Department including at Station 3 which responds to the Tenderloin where he spent time wondering why a city this wealthy could have a public health problem this profound. He stated that eventually, you learn more things about these people than some of the families know about them, and when EMS-6 returned they weren't seeing some of the people that they would see sometimes engage with five times a day. He added that that is the time he decided to see what academia had to say about this problem and compare his experiences, so he went back to school and got a master's degree in public health. He added that he is not a data expert by any means, as his emphasis in school was on policy but in learning that, you learn enough about reading data to understand it and use it to inform policy where they can generate reports, visualizations of the data, use that information to evaluate the program strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. He talked about special projects, internships that are evolving into partnerships, investigating

the reimbursement landscape, and the launch of a dashboard into the fire portal. His presentation is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/2709/download?inline>

Commissioner Feinstein thanked Lt. Oxford for his fascinating presentation and thanked him for bringing together the EMS side to the suppression side. Chief Nicholson added that the Department has come a long way from when they first integrated DPH medics into the Fire Department back in the late 90s when it was two different cultures and it was challenging.

Commissioner Fraser thanked Lt. Oxford for his interesting presentation and stated she is excited that they are combining data through an academic lens, and she thinks it is the beginning of something critical for city-wide planning for health and safety.

Commissioner Collins confirmed that going forward, Lt. Oxford will continue the important work by working part-time with the Community Paramedicine and Lt. Oxford hopes that other firefighters will take the ball and do something good as he thinks they have a lot of personnel who would take that opportunity.

President Nakajo stated he appreciated the presentation and all of Lt. Oxford's hard work. He confirmed that the predominant call types they receive, that population doesn't need an ER or jail cell and an ambulance can still only go to a hospital or Sobering Center whereas community paramedics can't go to an ER and he confirmed that there is a lack of resources available that the teams can transport these patients too. Chief Pang gave Lt. Oxford high praises and outlined the fantastic work he has done and considers him an ambassador for the department in uniting the suppression side and the EMS side.

9. 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 Commission review and discussion. Overview of City's budget process, Mayor's Office Budget Instructions, and Fire Department budget updates and priorities.

Director Corso provided timelines and a detailed review of the Department's upcoming budget request and the Department's proposal and stated that there is still quite a bit of work going on. His report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/2709/download?inline>

Commissioner Feinstein thanked him for his well-organized presentation and acknowledged that the Department gets asked to do more and more things and not necessarily with the funding and she can't see where they are going to cut five percent and still be offering the same level of services to the people of San Francisco. Mr. Corso responded that he agrees, and the Department is proposing no reductions based on those

issues. He added that they would work closely with the mayor's office on any efficiencies or other savings.

Commissioner Fraser confirmed that the six positions that were being funded by DBI have been absorbed into the Fire Department's budget and they are no longer reliant upon DBE for revenues to support them.

Commissioner Collins asked if there was a way to ask less of DPW and perform our own work therefore paying them less. Mr. Corso responded yes, but unfortunately, the Department doesn't have the resources to do that work.

There was no action taken, but Mr. Corso recommended that the Commission direct the Department to continue working with the Mayor's office over the next few months leading up to the June 1st budget submittal to approve the Department's position that we would not be able to meet the full mandated reduction request from the mayor's office and then to provide updated information to the Commission upon submittal of the Budget. The commissioners stated their support of the budget as presented in the attached PowerPoint.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 11

Public comment on all matters pertaining to Items 11(b) below, including public comment on whether to hold Items 11(b) in closed session.

There was no public comment.

11. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION REGARDING UNLITIGATED CLAIM

a. VOTE ON WHETHER TO CONDUCT ITEMS 11(b) IN CLOSED SESSION

[Action]

The Commission may hear Item 11(b) in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b) and Administrative Code Section 67.10(b).

Commissioner Feinstein Moved to hold the item in closed session. Vice President Morgan Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

Closed session started at 11:33 a.m.

b. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – UNLITIGATED CLAIM. Conference with legal counsel to discuss Unlitigated claim pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a), (c), (d), and Administrative Code Section 67.10(d)(1) and possible recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for settlement approval or to take other action. *[Action item]*

Unlitigated claim:

Chinatown Community Development Center v. City and County of San Francisco

12. 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).

This item was continued to the call of the Chair as the Claims Adjuster was unaware that this matter was calendared. No action was taken.

Convened in Open Session at 11:47 a.m.

13. 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*]

14. ADJOURNMENT President Nakajo adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.