

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

**May 8, 2024, 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=46078](https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=46078)

Vice President Fraser called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Commission President	Armie Morgan	Present (arrived at 9:20)
Vice President	Marcy Fraser	Present
Commissioner	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Katherine Feinstein	Present
Commissioner	Paula Collins	Present
Chief of Department	Jeanine Nicholson	Present Remotely
Darius Luttrupp	Deputy Chief -- Excused	
Shayne Kaialoa	Deputy Chief - Administration	
Sandy Tong	Deputy Chief – EMS and Community Paramedicine	
Mike Mullin	Support Services	
Erica Arteseros Brown	Homeland Security	
Julie Mau	Training	
Shon Buford	Equity, Diversity & Inclusion	
Ken Cofflin	Prevention	
Pat D’Arcy	Airport Division	
Niels Tangherlini	EMS	
Simon Pang	Community Paramedicine	
Garreth Miller	ESER Project Manager	
Assistant Chiefs		
Bill Storti	Division II	
Pat Rabbit	Division III	
Staff		
Mark Corso	CFO	

**RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Vice President Fraser 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 24, 2024.

Commissioner Collins Moved to approve the minutes. Vice President Fraser Seconded. Commissioner Nakajo voted yes. President Morgan and Commissioner Feinstein recused themselves.

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 April 24, 2024, 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 announced that at the Board of Supervisors meeting yesterday, they passed an ordinance that by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the city will neither use nor purchase turnout gear with PFAS in it. She added that she also signed off on a letter to do a study on power air-purified respirators. She attended the Breast Cancer Prevention program fundraiser where she sat next to a scientist named Arlene Blum who has been instrumental in the country in terms of studying toxic chemicals that are not only in the gear but in flame retardants in vehicles which are toxic and she added that fighting a car fire is one of the most toxic things they respond to. Chief Nicholson also attended the Japantown Peace Plaza groundbreaking ceremony with Commissioner Nakajo, and she attended the Union Square Foundation annual luncheon. She stated that she and Chief Mullin are continuing their station visits and yesterday they had a high-level staff meeting where they discussed a few things including the policies and procedures that they have been working on that are in development in different working committees. She acknowledged Dr. Steven Chang, the department physician, and stated that she is impressed with his engagement and involvement so far. She announced that the 134<sup>th</sup> academy class, which will be starting at the end of June is currently going through background and medical exams and she expects to choose that class within the next month. She also announced that Station 44 was given historical landmark status.

Commissioner Collins confirmed that the landmark status of Station 44 was well thought out through Support Services and himself and some impacts would be possible costlier renovation costs and what they would be able to renovate and that it was good for the community and for the city to move forward with that in mind.

Vice President Fraser confirmed that the painted murals being done at Headquarters are in partnership with the Academy of Arts University and part of the thought process was the tone and feel when you walk into Headquarters and that it brings the history of the Fire Department into that space.

Public Comment:

Chris spoke about a system by Human Service Agency called Sherlock which is a military-grade system that can alter a person's mental health and urged the Fire Commission to take a look at it.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION, DEPUTY CHIEF SHAYNE KAIALOA

Report on the Administrative Divisions, Fleet and Facility status and updates, Finance, Support Services, and Homeland Security.

Chief Kaialoa provided a report for April. He began with Homeland Security under Assistant Deputy Chief Brown who was busy throughout April coordinating with many of our city agencies, as well as the federal, local, and state agencies on exercises throughout San Francisco or any significant events and planning for events whether it be weather related or natural disaster-related. He touched on the DEIO Office under Deputy Chief Shon Buford who is busy coordinating with OEWD and other city agencies in bringing diversity and equity into every aspect of the Department and city-wide; the Health and Safety Office under Battalion Chief Matt Alba and he added that Captain Buren is trying to spread the word by presenting at affinity groups to communicate with the members to lessen the stigma of what the BHU unit is, or not is, but what people perceive it to mean as some see it as a sign of weakness and Captain Buren is doing a fantastic job getting out there and spreading the word. He also touched on the Office of Employee Health; the Investigative Services Bureau, Support Services; and the Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response Unit where Chief Garreth Miller provided information about the development of the new Division of Training facility and he described the picture slides in detail showing significant milestones at the site plan and the essential location of the structures along the property which is located at 1236 Carroll Avenue. He added that construction is to begin at the end of 2025 and be completed in 2028. Chief Kaialoa's report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/3011/download?inline>

Commissioner Collins confirmed there is a two percent construction budget requirement on the art requirement for the new training facility.

Vice President Fraser stated what a great project and wonderful presentation and that it is exciting to see it come to fruition. She confirmed that there will be community outreach as part of the process and Chief Mullin met with the Art Commission who mentioned they are very interested in participating in all that outreach with the Department and see that as an opportunity to start connecting with the neighborhood and seeing what opportunities the neighborhood views as important for that art enrichment.

