

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

May 10, 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=43632

President Nakajo called the meeting to order at 9:00 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	Excused
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	
Erica Arteseros-Brown	Homeland Security	
Ramon Serrano	Support Services	
Simon Pang	Community Paramedicine	
Patrick D'Arcy	Airport Division	
Darius Luttrupp	ESER Project Manager	
Assistant Chiefs		
Mike Thompson	Division II	
Jennifer Brokaw, M.D.	Employee Health Physician	
Stephanie Phelps	Employee Health Nurse Practitioner	

RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President Nakajo read the Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement.

2. 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 April 26, 2023.

Vice President Morgan Moved to approve the minutes. Commission Feinstein Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

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 April 26, 2023, including budget, academies, special events, communications, and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Nicholson mentioned that she attended a couple of events during the reporting period, including the Hotel Council to celebrate their workforce and the Herbst Theater for the AAPI Heritage Awards and reception. She acknowledged the President of the Asian Firefighters Association, Stan Lee, who shows up to all these events. She touched on the upcoming EMS graduation and the status of the City EMT program, which is bringing at-risk youth into a wraparound service with an EMT license and a pathway into the fire department. She mentioned that they are having challenges with space for the fleet, as they have expanded because they are asked to do more for the city but with those duties come more vehicles, and apparatus and Chief Serrano is looking for more space. She acknowledged the great work Mark Corso is doing on the budget and working closely with the mayor's budget office. She touched on the challenges the Department is facing with autonomous vehicles and how they are proceeding with those challenges.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Feinstein expressed her concerns with autonomous vehicles and offered to do something as a commission to address these concerns.

Commissioner Fraser thanked Chief Nicholson for her report and the budget update. She also expressed her concerns with autonomous vehicles, and she thinks it is unacceptable to the members and citizens to have to deal with these issues during an emergency.

Vice President Morgan thanked the chief for her report and mentioned that he also attended the equality award function. He also expressed his concerns and dangers with autonomous vehicles and mentioned that he was aware some of the construction industry is testing them for types of automated heavy equipment. He mentioned that he was also on board to help in any way to address these issues.

President Nakajo thanked Chief Nicholson for her report and agreed with his fellow commissioners on their concerns with automatic driverless car issues and appreciated the real examples and videos and he stated his concern of not having much control over the issue.

REPORT FROM OPERATIONS, DEPUTY CHIEF ROBERT POSTEL

Report on overall field operations, including greater alarm fires, Bureau of Fire Prevention & Investigation, Training within the Department., and Airport Division, including an update from Assistant Deputy Chief Patrick D'Arcy.

Chief Postel reported on Operations during April 2023. He reported that April was a relatively quiet month with 21 working fires, two greater alarms, 10 water rescues, and two cliff rescues. He described the two greater alarm fires in detail, one at 1625 Leavenworth and the second at 704 Bayshore Boulevard, the Kelly Moore paint store. He touched on the Bureau of Fire Prevention and Investigation, where they received word that the bollards for Capp Street had arrived. He also provided some scenarios of driverless cars and the dangers they are causing during emergency incidents and the public safety problems they are causing. He stated that he and Chief Cofflin participated in the second meeting regarding phase two of the traffic calming study and described the corridors they will be analyzing. He also touched on the Airport Division and the Division of Training. He described the high-rise drill led by Assistant Chief Nicol Juratovac and Assistant Chief Pat Rabbit and the truck academy led by Battalion Chief Dean Crispin, Tom Maguire, and Jim O'Connell. His report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/2756/download?inline>

Commissioner Fraser thanked Chief Postel for his report and stated she always learns a lot from it and is grateful for that. She mentioned that she appreciates hearing about the class that some of the members have developed to pass on history as she thinks it is incredibly important and valuable and she also agrees that the SFFD is the best fire department in the world.

Commissioner Feinstein thanked Chief Postel for his report and expressed her concerns about the dangers of lithium batteries. Chief Postel explained that these batteries are the rechargeable lithium-ion batteries that are found in scooters, e-bikes, cameras, and computers and what is happening is people are taking them to fly by night places to have them repaired and when they are charging, they get a short circuit that causes them to start to overheat and when they overheat, you get a chemical reaction which causes a fire which water can't put out so you have to let it burn out.

Vice President Morgan thanked him for his report and commented that there seems to be a lot of fires in the Bayview recently. Chief Post confirmed there are a lot of issues regarding homelessness with those fires.

President Nakajo thanked Chief Postel for his report and was happy with the good news on Capp Street. He acknowledged the five rescues that were made at the fire near San Francisco State University. President Nakajo confirmed that the probation period for an

H-2 recruit is one year. Chief Kaialoa acknowledged Captain Norm Cabo who will be retiring tomorrow.

