

FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

September 10, 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=50696

President Fraser called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Commission President	Marcy Fraser	Present
Vice President	Paula Collins	Present
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	
Adrienne Sims	Chief of Staff	
Tony Molloy	ADC EMS	
April Sloan	ADC Community Paramedicine	
Assistant Chiefs		
Nicol Juratovac	Division II	
James O’Connell	Division III	
Staff		
Mark Corso	CFO	

RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

President Fraser 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 Special Meeting on August 21, 2025.

Vice President Collins moved to approve the minutes from August 21, 2025, and Commissioner Low Seconded. President Fraser, Vice President Collins, Commissioner Nakajo, Commissioner Morgan, and Commissioner Low voted in favor of the Motion. The Motion passed.

There was no public comment.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on August 27, 2025.

Commissioner Low moved to approve the minutes from August 27, 2025, and Vice President Collins Seconded. President Fraser, Vice President Collins, Commissioner Nakajo, Commissioner Morgan, and Commissioner Low voted in favor of the Motion. 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 August 27, 2025, including budget, academics, special events, communications, and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Crispin attended several events: meet and greet with City EMT Cohort 10; filmed podcast with retired members regarding their response to 9/11; 11th Annual Chinatown Night Out; and Pacific Heights Association of Neighbors meeting. Chief Crispin thanked Commissioner Low for attending the Pacific Heights Association of Neighbors meeting. Chief Crispin attended the Audit and Oversight Committee regarding behested payment legislation. The Department is currently seeking donations to cover the remaining costs of testing members. Chief Crispin thanked the Board of Supervisors (BOS) for their support. He attended a REACT Act press conference in support of disaster alerting funding sponsored by Congressman Kevin Mullin and Speaker Emeritus Nancy Pelosi. Chief Crispin attended the annual Johnny V Chili Cookoff; the Police/Fire Mass; and the Quarterly Staff Meeting. He thanked Commissioner Nakajo for attending the Police/Fire Mass. Director Corso has been working with the Mayor's budget office. The 137th Recruit Academy Class is in their seventh week. The H3L1 Academy 28 begins on September 15, while the H3L2 Academy begins on September 29. The Chief issued several General Orders (GOs): GO 25 A-84 through GO 25 A-89. Chief Crispin thanked Chiefs Rabbit, Brown, and Lt. Mauberret for preparing GO 25 A-85. The Chief's interviews for the 137th Recruit Academy Class are almost complete. Chief Crispin will provide an update on the cost estimate for the rebuild of stations 2, 7, 40, and Bureau of Equipment (BOE). Training Center construction is scheduled to begin in November 2025. 150 members took the Racial Equity Survey. The Department is working with SFMTA and Supervisor Melgar on a Vision Zero Resolution to reduce traffic related injuries. Chief Crispin thanked Chief of Staff Sims and Captain O'Keefe for their work on this resolution. Mr. Ron DiBiase, the new IT Manager, will begin at the end of September. Jesus Mora will retire at the end of 2025. Chief Crispin's report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/3754/download?inline>.

Commissioner Low thanked Chief Crispin for attending the Presidio Heights Association of Neighbors meeting, and inquired if Chief Miller could provide an update on the DOT Training Center at the next meeting. Chief Crispin responded yes.

Vice President Collins inquired how the public receives emergency alerts. Chief Crispin responded that DEM handles alerts, and can target problem areas by zip or area codes.

Commissioner Nakajo appreciated seeing the vacancy list and the tsunami field guide. He asked for the name and contact information of SFPD's speaker at the Police/Fire Mass. Chief Crispen responded that Commander Jack Hart was the public speaker. Commander Hart also spoke at the SFPD St. Patrick's Day presentation. Commissioner Nakajo commented that Commander Hart was an excellent public speaker.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Chief Crispen for his report and inquired if vacancies would be a staffing issue. Chief Crispen responded that there would be no problem filling the open positions. The Department's Unassigned Member Policy encourages members to be at a particular station for a significant amount of time rather than taking a temporary assignment. Commissioner Morgan asked what the swing watch column represents. Chief Crispen responded that it refers to members who fill a station position if another person is out for an extended period of time. The member still works a 24-hour shift.

