

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

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**September 25, 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=47016](https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=47016)

President Morgan called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Commission President	Armie Morgan	Present
Vice President	Marcy Fraser	Present
Commissioner	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Katherine Feinstein	Present
Commissioner	Paula Collins	Present
Chief of Department	Sandra Tong	Present
Shayne Kaialoa	Deputy Chief – Administration	
Simon Pang	Deputy Chief – EMS and Community Paramedicine	
Mike Mullin	Support Services	
Patrick D’Arcy	Airport Division	
Ken Cofflin	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Julie Mau	Training	
Garreth Miller	ESER Project Manager	
Shon Buford	Equity, Diversity & Inclusion	
Tony Molloy	ADC EMS	
Assistant Chiefs		
Scott Darmstadt	Division III	
Staff		

**RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

President Morgan read the land acknowledgment.

**2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

An unidentified male speaker made public comment and presented three letters containing his recommendations to the Fire Department. He also commented that there should be a clean fire act and that someone is tampering with water.

Ms. Malena Mackey Cabada, of the Vision Zero Coalition, and a campaign associate at Fox San Francisco, commented on the Department’s role in public safety. Ms. Cabada asked the Department to be a lead partner in Vision Zero, by collaborating with other city agencies on street design.

Ms. Alice Rogers of the Vision Zero Coalition and President of the South Mission Beach/Rincon/Mission Bay Neighborhood Association also urged the Department to engage in Vision Zero. She is also a NERT member. Ms. Rogers was pleased the Department has been working with Public Works and the Controller's Office to meet the city's safety needs and save lives.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on September 11, 2024

Vice President Fraser moved to approve the minutes from September 11, 2024, and Commissioner Nakajo Seconded. President Morgan voted in favor of the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously. Commissioners Feinstein and Collins abstained from voting.

An unidentified male speaker made public comment that September 11 should always be remembered, that Vision Zero means "zero vision," and that mask wearing is not a good idea.

**4. CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT *[Discussion]***  
REPORT FROM CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT, SANDRA TONG

Report on current issues, activities, and events within the Department since the Fire Commission meeting on September 11, 2024, including budget, academies, special events, communications, and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Tong presented her first report to the Fire Commission again because the Webex connection was lost at the last meeting. Chief Tong attended several events this month: a meet and greet with the Mayor and leaders from the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association in Chinatown (September 6); a battalion drill at the Division of Training (September 7); the Fire/Police Mass at St. Cecilia Church (September 8); meet and greet with the 31<sup>st</sup> EMS Advancement Academy (September 9); a birthday celebration for Martha Cohen, the city's special events planner (September 10); and the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at Station 5 (September 11). Chief Tong selected the H2 candidates for the 135<sup>th</sup> Academy which will begin in January 2025. At the Pacific Asian American Women Bay Area Coalition (PAAWBAC), Chief Tong was one of six Asian American women honored for outstanding contributions to the Asian Pacific Islander community. Chief Tong thanked Commissioner Nakajo for the introduction to PAAWBAC's founder, Carol Ito. She also attended a Life Line event, congratulating H9 Nicholas Koo, one of the founding members and 11 other members who participated in this outreach. Chief Tong has been working on fleet replacement and infrastructure, and meeting with ADCs. Lastly Chief Tong acknowledged the passing of two Department members and a West Sacramento firefighter. She requested a moment of silence before the meeting's adjournment.

An unidentified male speaker made public comment not related to the Chief's report, claiming everyone is under arrest. President Morgan reminded the speaker comments must relate to the Chief's report.

Vice President Fraser thanked Chief Tong for her report. Vice President Fraser appreciated Chief Tong's call for a moment of silence for the deceased firefighters, and commended her for stepping up to the role of Chief of Department.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Tong for her report. He is confident Chief Tong will do great work.

#### REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION, DEPUTY CHIEF SHAYNE KAIALOA

Report on current issues, activities, and events within the Department since the Fire Commission meeting September 11, 2024, including budget, academies, special events, communications, and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Kaialoa provided an Administrative update for August 2024, including Homeland Security; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEIO); Health, Safety and Wellness (HSW); Behavioral Health (BHU); the Office of Employee Health (OEH); Investigative Services Bureau (ISB); Support Services (SS); and Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response (ESER).

ADC Brown from Homeland Security planned several events in August, including the Dream Force Conference, Outside Lands, and a VPOTUS visit. She has begun planning for future events such as the NBA All-Star Game, the World Cup, and the Superbowl. In preparation for these events, ADC Brown also attended a training course for awareness and planning for large scale incidents. Chief Brown has been coordinating a Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) exercise between the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Fire Department, and DEM for Fleet Week. The DEIO office has been working on H2 interviews and the selection process. In partnership with the SF Achievers program for Family Day, Lieutenant Anderson and Firefighter Wilson from DEIO helped inspire African American men in college and post-secondary institutions, by giving a tour of Engine 42. DEIO also gave Pathway for Kids a tour of Engine 37, exposing them to career opportunities. Firefighter Wilson has been developing recruitment strategies focused on athletes. She organized the Stanford Pilot Program, a mini boot camp for the Stanford soccer team. Lieutenant Anderson took students from Opportunities for All (OFA) to the Department's SF FLAME athletic program. SF FLAME provides youth mentorship through athletics. BC Alba from HSW presented important health information to the 134<sup>th</sup> Academy and the Battalion Chief's Academy. Chief Kaialoa thanked Assistant Chief Storti for organizing the Battalion Chief's Academy. Cancer screenings continue with Local 798's help. The Firefighter Cancer Foundation has placed billboards around the city to encourage awareness and education. The BHU team under Captain Buren made 58 contacts this month, issued a lactation policy, and presented to the 134<sup>th</sup> Academy. The BHU team continues work on finding programs to support members and their families by collaborating with other first responder groups, and mental health clinicians. The Office of Employee Health completed 74 return to work requests and 22 promotional/probationary screenings for the EMS Academy. Dr. Chang and his staff will

