

Fire Commission Regular Meeting

Minutes

August 12, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

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

The video of the [Regular Meeting, 8.12.26](#) is now available.

Vice President Low the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Secretary Aguas-Aclan announced that public comment would be modified to two minutes per person.

1. Roll Call

Title	Name	
President	Paula Collins	Excused
Vice President	Allan Low	Present
Commissioner	Stephen A. Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Armie Morgan	Present
Commissioner	Marcy Fraser	Present
Chief of Department	Dean Crispen	Present
Deputy Chief—Operations	Patrick Rabbitt	
Deputy Chief – Administration	Sayumi Brannan	
Deputy Chief—EMS and Community Paramedicine (CP)	Garreth Miller	
Support Services	James O’Connell	
Prevention	Chad Law	
Division of Training	Marc Kasper	
ESER Project Manager	Matthew Schwartz	
Workforce Development	Dustin Winn	
Assistant Deputy Chief, EMS	Emily Anderson	
Assistant Deputy Chief, CP	April Sloan	
Division 2	Matthew Lee	
Division 3	Michael I. Thompson	
Staff		
Public Information Officer	Mariano Elias	
Health Safety and Wellness	Matthew Alba	

Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement

Vice President Low read the land acknowledgment.

2. General Public Comment

Members of the public may address the Commission for up to two minutes on any matter within the Commission’s jurisdiction that does not appear on the agenda. Speakers shall address their remarks to the Commission as a whole and not to individual Commissioners or Department personnel.

Commissioners are not to enter into debate or discussion with a speaker. The lack of a response by the Commissioners or Department personnel does not necessarily constitute agreement with or support of statements made during public comment.

There was public comment from Del Seymour regarding the peer counselors peer counselors.

There was public comment from Amelia Harmon regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from female speaker Roxana regarding the peer counselors.

3. Approval of the Minutes [*Discussion and action*]

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on July 8, 2026.

Commissioner Fraser moved to approve the minutes from July 8, 2026, and Commissioner Morgan Seconded. Vice President Low, and Commissioners Nakajo and Morgan, 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 regular Fire Commission meeting on June 10, 2026, including budget, academies, special events, communications, and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Crispen attended the Tunnel to Towers Foundation event to display a piece of steel from the World Trade Center. The Foundation supports military and first responder families. Chief Crispen thanked Commissioners Collins and Fraser for attending this event. Chief Crispen plans to participate in a 5K race in New York City commemorating 9/11. Chief Crispen attended the One City Day event on July 11; a PG&E Behested Payment press conference; and a press event for the Autonomous Vehicles Emergency Response Coordination Act. Chief Crispen thanked PG&E for donating \$1.25 million towards a new fire engine. On July 30, Mayor Lurie signed the Department's two-year budget of \$16.9 million. Chief Crispen attended the Nihonmachi Street Fair; the 9/11 memorial Bike Ride event, and greeted the 138th Recruit Academy Class. Chief Crispen acknowledged Maxine Fasulis, a NERT volunteer honored by Supervisor Rafael Mandelman. Chief Crispen attended the American Legion Cathay Post Awards Banquet honoring Firefighter (FF) Joey Domeier, FF Jamin Perkins, and Lieutenant Michael Crehan for their actions during fire incidents. The Mayor signed the budget on July 30. Finance Director Mark Corso has already begun planning for next year's budget by reviewing revenue sources and operational functions. Director Corso has been working with the Controller's Office on the apparatus replacement plan. The \$80 million allocation will be held in reserve until the Department presents their apparatus allocation plan to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). Chief Crispen thanked Battalion Chief (BC) Matthew Alba and Lieutenant Carla Bisio for their work on PFAS free turnout coats and cancer screening program, respectively. The EMS Academy will begin in September, and is comprised of paramedics. Assistant Deputy Chief (ADC), Matthew Schwartz has been working on ESER Bond projects such as Station 7 and the new Division of Training site. Chief Crispen reported that Stations 7 and 40 construction will occur from late 2028 to 2030. Stations 2 and 8 construction is scheduled from 2030 to 2032. Station 13 is scheduled for construction from 2027 to 2030. ADC Schwartz will provide an update on water distribution at a future meeting. The Department met with SFPD and the Department of Recreation and Parks to discuss relocating the

fueling dock at Gashouse Cove to Hyde Street Pier. Chief Crispen's report is attached: [Chief's report](#).

