

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

November 13, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

SFFD Headquarters, 698 Second Street, Room 102 ■ San Francisco ■ California ■ 94107

The meeting video can be reviewed by clicking the link below:
https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=47662

President Morgan called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL

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| 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 remotely |
| Darius Luttrupp | Deputy Chief – Operations | |
| Shayne Kaialoa | Deputy Chief – Administration | |
| Simon Pang | Deputy Chief – EMS and Community Paramedicine | |
| Mike Mullin | Support Services | |
| Julie Mau | Training | |
| Tony Molloy | ADC, EMS | |
| April Sloan | Community Paramedicine | |
| Micheal I. Thompson | Division 2 | |
| Patrick Rabbitt | Division 3 | |
| Staff | Mark Corso – CFO | |

RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President Morgan read the land acknowledgment.

2. GENERAL 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 October 23, 2024

Commissioner Collins moved to approve the minutes from October 23, 2024, and Vice President Fraser Seconded. President Morgan and Commissioner Nakako voted in favor of the Motion. Commissioner Feinstein recused herself since she did not attend the meeting. The Motion passed.

There was no public comment.

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 October 23, 2024, including budget, academies, special events, communications, and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Tong congratulated Chief April Sloan on her new role as ADC of Community Paramedicine. She thanked chiefs Brown and Smith for their work on Fleet Week. Command Staff enjoyed the reception for the Secretary of the Navy and the parade of ships. Chief Tong attended a badge pinning ceremony for Level 2 graduates. At all-day retreat on November 15 with Command Staff, ADCs, and civilian Department heads, Chief Tong discussed Department priorities, the roles of each division, and how to improve communication to the field. A report on this retreat will be prepared and distributed to the field at a future date. Chief Tong participated in the Veterans Parade was November 10 along with Command Staff, and members of the Police and Sheriff departments. Upcoming events include Thanksgiving events at Glide Memorial Church, St. Anthony's Dining Room, and Lady Shaw Senior Center. All the Commissioners are welcome to attend these events.

Vice President Fraser thanked Chief Tong for her report. She is looking forward to the retreat report, and the upcoming Thanksgiving events. Chief Tong commented that invites will be sent to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Collins thanked Chief Tong for her report. As a Glide board member, Commissioner Collins appreciates the Department's participation in Thanksgiving events in the Tenderloin area.

President Morgan inquired about the upcoming graduation. Chief Tong replied that the 134th Recruit Graduation is Friday, November 15. There will be a combined EMT and Paramedic graduation on December 13. President Morgan looks forward to attending.

There was no public comment.

REPORT FROM OPERATIONS, DEPUTY CHIEF DARIUS LUTTROPP

Report on overall field operations, including greater alarm fires, Bureau of Fire Prevention & Investigation, Training within the Department, and Airport Division.

Chief Luttropp provided an Operational update for October 2024. There were four greater alarms during this reporting period, and an increase in the number of reported fires. 364 Eddy Street was the first greater alarm on October 16, followed by a second alarm at 1258 6th Avenue on October 19. Companies initially used hand lines until realizing the fire was three floors below them, and that the fire was in two buildings. The second alarm was called to ensure adequate firefighting resources. On October 22, at 3126 22nd Street, a second alarm fire occurred by a large church. Companies entered through the garage rather than the front door which was used for storage. Fortunately, all occupants were

safely evacuated, and the fire was extinguished. A second alarm fire occurred on October 31, at 1382 Sanchez Street. Companies responded within two minutes. A Rapid Intervention Company (RIC) was called to respond to fallen wires on the first arriving truck. Fortunately, the fire was extinguished and there were no injuries. Chief Luttrupp congratulated the 134th Recruit Class, and is pleased that the Commissioners will meet them on their City run. NERT held their City-wide drill on October 19. Thanks to Commissioner Nakajo, representatives from the Japanese Consul attended the drill. The LISTOS Program, the Spanish speaking version of NERT resumed. In time, NERT's goal is to expand to other language offerings. The Fire Marshal has been assisting with H4 and civilian 6281 inspector test grading. The Fire Marshal also announced his retirement. ADC D'Arcy at the airport has hired a training officer. Chief Luttrupp's report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/3528/download?inline>

Commissioner Collins inquired about NERT's hardware, software, and equipment challenges. She also inquired if communication issues were the reason only 50% of people who sign up for NERT appear for the training. Chief Luttrupp replied that he will work with IT to find a solution to the software issues. He commented that the 50% no show rate is not directly related to communication, and that it shows that people are still interested in the NERT program.