President Fraser thanked Chief Crispen for his report. She looks forward to future podcasts. President Fraser inquired about the type of cancer testing offered to members. Chief Crispen responded that the Department has \$500,000 to scan members over 40 years old with five or more years of service. He thanked BC Alba for his work and will ask BC Alba to present at a future meeting. President Fraser thanked Department members and the Mayor for supporting the park at Jackson Square. She was pleased to learn about lithium-ion battery safety, and hopes public awareness will increase. Chief Crispen responded that Fire Marshal Law is working with other agencies on a public information campaign. President Fraser asked how many candidates were screened for interviews. Chief Crispen responded that 701 people were screened, and 130 people were offered interviews. He thanked Chief Brannan for her work on screening candidates.

Vice President Collins appreciated the podcast about 9/11, and was pleased at how podcast participants have dealt with this tragic event. Vice President Collins hopes the podcast will be available to a wider audience. She inquired how lithium-ion battery storage was addressed. Chief Crispen responded that there is a City ordinance regarding proper storage of lithium-ion batteries.

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 August 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 a decrease in First Amendment activities, but members are still training for it. Calls for service have increased by 7,728 calls in the last two years (August

31, 2023, to August 31, 2025). As the fleet ages, there will be increased maintenance costs. There were 1,568 building alarm activations this month, an increase of 78 activations. Assistant Fire Marshal Tse is investigating this significant increase by identifying hazard or nuisance alarms. There were 420 outside fires. These fires are challenging to fight in terms of wind, topography, and access. In addition, members are possibly exposed to biohazards in encampment fires. In August, there were 15 working fires and one greater alarm at 1350 47th Avenue. The greater alarm fire was in a three-story, Type 5 multi-unit residential building. Assistant Chief Juratovac was the incident commander. Two civilian victims were transported. The cause of the fire is under investigation. Homeland Security is planning for Fleet Week, including a firefighting exercise on a Navy vessel. The Bureau of Fire Investigation and Prevention completed all 241 school inspections. School inspections for the current school year begin again and run through June 2026. Companies continued R1 and R2 inspections. There were three arrests by the Arson Squad. Chief Rabbitt and the Bureau of Equipment (BOE) did a final inspection of two hose tenders for Stations 17 and 22. Chief D'Arcy attended a Firefighting Resources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies (FIREScope) meeting, and had been working with BC Cannon on updating response patterns. The Airport responded to 550 incidents. Six members are in Advanced Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) driver training; five members attended driver training in Texas; and seven members received Bay Water Swimmer Rescue Certification. There will be a drill at SFO on September 17. All Commissioners are welcome to attend. In July, the Department logged over 8,900 California Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CJAC) hours, resulting in \$41,000 in revenue for training. Chief Rabbitt thanked field members for continuing to log CJAC hours. Chief Kasper used these funds for a dry decontamination class, rope rescue awareness operations class, and entry doors for the Treasure Island training facility. Chief Kasper and Training Specialist Neal Narayan worked on the 9/11 podcast featuring Chief Crispen and retired members Victor Wyrsh and Kevin Salas. Captain Tyson Yee and Firefighter Jason Harrell conducted rescue drills on the Golden Gate Bridge with the Bridge Authority and Southern Marin Fire Rescue. The 136th Recruit Academy Class is in their 7th week. Chief Rabbitt thanked Section Chief Treff for supporting EMT and Paramedic recertification as well as renewals for Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS). The Fire Reserve and NERT logged over 130 hours of drills. Chief Rabbitt thanked the Fire Reserve for assisting at the greater alarm fire on 47th Avenue. Over 300 citizens received NERT training, including a disaster preparedness seminar with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM). Chief Rabbitt's report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/3744/download?inline>.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Rabbitt for his report, asked for clarification on what captains conduct training. Chief Rabbitt responded that in service captains work every day in the field with Suppression and Station 49 members. Special operations training captains work with truck companies on special skills such as cliff rescues and hazardous materials incidents. Recruit academy training captains work with a current recruit class. Commissioner Nakajo inquired about the special operations training schedule. Chief Rabbitt responded that special operations training occurs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with several companies, including Engine 36, Battalion 2, and the

Hazardous Materials Unit. Commissioner Nakajo inquired about the drill at SFO. Chief Rabbitt responded that it will simulate a failed airplane takeoff that lands in the bay.

