

FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

July 9, 2025, 9:00 – 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 link below:

https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=50357

President Fraser called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Commission President	Marcy Fraser	Present
Vice President	Paula Collins	Excused
Commissioner	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Armie Morgan	Excused
Commissioner	Allan Low	Present
Chief of Department	Dean Crispen	Present
Patrick Rabbitt	Deputy Chief – Operations	
Michael Mullin	Support Services	
Patrick D’Arcy	Airport	
Marc Kasper	Training	
Garreth Miller	ESER Project Manager	
Adrienne Sims	Chief of Staff	
Tony Molloy	ADC EMS	
April Sloan	ADC Community Paramedicine	
Assistant Chiefs		
Ken Yee	Division II	
Frank Cercos, IV	Division III	
Staff		
Michael Mason	Section Chief, Community Paramedicine	
	Administration	
Heather Buren	Captain	
Jonathan Baxter	PIO Office	

RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President Fraser read the land acknowledgment.

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was online comment from Eric Schoonbaert of Luminalt Solar Energy Solutions, regarding SFFD’s plan review process for solar installations.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on June 25, 2025.

Commissioner Nakajo moved to approve the minutes from June 25, 2025, and President Fraser Seconded. Commissioner Low was absent from the meeting and abstained. The Motion passed.

There was no public comment.

4. CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT TO ACKNOWLEDGE CAPTAIN HEATHER BUREN
[Discussion]

Chief of Department, Dean Crispin, to recognize Captain Heather Buren for her service to the Behavioral Health Unit.

Chief Crispin introduced Captain Heather Buren, and acknowledged her service. Captain Buren joined the Department in 1997, as a paramedic. Chief Crispin thanked Captain Buren for her commitment to the Department's Behavioral Health Unit. She also served as President of the United Fire Service Women (USFW), serves as a board member for the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation, and Vice President of the San Francisco Firefighter and EMS Behavioral Health Foundation. Captain Buren will be returning to the field.

There was no public comment.

5. 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 June 25, 2025, including budget, academies, special events, communications, and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Crispin reported that the Mayor signed the budget which spared cuts to uniformed employees. However, there were cuts to some civilian positions, one 24-hour quick response unit, and one EMS-6 unit. The Department is working with two to three foundations as potential donors. The 136th Recruit Academy Class begins on July 28. In service training modules have begun in the field. There were 563 runs on July 4; four building fires; one working fire; 25 grass fires; 23 trash fires; and 31 calls related to fireworks. Chief Crispin attended several events: Pride Public Safety Briefing; interviews for the upcoming H3 Academy starting in September; and a meeting with San Francisco Airport Director, Mike Nakornkhet. Chief Crispin thanked ADC D'Arcy for planning the upcoming airport drill in September. Chief Crispin attended the Chinese Chamber of Commerce Board installations with Fire Marshal Law and Assistant Chief Yee; visited Station 8 with Chief Pang; attended the Alice B. Toklas Pride Breakfast; and marched in the Pride Parade. Chief Crispin thanked President Fraser for marching in the Pride Parade. Chief Crispin attended the Bayview Opera House Community Meeting with the Mayor to discuss 4th of July preparation. Chief Crispin's report is attached <https://sf-fire.org/media/3707/download?inline>.

Commissioner Low inquired about the how the Department is addressing seismic safety, including fire stations like Station 2. Chief Crispin responded that ESER bond funds will be used to help rebuild seismically unsafe fire stations. The Department is exploring other

funding sources such as non-ESER bonds. Commissioner Low offered the Fire Commission's support if needed.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Crispen for his report and congratulated Captain Heather Buren for her service. He appreciated the update on the 4th of July. Commissioner Nakajo thanked President Fraser for participating in the Pride Parade. Commissioner Nakajo inquired about the purpose of the Bayview Opera House Community Meeting. Chief Crispen responded that the Department has been invited to speak at meetings around the city in order to maintain community outreach. The Bayview Opera House Community Meeting specifically addressed RV legislation, budget allocations, and 4th of July preparations. Commissioner Nakajo inquired about the impact of eliminating one EMS-6 unit. Chief Crispen responded that stations in the Tenderloin area could face more calls, but QRV units are still able to respond.

President Fraser thanked Chief Crispen for his report. She was pleased that despite budget cuts, the Department still plans to provide service levels. President Fraser congratulated Chief Crispen for working on behested payments. She thanked Captain Baxter for organizing the Department's participation in the Pride Parade, and enjoyed marching with other public safety departments such as Sheriff and Police. President Fraser inquired about the increase in grass fires. Chief Crispen responded that warmer weather dries out grass. During high wind, red flag, or high heat alerts, two fire engines will respond to a call. President Fraser appreciated the update on the 4th of July because it is a safety concern.

There was no public comment.