Vice President Fraser thanked Chief Luttrupp for his report, and commended companies on handling the greater alarm at 3126 22nd Street. She inquired if there was a long wait time for PG&E to arrive at the greater alarm at 1382 Sanchez Street. Chief Luttrupp replied PG&E arrived very quickly thanks to Assistant Chief Thompson, the PG&E liaison. For liability purposes, PG&E must be present when breakers or switches are involved.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Luttrupp for his report, and the Fire Marshal for all his work in BFP. Commissioner Nakajo appreciated the report format and the amount of work being done in BFP. He inquired about the meaning of TASC. Chief Luttrupp replied it stands for "Transportation Advisory Safety Committee." Per Commissioner Nakajo's request, Assistant Chief Thompson discussed the greater alarm at 3126 22nd Street. Chief Thompson was called to the fire while attending the Meritorious Award Ceremony. Crews arrived three minutes after the call. Challenges included getting into the church building as the front door was barricaded; a very small roof for the aerial ladder, and bunk beds bolted to the floor and wall. It was necessary to cut beds from the wall in order to open the walls. Chief Thompson commented that all members performed well, and radio communication was excellent. During the debrief, Chief Thompson discussed building construction and the importance of finding alternative ways to enter a building in case the conventional entry is blocked. Chief Thompson also reiterated Chief Luttrupp's comments about PG&E, adding that it is important for PG&E to remove a building from the grid so crews can safely enter it.

President Morgan thanked Chief Luttrupp for his report. He inquired about the number of entryways, and the blocked front door at the greater alarm at 3126 22nd Street. Chief

Thompson replied there was also a garage door and an entry leading to the kitchen. The front door was never used. President Morgan commended members for their great work on the greater alarm fires.

Commissioner Feinstein inquired about how crews blew a front door off its hinges, and the definition of balloon frame construction. Chief Thompson replied that axes were used to remove the hinges from the wood. Balloon frame construction has wall studs that go from top to bottom without fire stops. It is missing the customary horizontal pieces that would stop a fire, making it necessary to open entire walls in order to fight a fire.

John-Paolo Rapagnani and Juliano Lodi from Sutro Power made public comment. They expressed concern about SFFD policies that have impacted their business, and wished to have their concerns addressed in another venue in the future.

REPORT FROM EMS AND COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE, DEPUTY CHIEF SIMON PANG

Report on the EMS and Community Paramedicine Divisions.

In EMS, Chief Pang reported that call volume increased in October, and is on target to reach 130,000 EMS engagements this year, an increase of about 10,000 engagements from 2023. Market share over the last two months is at 79%, just shy of the 80% goal. Narcan use increased slightly, but was still trending downward overall. Nationally, opioid use has decreased as well. There were 126 cardiac arrests, which breaks down to four per day. Of the 11 cases that had a return of spontaneous circulation upon arrival, seven patients were revived. Chief Pang commended paramedics and EMTs for their work, citing Paramedic Anthony Chiacco and EMT Israel Gutierrez, as examples. They worked rapidly to rescue an elderly person experiencing cardiac arrest. Chief Pang showed a picture of the person meeting Paramedic Chiacco and EMT Gutierrez. Paramedic Soto and EMT Hernandez-Onofre helped a person in cardiac arrest. The person recovered. At a remembrance ceremony for deceased FF/PM Jason Cortez, a memorial plaque was erected at Station 49. Cohort 7 of the 9910 Intern Program began on October 9. The Department works with the City EMT Program managed by retired Assistant Fire Marshal Attica Bowden, to select 9910 interns. These 11 interns are now working in the field and will complete 500 hours working on an ambulance, which helps fulfill the minimum requirements for applying to the Department. Chief Pang introduced Chief Sloan, the new ADC of Community Paramedicine. In her 18-year career at the Department, Chief Sloan has worked on the EM6 program, and is an expert in complex behavioral issues in the City. Chief Pang also commended Section Chief Mason for his appointment to the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) Standard Change Review Committee. As a NEMSIS expert Chief Mason is working on data accuracy which will help the Department qualify for medical funding such as Medi-Cal.

There was a brief recess at 10:02 a.m., to greet recruits on their City run. Chief Pang resumed his report at 10:22 a.m. As part of the Medi-Cal Technical Training and Technical Assistance Team (MTACT), Chief Mason is working with the Department of Public Health on Medi-Cal funding for the Street Crisis Response Team (SCRT). The Street Overdose Response Team (SORT) had 129 engagements this month and is

focusing more on hospital outreach than response. The Sobering Center Overdose Prevention and Education (SCOPE) pilot, a program for people with opioid use disorder, received 21 referrals. At the EMS Town Hall Meeting on October 1, members discussed their concern about violence in the workplace. In October, there were 11 reports of workplace violence. Members are encouraged to file a police report and press charges if necessary. Lastly, Chief Pang reported that he and Fire Marshall Cofflin went on a helicopter ride from the San Francisco Airport to the USS Tripoli during Fleet Week. Chief Pang's report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/3527/download?inline>

Vice President Fraser thanked Chief Pang for his report, and congratulated him for working on Medi-Cal funding, and appreciated the ceremony for Firefighter Cortez.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Pang for his report. Commissioner Nakajo commented that Medi-Cal funding is very important because it is a revenue source that will positively impact EMS-6. Commissioner Nakajo was concerned about member safety, and referenced violent incidents. He also inquired about the difference between calls for service and engaged individuals. Chief Pang responded that the former included both canceled calls and calls where an individual could not be located, while the latter referred to people that had direct contact with members.