Commissioner Fraser thanked Chief Crispen for his report. She enjoyed attending the Tunnels to Towers event and was pleased to learn about the apparatus funding and turnout coats. Commissioner Fraser thanked Paramedic Melody Mui for taking her friend with aspirations of becoming a firefighter/paramedic on a ride-a-long.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Chief Crispen for his report. He congratulated the Department for securing behested payments and a donation from PG&E for a fire engine. Commissioner Morgan inquired how much the Department received from PG&E, and the location of Station 13. Chief Crispen responded that the Department received \$1.25 million from PG&E. Station 13 is located on Sansome Street in the Financial District, but will be relocated to Battery Street.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Crispen for his report. He enjoyed learning about the Station rebuilding projects and the PG&E donation. Chief Crispen commented that Station 2, which was built in 1994, and serves Chinatown, North Beach, and the Financial District, is one of the newer stations to be rebuilt. Station 13, which also serves the same areas, will be completed before Station 2 so as not to disrupt service to the community.

Vice President Low inquired if the fueling station is moving from Gashouse Cove to Hyde Street Pier. Chief Crispen responded "yes." Hyde Street will be able to provide both gas and diesel, which was not an option at Gashouse Cove. The extraction point will be available on the west end of the Marina.

A caller on Webex raised their hand, but asked to comment on agenda item 7. There was no public comment.

Report From Administration, Deputy Chief Sayumi Brannan.

Report on the Administrative Divisions, Fleet and Facility status and updates, Finance, Support Services, and Homeland Security.

Chief Brannan reported that ADC Erica Brown in Homeland Security worked on the Carnival, Juneteenth, and Pride parades. She is working on air show safety for the upcoming Fleet Week in October. Homeland Security also worked on various FIFA activities in San Francisco such as pyro fire watch and radiation screening. Chief Brannan reported receiving positive feedback from the community for providing basic First Aid, hands-only CPR, and Stop the Bleed demonstrations. She acknowledged Lieutenant Hashim Anderson for his work on these outreach programs at events such as a San Francisco Giants game, and the Youth Career Academy. The Department is working with the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) on a program that would provide children these life-saving skills. As of June, the Department trained 1622 people in CPR and Stop the Bleed. There are three peer navigators in the field to help members. ADC Dustin Winn in Workforce Development has been working on career development, and an on-boarding packet for members. The Office of Employee Health (OEH) completed 55 return to work clearances; 45 end of probation/promotional exams; and two promotional exams. OEH provided healthy refreshments at the Jim Gallagher Interstation Run. The Investigative Services Bureau (ISB) conducted 92 pre-employment promotional and end of probation drug and alcohol tests. Moving forward, Assistant Chiefs will handle drug testing, while the Treasure Island (TI) training facility will handle health questionnaires. Captain Michael Pendergast has been developing a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) policy. ADC James O'Connell from Support Services completed 203 service requests, including 56 plumbing issues. Five new gurneys and loaders have been installed in ambulances. ADC of Earthquake Safety and Emergency

Response (ESER), Matt Schwartz, has been working on the new Division of Training (DOT) facility, including demolition, equipment selection, and civic design. Chief Brannan reported that 2026 ESER Bond projects will include Stations 2, 8, and 40. The Department is working with the Department of Public Works (DPW) on an MOU to administer the bond. 85 members retired this fiscal year. Chief Brannan's report is attached: [Chief Brannan's report](#).

Commissioner Fraser thanked Chief Brannan for her report, and was pleased to hear about the progress of the new DOT facility. Commissioner Fraser inquired about the frequency of drug testing. Chief Brannan responded that tests are administered both as needed and randomly. ISB conducts tests on members selected randomly.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Chief Brannan for her report, and commended members for their community outreach and training. He inquired how many people have received training. Chief Brannan responded that over 300 people have received training on Stop the Bleed and CPR. Various affinity groups have also done community outreach. Commissioner Morgan commended Lieutenant Anderson and EMT Alia Dong-Stewart for their work in the Community Outreach Recruitment Education (CORE) Committee.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Brannan for her report. He was pleased to learn about the recent retirements, and thanked those members for their Department service. Commissioner Nakajo thanked members for their work on the ESER Bond and in Support Services.