begin new hire screenings for the upcoming 135<sup>th</sup> H2 Academy. Chief Kaialoa and Dr. Chang continue doing station visits. Dr. Chang continues working with UCSF to find an addiction specialist, and with the Health and Safety Planning Committee on policy updates. Captain Weddle from ISB conducted 36 end of probation screenings and 23 H3L1 screenings. He was also deployed on a Strike Team to the Park Fire in Butte County. ADC Mullin from SS completed 161 service orders, and continues working on 10 HVAC heating boiler issues. He met with SFPUC to discuss revised soil retention and storm water management strategies. With Captain Watrous' assistance, SS received six new Braun Northwest ambulances and much needed, new Scuba dive equipment communication equipment. The Department's equipment was 15 years old. ADC Miller from ESER continues work on the new training center. A completed schematic design was submitted to two cost estimators. The design team met with the Arts Commission and SFPUC Commission to discuss art installation and soil retention and stabilization, respectively. Lastly Chief Kaialoa commended the EMS Community Paramedicine Outreach Team for educating the public at the KMJ Warrior Health Sickle Cell Awareness event and at Twin Peaks Starbucks. Chief Kaialoa's report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/3486/download?inline>

Commissioner Collins thanked Chief Kaialoa for his report, and inquired about the Department's plans for possible civil unrest after the election. Chief Tong responded that members would review and initiate the Department's Civil Unrest Policy. Commissioner Collins also inquired about any injuries to members while responding to roadside emergencies. Chiefs Tong and Kaialoa responded that they could not recall any such incidents because an apparatus can protect the scene. Chief Kaialoa will research this issue and update the Commission. Commissioner Collins also inquired if the BHU provides counselors. Chief Kaialoa responded yes, and that the Lighthouse app and the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) are other resources. Lastly, Commissioner Collins inquired about Station 7. Chief Kaialoa responded that work on Station 7 is an ongoing conversation and that it remains a Department priority. Chief Tong mentioned that any work would utilize plans used for Station 5 as a base. Commissioner Collins commented that she would be happy to help raise awareness by attending a tour with decision makers.

Vice President Fraser thanked Chief Kaialoa for his report. She inquired about how frequently members accessed support from BHU. Chief Kaialoa responded that he will research this issue and update the Commission. Vice President Fraser inquired how cancer screenings were conducted. She expressed concern about how screening information was handled. Chief Kaialoa responded that the first phase is a questionnaire, and that he will follow up with Chief Alba on additional screening methods. He also commented that the Department continues to support screenings and regular health checks for members. Vice President Fraser congratulated Chief Kaialoa on securing the Scuba equipment upgrade.

Commissioner Feinstein thanked Chief Kaialoa for his report. She appreciated the glossary, and inquired about how the Department determines mutual aid, and the

definition of “White Team.” Chief Kaialoa responded that the Department has a signed agreement with the State to provide assistance when asked. If Department resources are available, they are deployed to a Strike Team. “White Team” refers to a team on standby status. Commissioner Feinstein inquired about peer support navigators. Chief Kaialoa responded that navigators are trained mental health staff in the field that direct members to resources and the BHU. Commissioner Feinstein inquired about future plans for Station 7 since the next bond is in 2028. Chief Kaialoa responded that every option will be explored.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Kaialoa for his report, and inquired how many drones the Department will be receiving in addition to the number of current drones. Chief Kaialoa responded that the Homeland Security is waiting for three drones, and that there are currently no drones in service. In the past, the Department had a few drones. Commissioner Nakajo inquired about how major events such as concerts or Oktoberfest affect the Department’s workload. Chief Kaialoa responded that Homeland Security is aware of all city events, and can provide resources if necessary. Commissioner Nakajo inquired about flu and COVID shots. Chief Kaialoa responded that flu shot clinics begin in October. Commissioner Nakajo asked if repairing heating systems in the stations were a common issue. ADC Mullins responded that heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC), is only present in some stations, while others still rely on boilers, which are older and more expensive to replace. With a fiscal year budget ADC Mullin uses funds strategically by making station repairs gradually throughout the year. He is in the process of repairing the security gate at Station 35. Commissioner Nakajo also expressed his concern for Station 7, and would like to work with the Department to identify resources.

President Morgan thanked Chief Kaialoa for his report. President Morgan acknowledged Homeland Security’s workload, and the amount of planning that goes into events.

There was no public comment.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

President Morgan called for a moment of silence per Chief’s Tong’s request to honor the recent passing of three firefighters He adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.