

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

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**March 12, 2025, 9:00 a.m.**

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 416 ■ San Francisco ■ California ■ 94102

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The meeting video can be reviewed by clicking the link below:  
[https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=180&clip\\_id=49081](https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=49081)

President Fraser called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Commission President	Marcy Fraser	Present
Vice President	Paula Collins	Excused
Commissioner	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Armie Morgan	Present
Commissioner	Allan Low	Present
Chief of Department	Dean Crispen	Present
Patrick Rabbitt	Deputy Chief – Operations	
Sayumi Brannan	Deputy Chief – Administration	
Erica Arteseros-Brown	Homeland Security	
Chad Law	Prevention	
Marc Kasper	Training	
Garreth Miller	ESER Project Manager	
Adrienne Sims	Chief of Staff	
Assistant Chiefs		
Thomas Johannessen	Division II	
Nicol Juratovac	Division III	
Mark Corso	CFO	

**RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

President Fraser read the land acknowledgment.

**2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was online public comment from Eileen Boken of the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods regarding AWSS Pump Station number 2.

There was online public comment from Eric Schoonbaert of Luminalt regarding plan reviews for the solar and energy storage permitting process.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on February 26, 2025.

Commissioner Low moved to approve the minutes from February 26, 2025, and Commissioner Nakajo Seconded. President Fraser voted in favor of the Motion. Commissioner Morgan abstained because he was absent on February 26, 2025. The Motion passed.

There was no public comment.

**4. CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT [Discussion]**  
**REPORT FROM CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT, DEAN CRISPEN**

Report on current issues, activities, and events within the Department since the Fire Commission meeting on February 26, 2025, including budget, academies, special events, communications, and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Crispin attended several events since the last meeting: unveiling of the GLIDE Memorial Church mural, "Many Hands Make Light Work" (February 26); Black History Month closing ceremony (February 26); banquet for Chief of Safety, Paul Yep (February 26); press conference for Lunar New Year and NBA All-Star Game (February 27); meet and greet with Supervisors Melgar and Chan (February 27); water supply meeting with the public (February 28); "We Can All be Heroes" mural unveiling highlighting African American firefighters and EMTs (February 28); meet and greet with City EMT Cohort 9 (March 3); meeting with new City Attorney, Sarah Fabian (March 3); Active Attacker Drill (March 4-5); meeting with Treasurer's office regarding Department revenues (March 6); Irish flag raising ceremony (March 7); meeting with Academy of Arts students regarding mural design for Headquarters (March 10); and ceremony for the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Municipal Ambulance Service organized by Rescue Captain Ada Wong (March 11). Chief Crispin commented that updates will be made to the Disaster Manual, Strategic Plan, and CAD Project. The Department conducted five-inch hose drills with the new hose tender. By March 24, the street teams will increase from three to five teams consisting of five to seven members from different City departments, including SFFD. Street teams would be located in areas like the Tenderloin and Mission. Due to outstanding FEMA reimbursements, the budget deficit is over \$200 million. The Mayor's office is discussing this issue with the Federal government. In the meantime, Chief Crispin is working with Command Staff to operate more efficiently. Chief Crispin introduced Gerald Gauer as the new Assistant Fire Marshall.

Commissioner Low inquired if the Treasurer's office provided guidelines about generating revenue such as increasing permit fees. Chief Crispin responded that the Department is working on how to make ambulance and medical billing more efficient. Permit fees cover operational costs. The Department will be conducting a fee study to determine if any increases can be made.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Crispin for his report, and was pleased about the mural unveiling. He was interested in having the Black Firefighters Association (BFA) present an update on the San Francisco Fire Youth Academy at a future meeting. Commissioner Nakajo also looks forward to hearing about the progress of the new street teams.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Chief Crispen for his report. He also enjoyed the mural unveiling ceremony, and commended retired Chief Attica Bowden for her work on the City EMT program. Commissioner Morgan is looking forward to hearing about the street team's progress. Chief Crispen responded that the Fire Credit Union and Inspector Rigel Juratovac deserve recognition for funding and painting the mural, respectively. Another mural for Headquarters is in the planning stage.

President Fraser thanked Chief Crispen for his report. She enjoyed the ceremony for the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Municipal Ambulance Service. President Fraser enjoyed acknowledgement of the Fair sisters, founders of the Fairmount Hotel, at the ceremony. She understands the new format of the street teams, and congratulated Chief Gauer on his new position. President Fraser acknowledged the City EMT program, and would like to have an update at a future meeting.

There was no public comment.