REPORT FROM OPERATIONS, 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 June 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 due to First Amendment activities, members have reviewed the Training Bulletin 20-2, regarding civil unrest procedures, and provided support staff for the City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Police Department Operations Center (PDOC). Task forces consisting of a battalion chief, an engine, mini pumper, rescue captain, ambulance, and tactical EMS unit, work with EOC and PDOC to triage calls. The Department responded to over 6,260 calls between June 30, 2023, to June 30, 2025. Chief Rabbitt commented that high call volume will impact the maintenance of an aging fleet. Building alarm activations increased by 58. There were over 400 outside fires this month. There were 18 working fires in June, and one 4th alarm fire at 579 5th Avenue. The Bureau of Fire Investigation (BFI) completed 241 school inspections, with five pending notices of violations. Chief Rabbitt congratulated the recently promoted BFI

members (six members to lieutenant, and three members to captain). Fire Marshal Law and Director Corso are finalizing an MOU with Brycer Compliance to help address fire alarm sprinkler system compliance. The Airport completed the annual FAA inspection, and responded to 561 incidents. Six members are taking Airport Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) training, and five members completed hazardous materials specialist training. The Fire Commission is welcome to attend the upcoming full-scale exercise at the airport on September 17. Thanks to ADC Kasper, the Department captured over \$32,000 in CJAC funds. The Driver Tiller Academy on June 23 included emergency Code 3 driving on SFPD's course. Chief Rabbitt thanked the Bureau of Equipment and ADC Miller for performing auxiliary water testing at Fort Mason which helped determine pipe location for the Emergency Firefighting Water System. Thanks to a partnership with Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), the Department hosted a Complex Incident Training class for members and SFPD. The class covered strategies and response priorities and reviewed active shooter incidents like Uvalde and Las Vegas. Captain Novo is preparing for the upcoming 136th Recruit Academy Class beginning on July 28. The Fire Reserve logged over 150 drill hours and 80 volunteer hours. Over 500 citizens received NERT training. Deputy Chief Brannan and Captain Tom from NERT presented to the Japanese Consulate. Chief Rabbitt's report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/3703/download?inline>.

Commissioner Low inquired about the Department's relationship with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in terms of firefighting. Chief Rabbitt responded that ADC Miller and Captain Cotter have held quarterly drills and bi-weekly meetings with PUC on water supply. In October, to commemorate the Great Shake Out, there will be a water exercise demonstrating water supply from a pump station in the bay to the Auxiliary Water Supply System. Using the ESER Bond System, the Department will be relocating a water pipe from 42nd Avenue to Sunset Boulevard.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Rabbitt for his report. He acknowledged ADC D'Arcy and ADC Kasper, and Fire Marshal Law. Commissioner Nakajo inquired who wrote the greater alarm report for the fire on 579 5th Avenue, and about the severed hydrant. Chief Rabbitt responded that AC Juratovac wrote the report, and that the hydrant was damaged by a commercial bus and was not repaired by the date of the greater alarm fire. There was another low-pressure hydrant a block away.

President Fraser thanked Chief Rabbitt for his report. She was happy there were no injuries at the greater alarm fire, but was concerned about members' exposure to chemicals. President Fraser congratulated BFI on completing all their inspections, and is looking forward to the drill at SFO. President Fraser inquired about Department of Public Health (DPH) referrals on page 25 of Chief Rabbitt's report. Chief Rabbitt responded that these referrals are for buildings operated by DPH. President Fraser suggested that the City should establish October as a NERT month given public interest and anniversary of the Loma Prieta Earthquake.

There was no public comment.

REPORT FROM EMS AND COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE, DEPUTY CHIEF SIMON PANG

Report on the EMS and Community Paramedicine (CP) Divisions given by Assistant Deputy Chiefs Tony Molloy and April Sloan on behalf of Deputy Chief Simon Pang.

On behalf of Chief Pang, Chief Molloy reported that in June, EMS averaged 14 Code 3 transports per day. APOT times were down, but there were still over 550 delays of over 30 minutes. Cardiac arrest numbers decreased. Chief Molloy reported EMS continues to promote bystander CPR. City employee Daniel Llamas received the Guardian of Life Award for administering bystander CPR to a co-worker. During the Pride Parade, EMS responded to 23 medical calls along the parade route. Per State APOT regulations effective July 1, hospitals with 30+ minute delays are required to remedy the situation. The EMS Academy graduates in two weeks. Chief Mason reported that the Street Crisis Response Team (SCRT) responded to 1426 calls, with an average response time of less than 17.5 minutes. Approximately 22% of patients are transported to non-hospital or non-emergency locations. 15% of patients are transported to an emergency department some of which were placed on 5150 involuntary mental health holds. EMS-6 had 148 encounters, with approximately 5 encounters per day. There was nearly a negative 60% decrease in the top 20 high utilizers. Chief Mason highlighted the breakdown of 5150 holds based on neighborhood police districts. The Geary Stabilization Unit (GSU) at 822 Geary Boulevard launched a soft opening. As GSU referrals from SCRT increase, they will transition to a 24/7 model. EMT Ismael Orozco received the EMS Cross for helping a patient in a behavioral health crisis. CP completed a year-long technical assistance program through the Harvard Government Policy Lab (GPL) regarding programming and insurance and reimbursement pathways. ADC Sloan and Section Chief Nazzaretta participated in several panels regarding behavioral health and law enforcement. Chief Mason acknowledged Community Paramedic Captain Sherry Mahoney and Street Captain Neal Palacios for their work with patients experiencing crisis. Chief Pang's report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/3702/download?inline>.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Mason for his report, and inquired how many beds were available at the GSU. Chief Mason responded that there are 16 beds available for up to 23 hours. There are different bed categories in terms of locked facilities. The GSU is a middle acute unlocked facility, where people are usually referred to another facility after their stay at the GSU. Chief Mason commented that the GSU is a much-needed resource given the bed shortage. Commissioner Nakajo asked Chief Molloy asked who monitors the new APOT regulations. Chief Molloy responded that hospitals report APOT levels to the State every month per California Assembly Bill 40 (AB 40). All California hospitals will create their own audit tolls to address reducing APOT levels.

