

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

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**February 28, 2024, 5:00 p.m.**

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400, 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=45544](https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=45544)

President Morgan called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Commission President	Armie Morgan	Present
Vice President	Marcy Fraser	Present
Commissioner	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Katherine Feinstein	Excused
Commissioner	Paula Collins	Excused
Chief of Department	Jeanine Nicholson	Present.
Darius Luttrupp	Deputy Chief -- Operations	
Shayne Kaialoa	Deputy Chief - Administration	
Sandy Tong	Deputy Chief – EMS and Community Paramedicine	
Mike Mullins	Support Services	
Shon Bufford	Equity, Diversity & Inclusion	
Erica Arteseros Brown	Homeland Security	
Ken Cofflin	Prevention	
Pat D’Arcy	Airport Division	
Simon Pang	Community Paramedicine	
Niels Tangherlini	EMS	
Gareth Miller	ESER Project Manager	
Assistant Chiefs		
Michael Thompson	Division II	
Nicol Juratovac	Division III	
Staff		
Mark Corso	Deputy Director of Finance	

**RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

President Morgan read the land acknowledgment.

**2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael Petrelis commented on the February 8 ride-along by District 5 supervisorial candidate Bilal Mahmod with Station 49 and submitted the following Statement: “The commission needs to agendize the February 8 ride-along by District 5 supervisorial

candidate Bilal Mahmood with Station 49, because he explicitly broke SFFD rules prohibiting documenting the experience. Lt. Michael Clements informed Mahmood's campaign of this and he afterward shared written and photographic documentation on his three campaign social media outlets. Photos from Mahmood clearly feature an SFFD vehicle, paramedics and department official lapel pin. Today I submit a screengrab of him violating the rules shared in two tweets. The images give the impression the department approves of Mahmood's political campaign, and must be dispelled. What steps has the commission taken inquiring why the candidate was in violation and if Lt. Clements expressed displeasure to him, perhaps requesting the offending documents be removed from his social media? I formally request this matter be agendaized for discussion at your March meetings.” Mr. Petrelis provided the commission secretary with the screenshot of Mahmood’s X posting and the email between the Department and Mahmood stating he would not be allowed to document any of the ride along experience.

Anonymous spoke about many topics.

Steven Kloster stated he was a former San Francisco firefighter and asked the Commission why he hasn’t been placed back on the job when he was cleared to go back to full duty with no restrictions. He added that he has turned in all his paperwork and still hasn’t been placed back to work.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on February 14, 2024.

Vice President Fraser Moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Nakajo Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

Mr. Petrelis asked to look at the minutes. Commission Secretary provided the agenda packet to him to look through.

**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 10, 2024, including budget, academies, special events, communications, and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Nicholson described meeting she has had with other departments including the SFMTA, the Human Rights Commission Director Dr. Cheryl Davis, the Department of Emergency Management, and the monthly mayoral department head meeting. She mentioned that they have been having internal budget meetings and are setting up a meeting with the mayor’s budget office. She confirmed the budget was submitted on February 21<sup>st</sup> and they will also be having conversations with the mayor’s budget office.

Chief Nicholson participated in many events during the reporting period, including the 20-year anniversary of same sex marriage, the SF Youth Baseball League, the Chinese Lunar New Year Parade and the United Fire Service Women Boot Camp. She announced the retirement of Dr. Jennifer Brokaw.

Michael Petrelis stated it was special seeing all the photos and videos from the February 14 event of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the gay marriages. He also asked that the Chief provide an update on ride alongs, such as how many people applied to go on a ride along as well as how many requests were granted and denied and he would like more transparency on the program. He added that he hopes the commission will agendaize what is going on with the ride along program as well as an explanation coming from Chief Nicholson about whatever the benefit is in terms of public safety would be appreciated.

President Morgan thanked the Chief for her report and acknowledged her on the work they are doing with diversity and the time they put in on it.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION, DEPUTY CHIEF SHAYE KAIALOA  
Report on the Administrative Divisions, Fleet and Facility status and updates, Finance, Support Services, and Homeland Security.

Chief Kaialoa presented his report for January 2024. He stated that Assistant Deputy Chief Erica Arteseros Brown of Homeland Security attended multiple meetings including the multiple National Weather Service Briefings to track the storms throughout California, the Hazard and Climate Resilience Plan meeting which focusses on the impact of natural hazards and climate change. She is also planning for the escape from Alcaraz race. He touched on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion office under Assistant Deputy Chief Shon Buford who is also supports the hiring of the H-2 suppression recruits and acknowledged Lt. Anderson who is heavily involved in coordinating and scheduling of the interviews with the individuals through the Department. He mentioned that they have transitioned away from the National Training Network to Fire Candidate Testing Center and Lt. Anderson worked collaboratively with DHR for the recruitment and messaging. He explained the recruitment process in detail as well as all the efforts being made in outreach. He mentioned that under Battalion Chief Alba of the Health and Safety office January is cancer awareness month and Chief Alba is the departments greatest cancer champion. He touched on the Behavioral Health Unit, the Office of Employee Health, the Investigative Services under Captain Todd Weddle, Support Services under Assistant Deputy Chief Mike Mullin and Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response under Assistant Deputy Chief Garreth Miller. His report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/2955/download?inline>

Vice President Fraser thanked Chief Kaialoa and wished everyone a happy Lunar New Year and mentioned it was a great parade. She confirmed 401 candidates were interviewed. She also confirmed that occupational cancer was the leading cause of firefighter death.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Kaialoa for his comprehensive report. He confirmed that Station 35 had no issues during the last storm.

President Morgan thanked Chief Kaialoa for his report as well as for the Lunar New Year parade and dinner.

There was no public comment.

**4. APPOINTMENT OF DEPARTMENT PHYSICIAN [Discussion and possible action]**  
Discussion and possible action to appoint Dr. Steven E. Chang, DO as the Department Physician.

Commissioner Nakajo Moved to appoint Dr. Steven Chang as the Department Physician. Vice President Fraser Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 7**

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

There was no public comment.

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

**a. VOTE ON WHETHER TO CONDUCT ITEMS 7(b) IN CLOSED SESSION**

*[Action]*

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

Vice President Fraser Moved to hold item 7(b) in closed session. Commissioner Nakajo Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

Convened in closed session at 6:05.

Also present in closed session was Deputy City Attorney Carlos Almendarez and Maureen Conefrey.

**b. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE, CASE NO. 2023-05: COMMISSION DELIBERATIONS ON PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT, AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF FACT REGARDING COMMISSION'S DECISION ON VERIFIED COMPLAINT FILED WITH THE COMMISSION BY CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT [Action]**

At a meeting on November 13, 2023, regarding the above-referenced matter, the Commission deliberated and reached a decision on employee non-disciplinary separation. The Commission is now considering proposed Findings of Fact in relation to that decision.

**c. If Closed Session is held, reconvene in Open Session**

Reconvened in Open Session at 6:11.

1. Report on any action taken in Closed Session as specified in California Government Code Section 54957.1(a)(5) and San Francisco Administrative Code section 67.12(b)(4).

2. 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 Item]*

Commission Nakajo Moved to not disclose. President Morgan Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

**9 ADJOURNMENT** President Morgan adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.