There was no public comment.

Brief Out Report from Operations, Deputy Chief Patrick Rabbitt

Summary on the Operational Divisions, including greater alarm fires, Bureau of Fire Prevention & Investigation, Training within the Department, and Airport Division since the last meeting on July 8, 2026.

Chief Rabbitt reported the Volare boat accident on July 14 began as a fire response, but transitioned to a marine rescue. Rescue Boats 2 and 35, Fireboat 3, and the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) Marine Unit responded. BC Daniel Molloy was the incident commander and Rescue Captain (RC) Michael Mason served as medical group supervisor. Chief Rabbitt reported that this rescue involved working with multiple agencies and organizations. The National Park Service at Fort Mason organized a family assistance center. Marine Units from SFPD, the Oakland Police, and the Southern Marin Fire Protection District; United States Coast Guard; American Medical Response (AMR) Ambulance Service; the Red Cross; SFPD Chaplain; and commercial fishing vessel Bass Tub also assisted with rescuing 17 people. Fireboat 3 assisted with recovery efforts of three additional victims. There was a greater alarm fire on August 6, at 865 Fillmore Street. Chief Rabbitt commended members from Trucks 5 and 6, and Engine 21 for extinguishing this fire.

Commissioner Fraser thanked Chief Rabbitt for his report. She expressed appreciation for members who responded to the Volare boat accident.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Chief Rabbitt for his report and thanked all the members who responded to the Volare boat accident and greater alarm fire on Fillmore Street.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Rabbitt for his report. He also thanked members for responding to the Volare boat accident and greater alarm fire on Fillmore Street.

There was no public comment.

5. Update on Community Assistance Recovery Empowerment (CARE) Court [Discussion]

Judge Russell Roeca and CARE Court Program Manager, Charlie Newcomb, LCSW, to provide an update on CARE Court issues affecting the San Francisco Fire Department.

Judge Roeca commented that he served as a Fire Commissioner for nine years with Commissioner Nakajo. He introduced his colleagues, Charles Newcomb and Alessandra Mowry. Judge Roeca reported that the CARE Court is part of the San Francisco Superior Court, and is the only civil collaborative court. CARE Court works with clients to provide housing, medical and dental care, psychiatric care, substance abuse care, financial benefits, peer support, and vocational assistance. CARE Court wishes to work with the Department by offering referrals through Mr. Newcomb and the Department of Public Health's (DPH) Behavioral Health Services. Mr. Newcomb reported that CARE Court is for clients that have significant mental health disorders such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder with psychotic features, or some other psychotic disorder. CARE Court clients obtain a referral or are petitioned by DPH. CARE Clients receive a case manager to help with the court appearance, and obtain permanent housing. The process takes approximately three months. CARE Court services are available for up to two years. Since the Department encounters people who may seek services, Mr. Newcomb offered to work with the Department on referring people to CARE Court. Judge Roeca reported that CARE Court clients participate voluntarily. Judge Roeca's report is attached: [Judge Roeca's report](#).

Commissioner Fraser thanked Judge Roeca and his colleagues for their presentation and learning about CARE Court. She inquired how the Department can work with CARE Court. Judge Roeca responded that Department members can contact his colleagues in Behavioral Health Services by phone or email for a referral.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Judge Roeca for his work in CARE Court. He asked how CARE Court currently receives referrals. Judge Roeca responded that clients are referred by family, friends, the Department of State Hospitals, and Jail Health Services. Commissioner Morgan inquired if the Street Crisis Response Team or peer counselors have referred people to CARE Court. Judge Roeca responded there were no referrals from the Department, but there were some referrals from peer counselors. Commissioner Morgan inquired how CARE Court is funded. Judge Roeca responded that the Care Act through the State of California funds CARE Court.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Judge Roeca for his report, and commented that they served on the Fire Commission together for eight years. Commissioner Nakajo hoped that the Department, in particular EMS and Community Paramedicine (CP), and CARE Court would be able to work together.

Vice President Low commented that he hopes the Department will explore the possibility of working with CARE Court. Judge Roeca commented that Behavioral Health Services is willing to work with the Department.

