

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE COMMISSION

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Thursday, December 17, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.
698 Second Street, Room 102

The audio recording has been uploaded to the FC Website at:
http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=133&clip_id=24351

President Evans called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM.

1. ROLL CALL

Commission President	Andrea Evans	Present
Commission Vice President	Francee Covington	Present
Commissioner	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Michael Hardeman	Present
Commissioner	Ken Cleaveland	Present
Chief of Department	Joanne Hayes-White	Present
Ray Guzman	Deputy Chief – Administration	
Dan DeCossio	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Richard Brown	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Raemona Williams	Division of Training	
Tony Molloy	EMS	
Assistant Chiefs		
Bryan Rubenstein	Division 2	
Tom Siragusa	Division 3	
Staff		
Mark Corso	CFO	
Jesusa Bushong	Personnel Officer	

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Petrelis, transparency activist, expressed his concerns about first responder privilege. He mentioned an incident he caught on tape in which a Deputy was in his vehicle allegedly creating a hazard at Van Ness and Market when he pulled into a bus zone. He also mentioned his disappointment about how the Department handled his complaint. He suggested that the Department employ an outside agency to conduct investigations of employee wrongdoing rather than investigating themselves.

Spike Kahn, introduced herself and stated that she just got a little award for being a Good Samaritan by housing one of the victims of the rolling stock fire that was at 16th and South Van Ness in the Mission District. She talked about her concern with recent fires in the Mission District and the lack of smoke alarms. She further expressed her concerns that there seems to be too many fires, especially in the Google bus area where prices are going up as soon as tenants get evicted. It seems to her like arson and she asked if the Department is looking into this as

potential arson when low income tenants are getting displaced and the buildings are getting sold to multi-billionaire investors who are then going to put in million dollar condos. She wanted to know what the Department's plans are to start investigating what's going on and if there are results.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- a. Minutes from the Special Meeting on December 3, 2015.

Commissioner Hardeman Moved to approve the December 3, 2015 Special meeting Minutes. Commissioner Cleaveland Seconded. Motion to approve above Minutes was unanimous.

- b. Minutes from the Regular Meeting on November 19, 2015

Commissioner Hardeman Moved to approve the November 19, 2015 regular meeting Minutes. Commissioner Cleaveland Seconded. Motion to approve above Minutes was unanimous.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commission Secretary read the following announcement:

Starting in January of 2016, Fire Commission Meetings will be held at City Hall, 1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl, San Francisco, CA 94102, on the 2nd Wednesday of the Month starting at 9:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 416, and the 4th Wednesday of the Month starting at 5:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 400.

Public Comment: Michael Petrelis stated he is glad the meetings are moving to City Hall. He suggested that the Department do some outreach to the general public to let everyone know the meetings are going to be changing, and to have the public information officer get that word out.

5. RESOLUTION 2015-11 REQUESTING DISBURSEMENT OF \$146,500.00 FOR REPAIRS TO APPARATUS FOR THE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION FROM THE WILLMANN TRUST [Discussion and possible action]

Discussion and possible action regarding a request for the expenditure of funds from the Willmann Trust related to the SFFD's 150th Anniversary.

Commission Vice President Covington Moved to approve Resolution 2015-11. Commissioner Hardeman Seconded. Motion to approve Resolution was unanimous.

6. CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT [Discussion]

REPORT FROM CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

Report on current issues, activities and events within the Department, including Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budgets.

Chief Hayes-White's report covered activities since the last meeting on December 3rd. She noted that this will be our final meeting at San Francisco Fire Department Headquarters and will close that part of our history and she looks forward to new meetings, new opportunities over at City Hall next year beginning January 13th, 9:00 a.m. Room 416. Related to the budget, she announced that the budget instructions given on December 2nd call for a one and a half percent reduction in years 2016-17 and 2017-18, across all departments. She continued that there was a meeting that Mark Corso, CFO, convened with the Budget Committee and she was able to attend some of it and she conveyed her appreciation that Commissioner Cleaveland was able to be there. She anticipates that at the meeting on January 13, 2016, Mr. Corso will be providing instructions, timelines, and seeking approval of the Capital Budget. She added that on January

27, 2016, for the Commissions consideration, a discussion on overall budget submittals, which is typically what needs to be submitted the third week in February.

Chief Hayes-White was happy to report that the 118th graduation will occur tomorrow at Balboa High School, 10:00 a.m. and she looks forward to everyone attending. There are 45 new members of the Department, eight of which are coming from Station 49 and the remaining are coming from off of the eligibility list. She added that she is very proud to say that it is a diverse group of graduates that proudly reflects the community, 20 percent are women and 60 percent are people of color. There are multiple languages that are spoken, as well as a number of veterans that have served our country. She went on to acknowledge Assistant Deputy Chief Williams and her staff for their good work and stated that it is quite a commitment and a sacrifice.