#### REPORT FROM OPERATION, DEPUTY CHIEF PATRICK RABBITT

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

Chief Rabbitt provided an Operations update for February 2025, including Homeland Security; Outreach, Recruitment, and Development (ORD); 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).

Chief Rabbitt reported that call volume remained consistent with January's numbers. There were 12 working fires, and one 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm fire at 1750 Mission Street on February 9. Assistant Chief Nicol Juratovac mitigated that fire. Battalion Chief Arnold Choy, and Engines 6 and 36 helped fight this fire in a type 5 building with 27 residential units. Five patients were evaluated for smoke inhalation. On February 25, a passerby knocked on the door of Station 17 to report a working fire at 1301 Shafter. Crews immediately deployed a 150-foot inch and three-quarter line. Chief Rabbitt commended Assistant Chief Frank Cercos and Battalion Chief Cantrez Triplitt for fighting this fire and rescuing one person. The Arson Task Force made four arrests. Chief Rabbitt introduced the new Assistant Fire Marshal, Gerald Gauer, and congratulated the BFA for sponsoring the mural project, "We Can All be Heroes." He also commended the mural artist, Inspector Rigel Juratovac. At the airport, Chief D'Arcy is reviewing the 2025-2026 MOU with the airport. There were 468 incidents at the airport, and training for six new members in Airport Rescue Firefighting (ARFF). The airport battalion chief received a new all-electric Ford F-150. Training captains have begun planning a full-scale airport exercise. At the Division of Training, ADC Kasper updated the active shooter policy from 2016, based on learnings from high profile incidents such as the Las Vegas and Uvalde school shootings. Chief Rabbitt also thanked RC Oscar Thadeo and BC Kevin Kuhn for helping to update the manual. Chief Rabbitt presented a video of the active shooter training at Oracle Park. This training had over 30 different agencies including SFFD, SFPD, and SF Sheriff's Department, and was funded by a grant from the Bay Area Urban Areas Security

Initiative (UASI). The FLAME Youth Athletic Program held its baseball opening day at Kimball Park with Chief Crispen and Mayor Lurie in attendance. Chief Crispen threw the first pitch to Chief Rabbitt's son. The Fire Reserves trained for over 150 hours this month at the Division of Training, and volunteered for over 30 hours. NERT has experienced increased interest. Over 400 citizens participated in last month's training, and Supervisor Mahmood also attended this training. Chief Rabbitt's report is attached:  
<https://sf-fire.org/media/3622/download?inline>

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Rabbitt for his report. Commissioner Nakajo appreciated the work being done in BFP as reflected in the graphs in Chief Law's report. He would like to schedule a ride along at the airport for Commissioner Low. Commissioner Low agreed. Commissioner Nakajo would like to have Chief Kasper from DOT to present at a future meeting. He was pleased about the high interest in NERT, and the Fire Reserve's work. Commissioner Nakajo congratulated Chief Gauer on his new position as Assistant Fire Marshal, and Inspector Juratovac for completing the mural. Inspector Juratovac also designed the Earl Gage Jr mural. Chief Rabbitt thanked Commissioner Nakajo for his praise. He has been trying to improve the report's format. There are four assistant fire marshals to support the heavy workload in BFP. The Fire Reserves and NERT are extremely important in helping to prevent fires, and allow the Department to focus on major incidents.

Commissioner Low inquired how many vacant buildings are a fire hazard, and if property managers can be encouraged to keep empty buildings safe. Chief Rabbitt will research that topic and report back to the Commission.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Chief Rabbitt for his report. He inquired how many people were rescued at the Mission Street fire. Chief Rabbitt responded that there were 60-70 people in the building. Quick, effective firefighting saved lives. Commissioner Morgan commended crews for their work, and congratulated Chief Gauer. He also appreciated the Fire Marshal's report.

President Fraser thanked Chief Rabbitt for his report, and congratulated Battalion 10 for their work. She was pleased with the Fire Reserve and NERT. President Fraser inquired monthly NERT attendance. Chief Rabbitt will report that information next month.

There was no public comment.

REPORT FROM EMS AND COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE, DEPUTY CHIEF SIMON PANG

Report on the EMS and Community Paramedicine Divisions.