President Fraser thanked Chief Rabbitt for his report, and inquired if vehicle rollovers impacted the increase in calls. Chief Rabbitt responded the number of rollovers has been consistent given that calls are on roads, highways, or freeways. President Fraser appreciated the 9/11 podcast, and congratulated NERT on training so many citizens.

REPORT FROM EMS AND COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE, DEPUTY CHIEF SIMON PANG

Report on the EMS and Community Paramedicine (CP) Divisions.

Chief Pang reported that call volume increased to 8,456 ambulance dispatches in August. He commented that an ambulance usually responds to an incident with a company. There was an average of three pronouncements per day. Ambulance/patient offload times (APOT) averaged 40.2 minutes in August, an improvement from August 2024. Paramedics administered Narcan 267 times to 201 unique patients. 34 interosseous infusions were performed. Cardiac survival rates improved with an overall rate of 38% survival in the hospital. Captain Anderson, chair of the Community Outreach Recruitment and Education Committee (CORE) will teach hands only CPR at their tabling events and will work with the Public Library and Parks and Recreation departments to find other training opportunities. Semi-annual ALS in service training began on August 18. To date, 213 of 455 paramedics have been trained on new protocols and medications. Chief Pang thanked Acting Captain Barnekoff, and Acting Lieutenants Hamblen, MacPhee, and Golovin for training members. Thanks to increased APOT awareness/advocacy and an efficient schedule which promotes call readiness, there were 46 Medic to Follow (no ambulance available for the next emergency) events in August, a significant reduction from July and August 2024. Community Paramedicine (CP) responded to 2,060 calls for service in August. The average response time was 18.5 minutes. CP placed 34 people on involuntary mental health holds. 23% of people were brought to a non-hospital setting (a shelter, the drug sobering center, or the Geary Stabilization Unit), 14% were brought to hospitals, while 63% declined care. Chief Crispen and Chief Sloan are working on this issue. Beginning in October, ambulances will also be able to transport people to the Geary Stabilization Unit. Chief Sloan has reorganized CP rescue captains to cover neighborhood street teams, EMS-6, and CP-5. CP is participating in two research grants and trainings: Real world Examination of Naloxone for Drug Overdose Referral (RENDOR), and efficacy of bystander Narcan. Currently 83% of the time, a person received bystander Narcan before first responders' arrival. Thanks to a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant, CP held anti-stigma and de-escalation trainings. Future trainings include Buprenorphine administration, and criteria for 51/50 holds. Chief Pang's report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/3745/download?inline>.

Commissioner Low inquired if street conditions have improved over the last year. Chief Pang responded that more work needs to be done, but conditions are headed in the right direction. Commissioner Low offered the Fire Commission's support and asked if the Department can work with other agencies. Chief Pang responded that Chief Sloan has

been advocating for improving conditions and collaborating with law enforcement and other partners. Commissioner Low inquired if more shelters would help. Chief Pang responded that it is necessary to increase shelter bed capacity, and is currently being discussed.

Vice President Collins asked if future reports could include non-municipal nonprofit entities that collaborate with the Department. Chief Pang responded he will report back with that information.

Commissioner Low agreed with Vice President Collins, and inquired if other City partners were collaborating with the Department. Chief Pang responded that almost every City Department is involved: SFPD, Sheriff, Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH), Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City Attorney's office, and District Attorney's office. Commissioner Low inquired if one body or agency coordinates the different departments' response. Chief Pang responded that DEM has a coordinator that guides the neighborhood street teams.