Chief Crispen thanked Judge Roeca for his presentation, and that the Department supports CARE Court's work. The EMS-6 unit and SCRT would be a good starting point.

There was no public comment.

6. Update on Sulforaphane Study [Discussion]

Dr. Jeff Burgess to present results of Sulforaphane Study commissioned by the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation (SFFCPF).

Dr. Burgess thanked the Fire Commission for the opportunity to present his research. He reported that the Firefighter Cohort Study had over 9000 participants from 33 states, and

over 200 Department members. The Sulforaphane Study is part of the Cohort Study. Dr. Burgess reported that Sulforaphane is found in high concentrations in broccoli, seeds, and sprouts. National cancer studies have shown that Sulforaphane's antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties have converted carcinogens such as benzene into a less toxic form in smokers. The study compared 48 members who took the Sulforaphane supplement with 37 members that did not take the supplement for approximately 3.5 months to observe potentially protective factors. Dr. Burgess reported a couple of primary outcomes: C-reactive protein which measures inflammation, and biological age. Sulforaphane treatment improved protective factors that could help firefighters reduce disease burden. Treatment also reduced blood lead level and biological age. Dr. Burgess commented that additional study is needed. Dr. Burgess' report is attached: [Dr. Burgess' report](#).

Commissioner Fraser thanked Dr. Burgess for his report. She was pleased to learn about the study, and inquired about the total number of participants. Dr. Burgess responded that 9000 people participated in the Firefighter Cancer Study. There were 200 participants from San Francisco. Commissioner Fraser looks forward to future updates.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Dr. Burgess for his report. He was pleased to learn about this study.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Dr. Burgess for his report. He looks forward to future updates on this study.

Vice President Low thanked Dr. Burgess for his report, and invited him to provide the Commission future updates.

There was no public comment.

7. Update on the Community Paramedicine (CP) Program [Discussion]

April Sloan, Assistant Deputy Chief of Community Paramedicine, to provide an update on the CP program.

Chief Crispin thanked peer counselors for their work with the SCRT over the last five years. Chief Crispin announced that the Department's decision to remove peer counselors reflects an operational decision. Community Paramedics' advanced training in behavioral health, substance abuse, de-escalation, and community-based interventions will help members provide support during incidents.

Assistant Deputy Chief (ADC) Sloan acknowledged the peer counselors, the Richmond Area Multi-Services (RAMS), the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), and DPH for their work with the Department. ADC Sloan reported that CP's mission is to connect people in the 9-1-1 system to care not provided in an emergency department (ED). Moving forward the CP will return to its core mission of stabilizing high utilizers with the SCRT. The team is comprised of a community paramedic and EMT, or two community paramedics. CP will continue to monitor outcome data for peer versus non-peer contacts. Operation hours have been adjusted to peak call volume: 5:00 a.m. to midnight. From midnight to 5:00 a.m., there is an average of one transport. Transports to alternative destinations or TAD, include the Geary Stabilization Unit (GSU) and the Sobering Center. Clinical and operational supervision will increase through the deployment of a shared service coordinator. This coordinator would work with outside agencies and submit referrals to places such as CARE Court. All captains remain available to external agencies as needed. ADC Sloan reported that GO A-64 outlines these changes. GO A-64 ensures members have access to CP trained members for mental health evaluations during off peak hours (midnight to 5:00 a.m.) as CP works with DPH to create training for all Department members.

Deputy Chief Garreth Miller reported that the changes to CP are intended to strengthen SCRT's quality of care. Allocating resources will maximize the Department's contribution to the City's effort to address behavioral health issues and quality of life. The Department will continue to work with partner agencies to carry out those goals.

Commissioner Morgan commented that there was a lot of public comment on the topic of peer counselors. He acknowledged that peer counselors have provided help to the Department. Commissioner was open to exploring if the Commission could consider a resolution regarding peer counselors. Vice President Low responded that the peer counselor agenda item was a discussion only item. Deputy City Attorney (DCA) Sarah Fabian commented that it was possible for peer counselors to be a future agenda item.