Chief Pang reported that call volume remained the same as last January, with 292 calls per day (293 calls in January), while private ambulances handled more call volume. Due to a local EMSA pilot program, private ambulances are permitted up to four basic life support (BLS) ambulances into the Department's system. This pilot program affects Department staffing levels because members assist private ambulances if advanced life support (ALS) is required, taking away ALS capability from Department engines. Rescue

captain call volume increased slightly, from 37 calls per day in January, to 38 calls per day in February. Most calls were Code 2 returns, where a patient was stable, followed by Code 3 returns, where patient was unstable. Ambulance Patient Offload Times (APOT) continued to be delayed. Chief Pang held three town hall staff meetings and granted an interview with an San Francisco Chronicle reporter to help address and bring awareness to this issue. Chief Pang also proposed an APOT summit with the Hospital Council and LEMSA. There was a slight decrease in Narcan administration in February. When needed, Ketamine was administered approximately once a day. Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) is an advanced skills used to treat pulmonary edema, or fluid in the lungs. In February, 46% of cardiac arrest patients were resuscitated. Chief Pang and Chief Chocker attended services for retired Paramedic Jonathan Frank. Mr. Frank worked for the Department of Public Health as well. Chief Pang commended Engine 21 members FF Denny Acosta, FF Joshua Parks, PM Taylor Manfredi, and FF Bruce Crowder for rescuing a swimmer in cardiac arrest. Other notable calls included: Engine 15, Medic 515, and Rescue Captain 4 (RC4) helping a person on BART who collapsed; Engine 3 and Quick Response Vehicle 2 (QRV2) helping a person in cardiac arrest; and Medics 554 and 567 and Engines 19 and 40 helping a mother deliver twins. There was an increase in 9-1-1- calls to 6<sup>th</sup> Street, and a slight decrease in overdoses. The Street Crisis Team is actively working at the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Triage Center with an average of three transports every two days. Chief Pang commented that people displaced from 6<sup>th</sup> Street have moved to other neighborhoods. As Chief Crispen mentioned, eventually there will be five neighborhood street teams, starting with the Tenderloin and Mission districts. The Street Crisis Response Team (SCRT) and Street Overdose Response Team (SORT) continue helping people in need. SCRT wrote 42 5150 mental health holds SORT cared for 14 people who experienced two or more overdoses, engaging five of the 14 people. The challenge is getting people to accept help. In EMS-6, the captain dedicated 12 hours per day to the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Triage Center. Chief Pang's report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/3621/download?inline>

Commissioner Low thanked Chief Pang for his report, and inquired how to improve working with private ambulances. Chief Pang responded that the Department is not in favor of the BLS Ambulance Pilot Program which is supposed to address Medic to Follow events. Addressing APOT delays would help decrease Medic to Follow events, and in turn help eliminate the need for BLS ambulances. Commissioner Low inquired if the Department bills private ambulances. Chief Pang responded "no." Commissioner Low commented that policy should change because some calls might be covered by insurance. Chief Pang will work with Director Corso on this issue. Commissioner Low suggested getting feedback from members who are experiencing APOT delays, and engaging hospital leadership. Chief Pang agreed, and has been gathering the data which shows that members are experiencing burnout. He is hopeful that an APOT meeting will be scheduled.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Pang for his report. He commented that an APOT meeting needs to be scheduled given the continued APOT delays. At some point, the Department will reach a limit on its capacity to assist people because of budgetary constraints. Chief Pang responded that the current staffing model leaves ambulances

understaffed. Ideally, ambulances would operate at a minimum of the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of demand. Commissioner Nakajo acknowledged Assistant Fire Marshal Mary Tse for her work in BFP.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Chief Pang for his report. He agreed with Commissioner Low's comment about receiving any revenue. Commissioner Morgan inquired about shocking patients. Chief Pang replied that patients are put on an electrocardiogram monitor to assess if treatments like ventricular fibrillation or ventricular tachycardia are appropriate. All street teams are trained in ALS skills.

President Fraser thanked Chief Pang for his report. She asked for the definition of "all hospitals" in terms of patient transport. Chief Pang responded that he was patients can be taken to any hospital in San Francisco. President Fraser inquired if St. Francis Hospital is the only burn unit in the City. Chief Pang responded yes, but if burn patients have trauma, they would be transported to San Francisco General. President Fraser is pleased that Chief Pang is organizing town hall meetings regarding APOT times, and looks forward to hearing about the meetings and any future Hospital Council meetings. She enjoyed hearing about the notable calls where members rescued people and helped deliver twins. President Fraser inquired about intraosseous infusions. Chief Pang explained that intraosseous infusion is a rapid way to give medication by drilling a needle into the bone.

Commissioner Morgan requested a moment of silence for retired Paramedic Jonathan Frank. Moment of silence taken by the Commission. President Fraser dedicated the meeting to the memory of retired Chief Arthur Kenney. Chief Crispen acknowledged Chief Kenney's 50+ year career at the Department, and his career at the San Francisco Police Department. His memory will live forever.

There was no public comment.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

President Fraser adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.