Commissioner Nakajo stated that it's exciting to finally look at renditions from a visual goal as they've been talking about a training facility for a long time and that he's been around enough to see things conceptualized and developed and implemented and he hopes to be able to make that opening of the training facility as a Fire Commissioner.

Commissioner Feinstein expressed her concerns about how the proceeds from the ESER Bonds for certain projects are spent and the controversy with other city departments about their costs and procedures and she wants to make sure we will make it within the parameters of the bond given that we've already given up things that are important to the future of the department.

President Morgan thanked Chief Kaialoha for his great report and liked the part about the community and the training center, bringing kids through there so they could experience the benefit of it being in their neighborhood and he believes the training center could be a blessing to the Bayview not only as far as training but construction opportunities. He stated that he is looking forward to hearing about the test results on the PFAS turnouts.

Chief Kaialoha announced the upcoming retirement of Secretary Conefrey who will retire as of July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2024.

Commissioner Nakajo gave a brief update on how the hiring process will go for Secretary Conefrey's replacement. He anticipates holding interviews at the end of May and the beginning of June and having an offer out on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

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 report for April. She mentioned that under the direction of Assistant Deputy Chief Niels Tangherlini, the average metrics for call volume, time on task, and market share remained relatively consistent for March and there was a decrease in average daily call volume of 366. On April 8<sup>th</sup>, the EMS Division joined the Division of Training to welcome the new H-3 Level 1 academy with 14 recruits. She added that the newest city EMT cohort, number six, who started week two of orientation in the Department, and a group of 11 are now on the ambulances doing their 500 hours of ride-along. On April 25<sup>th</sup> they had a large multi-agency MCI drill that was coordinated by the Department of Public Health's Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Division which she described in detail. She touched on the Community Paramedic Division under the direction of Chief Simon Pang, with the addition of six new vans. She stated that Paramedic Emily Tam was recognized by the San Francisco Coordinating Council of Lions Club for soliciting and organizing donations of clothing and gift cards for the Community Paramedicine Division. On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Chief Pang attended the Mayor's State Legislative Committee to present the Department's support of Senate Bill 1180 which would direct healthcare plans to provide reimbursement for services provided by a community

paramedicine triage to alternative destinations or mobile integrated health programs. She added the Section Chief of Operations April Sloan was invited to present at the 2024 FDIC International Conference. She stated that the community paramedic teams continue to do a great job on the streets. Chief Tong's report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/3012/download?inline>

Vice President Fraser thanked Chief Tong for her interesting report and noted that the top 20 utilizers of EMS-6 are down 39 percent and congratulated her on the new vehicles.

Commissioner Nakajo stated he enjoyed Chief Tong's report and appreciated the photos and detailed descriptions.

President Morgan thanked Chief Tong for her report and congratulated her on the six new vehicles. He stated he was sad to see the administration of Narcan usage up. He commended the Community Paramedicine Division, because the program is starting to spread out to other cities and states and added that SFFD is the pioneer of the program. Chief Pang expanded on the new senate bill legislation requiring healthcare service plans to provide reimbursement coverage for the community paramedicine and that the bill is not only for community paramedicine but for transport to alternative destinations.

There was no public comment.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 6**

Public comment on all matters pertaining to Items 6(b) and (c) below, including public comment on whether to hold Items 6(b) and (c) in closed session.

There was no public comment.

**6. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION REGARDING EXISTING LITIGATION**

**a. VOTE ON WHETHER TO CONDUCT ITEMS 6(b) and (c) IN CLOSED SESSION**  
*[Action]*

The Commission may hear Item 6(b) and (c) in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b) and 54956.9 and Administrative Code Section 67.10(b) and (d)(1).

*Commissioner Feinstein left the meeting at 10:46*

*Commissioner Collins Moved to conduct items 6(b) and (c) in closed session. Vice President Fraser Seconded. The motion was unanimous.*

*Proceeded into closed session at 10:46. Also in closed session were Deputy City Attorney Jen Huber and Deputy City Attorney Brad Russi.*

**b. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION.** Conference with legal counsel to discuss existing litigation 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]**

Existing Litigation:

*Sarah Perata v. City and County of San Francisco*

*U.S. District Court (N.D. Cal.) Case No.: 4:21-cv-02819*

*Commissioner Collins Moved to recommend the settlement to the Board of Supervisors. Vice President Fraser Seconded. The motion was unanimous.*

**c. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE, CASE NO. 2023-04: 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 item]**

At a meeting on August 30, 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.

*Commissioner Nakajo Moved to approve the Findings of Fact. President Morgan seconded. The motion was unanimous.*

**7. 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).

*Reconvened in open session at 11:02.*

**8. 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]**

*Commission Collins Moved to not disclose discussions held in closed session. Vice President Fraser Seconded. The motion was unanimous.*

**9. ADJOURNMENT** President Morgan adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.