President Fraser thanked Chief Molloy for his report, and inquired if the Department of Emergency Management and Health Commission work together on APOT levels. Chief Molloy responded that he was not aware of any such relationship. President Fraser offered the Commission's support in improving APOT times. She was pleased to learn about the GSU and acknowledged EMS' response to 23 calls during the Pride Parade.

Chief Molloy responded that the GSU will hopefully transition to a Transport to Alternate Destinations (TAD).

There was no public comment.

6. PRESENTATION FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO FIREFIGHTER AND EMS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FOUNDATION (SFFEBHF) [Discussion]

Walter Villavicencio, President of the San Francisco Firefighter and EMS Behavioral Health Foundation (SFFEBHF), to provide an update of SFFEBHF.

Mr. Villavicencio stated that the SFFEBHF's mission is to provide emergency grants to members experiencing a behavioral health crisis when other benefits do not cover their needs. Grants can cover living expenses, childcare, and therapy deductibles. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SFFEBHF expanded and became an official non-profit group in June 2022. Mr. Villavicencio thanked the SF Flame Youth Athletic Program, the San Francisco Cancer Prevention Foundation, and Local 798 for helping establish SFFEBHF. A 2018 survey conducted by the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) of several thousand North American firefighters found that nearly one in five firefighters and EMS employees experience suicidal thoughts. 13 active and retired SFFD members have received emergency grants. SFFEBHF has raised approximately \$32,000 in donations from individuals and organizations. SFFEBHF held its first fundraiser at the Jim Gallagher Interstation Competition last May. SFFEBHF is working with Supervisor Mandelman on legislation regarding payroll deduction contributions which would provide steady financial support for SFFEBHF. Mr. Villavicencio introduced the SFFEBHF Board members: Lieutenant Andrew Yee; Captain Heather Buren; retired member Dawn Rosales; LMFT Pia Crosby; Captain Kao Nacua; retired member Philip Lee; and retired member Stanley Lee. Mr. Villavicencio acknowledged Philip Yee who recently overcame some health issues.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Mr. Villavicencio for his report and thanked the SFFEBHF for attending the meeting. He and the Fire Commission fully support SFFEBHF.

President Fraser enjoyed learning about SFFEBHF. She supports their mission and thanked the SFFEBHF for their work. President Fraser commented that the data shows a great need for this type of support, and thanked the SFFEBHF Board members for attending the meeting.

There was no public comment.

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

Secretary Aguas-Aclan read agenda item 8. Commissioner Low moved to conduct item 8 in closed session, and Commissioner Nakajo Seconded. President Fraser voted in favor of the Motion. The Motion passed.

There was no public comment.

Commission convened in closed session at 10:52 a.m.

8. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION AND SETTLEMENT [*Discussion and Possible Action*]

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 recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for settlement approval or to take other action.

Existing Litigation:

Keith Baraka v. City and County of San Francisco, San Francisco Superior Court, Case No. CGC-20-587897, (“Baraka I”) and *Keith Baraka v. City and County of San Francisco*, San Francisco Superior Court, Case No. CGC-24-615403, (“Baraka II”).

City to pay \$160,000 for dismissal of claims.

Also in closed session were Deputy City Attorney Sarah Fabian, Deputy City Attorney Robert Rogoyski, and Commission Secretary Kathy Aguas-Aclan.

Commission reconvened in open session at 11:10 a.m.

9. REPORT ON ANY ACTION TAKEN ON ITEM 8 HELD IN CLOSED SESSION (California Government Code Section 54957.1(a) AND San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(B)) [*Discussion and possible action*]

There was no action to report.

10. VOTE TO ELECT WHETHER TO DISCLOSE ANY OR ALL DISCUSSION ON ITEM 8 HELD IN CLOSED SESSION (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(a)) [*Action*]

Commissioner Low moved to not disclose all discussions on item 8 in closed session. Commissioner Nakajo Seconded. President Fraser voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Fraser adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.