President Morgan thanked Chief Pang for his report and inquired about SORT's focus. Chief Pang responded that SORT would focus on individuals with multiple overdoses, but can still respond to any 9-1-1 call upon request. Upon hospital discharge, SORT can advocate for housing and treatment for individuals.

There was public comment from an unidentified male speaker regarding the LaCroix case. The speaker requested that the Fire Commission release the recording of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

There was public comment from Mr. Christopher Salas regarding the LaCroix case. Mr. Salas requested that the Fire Commission release the recording of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

5. VOTE ON WHETHER TO ASSERT ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE TO CONFER WITH OR RECEIVE ADVICE FROM LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION AND CONDUCT ITEM 7 IN CLOSED SESSION (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.10(d)) [Action]

Vice President Fraser moved to conduct item 7 in closed session, and President Morgan Seconded. Commissioners Nakajo, Feinstein, and Collins voted in favor of the Motion. The Motion passed.

Due to technical difficulties during the public comment period, a Motion was made to rescind the vote above. Vice President Fraser moved to approve the Motion, and Commissioner Feinstein Seconded. President Morgan, Commissioners Nakajo and Collins voted in favor of the Motion. The Motion passed.

At a second vote, Vice President Fraser moved to conduct item 7 in closed session, and Commissioner Collins Seconded. President Morgan, Commissioners Nakajo and Feinstein voted in favor of the Motion. The Motion passed.

Mr. Michael Crotty made public comment regarding his release from employment from the San Francisco Fire Department.

6. VOTE ON WHETHER TO CONDUCT ITEM 8 IN CLOSED SESSION (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.10(d)) [Action]

Vice President Fraser moved to conduct item 8 in closed session, and Commissioner Collins Seconded. President Morgan, Commissioners Nakajo and Feinstein voted in favor of the Motion. The Motion passed.

There was no public comment.

Commission convened in closed session at 11:18 a.m.

7. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION--REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF CLOSED SESSION TAPE (California Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1); San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.10(d)(1)) [Discussion and possible action]

On January 12, 2022, the Commission held a closed session on the status and calendaring of pending disciplinary and separation cases. Following a public records request from Mark LaCroix for the closed session tape, which was denied, Mr. LeCroix filed a complaint with the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, which found that the tape should be released and has requested that it be released. The Commission will discuss and act upon the Task Force request to release the closed session tape. Mr. LaCroix is one of the plaintiffs in the litigation against the City regarding the COVID-19 vaccination mandate. The case is *Michael Kricken et al. v. City and County of San Francisco et al.*, San Francisco Superior Court, Case No. CGC-22-600135 (filed June 13, 2022). The Task Force complaint is *Mark LaCroix v. San Francisco Fire Commission*, File No. 23099 (filed December 7, 2023).

Also in closed session were Deputy City Attorney Paul Zarefsky, Maureen Conefrey, and Commission Secretary Kathy Aguas-Aclan.

Commission convened in closed session at 11:41 a.m.

8. POSITION OF FIRE CHIEF—PERSONNEL EXCEPTION (Government Code Section 54957(b)(1) & S.F. Admin Code 67.10(b)) [Discussion and possible action]

Discussion and possible action regarding interviews and selection of candidate(s) for nomination for appointment to the position of Fire Chief. A representative from the Department of Human Resources will provide an update on applications and interviews.

Also in closed session were Deputy City Attorney Jen Huber, Commission Secretary Kathy Aguas-Aclan, and Jen Lo from DHR.

9. VOTE TO ELECT WHETHER TO DISCLOSE ANY OR ALL DISCUSSION ON ITEM NO. 7 HELD IN CLOSED SESSION (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(a)) [Action]

The Commissioners voted unanimously not to release the closed session recording from 1/12/22, and instructed staff to notify the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF) of their decision.

Commissioner Nakajo moved not to disclose all discussion on item 7 in closed session. President Morgan Seconded. Vice President Fraser, Commissioners Feinstein and Collins voted in favor of the Motion. The Motion passed.

Mr. Mark LaCroix made public comment requesting the release of a recording of a closed session meeting on January 12, 2022.

10. VOTE TO ELECT WHETHER TO DISCLOSE ANY OR ALL DISCUSSION ON ITEM NO. 8 HELD IN CLOSED SESSION (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(a)) [Action]

President Morgan moved not to disclose all discussion on item 8 in closed session. Vice President Fraser Seconded. Commissioners Nakajo, Feinstein, and Collins voted in favor of the Motion. The Motion passed.

There was no public comment.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Morgan adjourned the meeting at 12:47 p.m.