Vice President Collins commented that neighborhood organizations, in addition to city street teams are effective, and that she is looking forward to more supportive housing.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Chief Pang for his report. He appreciated EMS' hard work, and inquired about the rate of cardiac arrest recoveries. Chief Pang responded that in August there was a 38% rate of cardiac arrest recoveries. Commissioner Morgan inquired if there were additional or enhanced trainings to avoid escalation and violence. Chief Pang responded that CP training is focused on de-escalation.

Commissioner Nakajo commented that homelessness, substance abuse, and mental health have been long standing issues for the last 20-30 years. There has been improvement, but it continues to be an issue in certain areas of San Francisco. Commissioner Nakajo is pleased at the Department's role in helping solve these issues. He thanked EMS members for being the frontline workers. Commissioner Nakajo commented that he is concerned that the Department may reach capacity in terms of time and financial investment.

President Fraser thanked Chief Pang for his report, and appreciated learning about the Narcan statistics. She looks forward to learning more about Droperidol for agitation, and the Ketamine versus Fentanyl study. President Fraser was pleased that bystander CPR is being taught, and commented that streets conditions have improved. She inquired how long people can stay at the Geary Stabilization Unit. Chief Pang responded that a stay is 23 hours maximum. People are encouraged to stay to avoid going back to the street. SFPD is also able to transport to the Geary Stabilization Unit.

There was no public comment.

5. Presentation on Lithium-Ion Batteries *[Discussion]*

Presentation from Deputy Chief of Operations, Patrick Rabbitt regarding lithium-ion battery storage and safety.

Chief Rabbitt reported that lithium-ion battery technology has been expanding to automobiles, large-scale battery storage systems and houses, and everyday consumer products such as phones, scooters, bicycles, and power tools. Thus, the Department has been responding to more lithium-ion battery fires. Hazards include the rapid release of toxic gases prior to a fire, and high heat release during a fire. Temperatures can reach up to 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Lithium-ion batteries can combust without oxygen present which complicates traditional water suppression techniques. The release of hydrogen gas is a potential explosion hazard, and reignition is possible up to 21-days post incident. Chiefs Crispen, Rabbitt, Hickey and Schwartz and members of Station 36 created a lithium-ion battery Training Bulletin. Lithium-ion batteries must be handled with the proper protective equipment such as structure fire gloves. An incident commander and hazardous materials specialist coordinate mitigation. The Department has issued five- and seven-gallon metal buckets with lids, non-conductive shovels, and 55-gallon double walled vented drums to contain the batteries. The Hazmat Unit also carries F-500 and Cell Block, special extinguishing agents. The Department works with DPW and DPH to store disposed lithium-ion batteries. A public awareness campaign is underway to educate SRO occupants. The Department is encouraging members to look for hazards and enforce lithium-ion battery storage codes. Chief Rabbitt's report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/3746/download?inline>.

Vice President Collins inquired if electric vehicles should park in garages. Chief Rabbitt responded that he and Fire Marshal Law are reviewing codes related to electrical upgrades needed for installing charging stations in garages.

Commissioner Low inquired why SROs are the first line of inspection. Chief Rabbitt responded that there are an increased number of lithium-ion battery incidents in SROs. The public awareness campaign will also be in non-English languages. Commissioner Low recommended having the campaign in Chinese.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Chief Rabbitt for his report. He inquired if suppression calls have decreased because there were more calls involving lithium-ion batteries and electric vehicles. Chief Rabbitt responded that with the increased federal funding of charging stations, there was an increase in incidents. Commissioner Morgan inquired if implementing a hazard tax might be helpful. Chief Rabbitt responded that they are working with DPW on cost recovery for these incidents as the special equipment and extinguishing agents are expensive.

President Fraser thanked Chief Rabbitt for his report and inquired about the cost of the special equipment and extinguishing agents. She also inquired if fire blankets are effective. Chief Rabbitt responded that the blankets can only be used one time and are about \$1800 each. Blankets are not as cost-effective as F-500 and Cell Block. The Department is also considering purchasing a wrecker which would quickly hook up a chain and pull out a hazard.

There was no public comment.

6. ADJOURNMENT

President Fraser adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.