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 April report. She stated that the EMS Division under ADC Chief Niels Tangherlini averaged about 361 calls per day in April. She touched on the City EMS program drill they provided on April 15th. She mentioned that they graduated seven people from their last EMS academy. She acknowledged retired members Ricardo Sequera and Attica Bowden for their development and instruction in the City EMT Program. She touched on Community Paramedicine under Simon Pang. Her report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/2757/download?inline>

Commissioner Fraser thanked Chief Tong for her interesting report and stated the 68 percent decrease in the utilization of the top 20 users should be a headline in the newspaper and she congratulated Chief Tong and everybody on her team for their outstanding work.

Vice President Morgan was sorry he missed Dr. Shannon Smith-Bernardin's speaking engagement. He stated he supports more recovery houses and acknowledged the great work being done by the street teams.

President Nakajo thanked Chief Tong for her comprehensive report and stated he appreciated the photo of the seven EMTs that graduated. He confirmed that the department has 260 full-time employees for ambulances. President Nakajo emphasized how important and significant the data shows with the number of EMS-6.

There was no public comment.

5. PRESENTATION AND UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE OF EMPLOYEE HEALTH

Dr. Jennifer Brokaw and Nurse Practitioner Stephanie Phelp to provide an overview and update on the Office of Employee Health.

President Nakajo welcomed Dr. Brokaw and Nurse Phelps and mentioned what a privilege it is to see them this morning. Dr. Brokaw stated that she has begun her fourth year as supervising physician in the Department, and it has been a rough and tumble three years, but things are calming down and they are getting back to the usual business of the Department. She added that she is lucky to work with Stephanie Phelps who is both a

nurse practitioner and PhD in occupational health and she has expanded the scope of the practice of the office and lent a lot of her expertise to the wellness of the membership. They both provided updates on the rebranding of the office, staffing, COVID, TB & Hearing screening, academy screening, and Health, Safety & Wellness collaboration. They all spoke briefly about what they have on the horizon, including operating on electronic health records only (no paper records), bringing the TB and hearing tests in-house, and restarting Health Check this year. Their report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/2758/download?inline>.

Commissioner Feinstein thanked them for all that they are doing to transform the Office of the Physician into the Office of Employee Health and for reaching out in the described different ways. She confirmed that N95 masks protect the members against COVID and tuberculosis and all members are required to wear them when responding to a medical call. Commissioner Feinstein stated her concerns about witnessing members not wearing those masks and Dr. Brokaw said she would send out a reminder.

Commissioner Fraser thanked them for their report and stated it's certainly an understatement for her to say that they are a small but mighty office with an amazing impact. She added that before she was a commissioner, she had a chance to meet some of the members by volunteering to do COVID vaccinations at a couple of the stations. They had a brief discussion about the ongoing mental health aspects caused by COVID and they will continue to do outreach regarding mental health with members.

Vice President Morgan thanked them for their report and confirmed that the new vaccine is good for a lifetime for most people. He also confirmed that the TB and hearing tests are arbitrary and are the two tests that OSHA mandates.

President Nakajo thanked them both for their report and in terms of the commission having oversight of the Physician's Office he thinks they have done a great job in terms of the change of culture, image and he loves the newsletter. He added that he appreciated what their office did during COVID, and he acknowledged Stephanie's talents and dedication and Dr. Brokaw's passion and dedication.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 7

Public comment on all matters pertaining to Item 7 (b) and (c) below, including public comment on whether to hold Items 7 (b) and (c) in closed session.

There was no public comment.

7. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION REGARDING PERSONNEL MATTERS

- a. VOTE ON WHETHER TO CONDUCT ITEMS 7(b) and (c) IN CLOSED SESSION**
[Action]

The Commission may hear Item 7-(b) and (c) in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b) and Administrative Code Section 67.10(b).

Commissioner Feinstein Moved to conduct items 7(b) and (c) in closed session. Commissioner Fraser Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

Also in closed session: Commission Secretary, Maureen Conefre, Deputy City Attorney Jennifer Stoughton; Union Rep Adam Wood and remoted, Deputy City Attorney Kate Kimberlin.

- b. SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IN FIRE COMMISSION CASE NO.: 2023-01**
[Discussion and possible action]
- c.** Pursuant to Admin. Code section 67.10(b); Govt. Code section 54957(b), Govt. Code section 54957.1(a)(5), the Commission may hold a closed session to discuss *and vote to approve* the settlement agreement between member and the Department.

Vice President Morgan Moved to approve the Settlement. Commissioner Fraser Seconded. President Nakajo voted to approve the settlement, and Commissioner Feinstein abstained. The motion passed.

- d. SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IN FIRE COMMISSION CASE NO.: 2023-02**
Pursuant to Admin. Code section 67.10(b); Govt. Code section 54957(b), Govt. Code section 54957.1(a)(5), the Commission may hold a closed session to discuss *and vote to approve* the settlement agreement between member and the Department.

Vice President Morgan Moved to approve the Settlement. Commissioner Fraser Seconded. President Nakajo voted to approve the settlement, and Commissioner Feinstein voted no. The motion passed.

8. 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).

9. 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 Fraser Moved to not disclose. Vice President Morgan Seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT President Nakajo adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.