Commissioner Fraser thanked everyone for making public comment regarding peer counselors. She inquired about the data from incident distribution. Ms. Amelia Harmon responded the data was from 2025. Commissioner Fraser inquired if RAMS kept data on peer counselor calls. Vice President Low responded that public comment was closed. DCA Fabian responded that the Commission could invite the public to address Commissioner Fraser's question. Ms. Harmon responded that personal stories along with existing data collection systems show the value of peer counselors.

Commissioner Nakajo inquired if the peer counselor topic was a discussion item. Vice President Low responded yes. Commissioner expressed appreciation for people who made public comment. He commented that the Department expanded services beyond fire suppression and ambulance medical services, and implemented EMS-6 and SCRT to help address drug addiction, homelessness, and mental illness. Commissioner Nakajo expressed concern about members' workloads given the changes in operation time and staffing. Commissioner Nakajo was open to further evaluating the peer counselor program.

Chief Crispen thanked attendees for making public comment. He commented that peer counselors are from RAMS which is contracted by DPH. Chief Crispen commented that community paramedics have received 164 hours of training in de-escalation in trauma informed care. He is confident the current schedule is in the best interest of the Department.

Vice President Low inquired if this decision was made in consultation with other agencies such as the Drug Marker Agency Coordination Center (DMACC). Chief Miller responded that there is a larger discussion among other City departments to address street conditions, behavioral crisis and quality of life crisis. The Department is part of this discussion and the ongoing effort to address these issues. In consultation with other departments and the Fire Department made a decision regarding peer counselors. Vice President Low inquired if peer counselors could continue working in another agency. Chief Miller responded that was possible to deploy peer counselors elsewhere, and would require coordination with other agencies. Chief Miller commented that the Department does not hold the contract with peer counselors. Vice President Low inquired if SCRT is legislatively mandated. DCA Fabian responded no, and that SCRT is a city-wide policy decision in collaboration with different agencies. It is a programmatic choice which departments deploy policy decisions. Vice President asked Chief Miller if there is a reporting requirement for SCRT. ADC Sloan responded that there is no reporting mandate. SCRT originated with the Our City, Our Home program (formerly the Mental Health SF Working Group), and it reports to the State.

Commissioner Fraser inquired if DPH funds peer counselors, and originates from a Federal grant. ADC Sloan responded that CP receives some funding from Proposition C, an ongoing, local business tax. Commissioner Fraser inquired if the funds go directly to RAMS. Chief Miller responded that the Department does not have purview over that aspect. ADC Sloan responded that DPH administers the RAMS contract and the Department collaborates with RAMS.

Vice President Low inquired if it was possible to measure outcomes and evaluate data to ensure the right decision is made. ADC Sloan responded that regular reports to the Commission that measure outcomes, informed the decision. Vice President Low thanked

the public for their feedback. He commented that he deferred to the Department in terms of staffing and coordination.

ADC Sloan commented that none of the calls in 2020 went back to law enforcement. In 2022, the Department transitioned to EMD, meaning calls went through the call center, with a dispatcher determining who is deployed.

There was public comment from Angela Tang CEO of Richmond Area Multi-Services (RAMS) regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from peer counselor Michael regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from Maura Chong regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from Hasian Sinaga of RAMS regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from peer counselor Jennifer Pumpetch regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from Miguel Leyva of RAMS regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from Richard Zevin regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from Dale Seymour regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from peer counselor Chantal regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from Collette Hughes regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from peer counselor Julio regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from peer counselor Quan Nguyen regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from Steven Leeda from RAMS regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from peer counselor Ricardo Cisneros regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from male speaker Jeff regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from Ida Poberezovsky regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from Liza Murowski from RAMS regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from male speaker Kevin from RAMS regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from Natalie Tualemoso Ah Soon of RAMS regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from and unnamed female speaker from RAMS regarding the peer counselors.

There was public comment from Amelia Harmon regarding the peer counselors.

There was remote public comment from Dr. Lynn Rivas of the California Association of Mental Health Peer Run Organization regarding the peer counselors.

There was remote public comment from John McCormick from the Chinatown Community Development Center regarding the peer counselors.

There was remote public comment from Samuel Jain from Disability Rights California regarding the peer counselors.

There was remote public comment from Nicole Chilton from Axis California regarding the peer counselors.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.