She announced that Chief Guzman has requested to be reassigned to his Battalion Chief position in the field and will be transitioning next month. She has selected Assistant Deputy Chief Williams to take over for Deputy Chief Guzman and that transition is ongoing and will take place next month. She added that they have advertised for the Director of Training position. The person that is selected will not have much time to sit in the seat before having a new class, because there will be a new class coming on January 25th that will be the 119th class of which we are targeting 54 recruits with 12 coming from Station 49 and 42 off the eligible list.

Chief Hayes-White announced that they do have a candidate for the nurse practitioner position. She is finishing her education requirements and is also working on her thesis and has agreed to initially come on board part-time to assist when the doctor may be off or during peak periods on a part-time basis in January, February and hopefully in March we'll be able to transition her to a full-time position.

She also announced that Firefighter Paramedic Jonathan Baxter will officially start as the full time Public Information Officer on January 18, 2016.

Chief Hayes-White stated that they selected two members to fill the EMS 6 positions and those are positions that will be 12-hour shifts working in the downtown corridor and working collaboratively with DPH in identifying high frequency users in the 9-1-1 system to see what service best suits them.

Chief Hayes-White stated that they continue to look for common ground with Local 798 related to the supervisory model at Station 49 and she will provide a detailed layout of why they feel a 12-hour shift for the supervisory model is much more efficient and much more in line with what they hope to achieve in terms of goals.

She added that they locked in the 44 million dollars for the 2016 Health Bond and Assistant Deputy Chief Lombardi is overseeing that.

She went on to acknowledge acting Assistant Chief Kevin Smith, and acting Assistant Chief Charlie Crane in Division 3 who were in attendance tonight.

Chief Hayes-White acknowledged all of the Commissioners for their support and participation in the meritorious ceremony on December 8th. They received a lot of positive comments about the ceremony, and in particular related to the awards given for the excellent job responding to Asiana Airline incident back in July of 2013.

Chief Hayes-White commented that Commissioner Cleaveland met this morning with Fire Marshal DeCossio regarding fires in the Mission District and she wanted to remind everyone that in March they reported before the Public Safety Committee and presented a very extensive overview of fires not just the Mission District, but they broke it down by supervisorial district fires and trends over the last five years. It was a great report but needs refreshing and at the end of this month they'll be able to capture all the 2015 data. She added that every fire that is a

greater alarm if the incident commander cannot determine the immediate cause, is always assigned to an arson trained fire investigator or two, to determine the cause in the area of origin.

Chief Hayes-White acknowledged that Mr. Hernandez has reached out to the Commission and has requested that there be a Commission meeting in the Mission District and that both Deputy Chief Gonzalez and she have reached out to him via phone. They have not heard back from him, but they will continue to, on an informal basis, talk to him about the trends that they are seeing. She added that she told Ms. Kahn, she would personally call her. Chief Hayes-White added that she also went on a radio show with Marcos Gutierrez on his Spanish station in the city about three weeks ago and talked about the fires in the city, specifically Mission District. She also acknowledged meeting with Supervisor Campos on the issue of fires in the Mission District and if the neighbors feel that they want more information, certainly the Fire Marshal would be open to that. The Arson Investigation Reports are public records and in a few weeks, working with IT, the public will have the ability to be able to type in an address and look at notices of violations and notices of corrections. There are certainly fires that are suspicious but another sort of phenomenon that we're seeing because of the issues of real estate in the City is when you go into some of these buildings, whether it's in the Mission District or in the City in general, spaces that are meant to be closet spaces, dining rooms, or non-sleeping areas, they've been modified so that more people are staying in these units and that's a challenge in and of itself. When you have more people staying in units that are meant for two or three people, it's causing overloading of the circuits and frayed wires. She stated that they are happy to work with the community to spread that message.

Vice President Covington thanked the Chief for her report and asked if Chief DeCossio could give a more complete overview of what's going on in the Mission. Chief DeCossio responded as follows:

Just recently, as this morning I asked our Arson Investigation Unit to run the numbers for data from the past four years for structure fires in the Mission and if you look at the numbers, they're relatively consistent. There's a little bit of a spike this year, but if you look at the numbers, for example, this year we've had 20 structure fires. 2014, again in the Mission, 15 structure fires. In 2013, 18. And 2012 -- 2012, 12. So it does fluctuate up and down but it's relatively consistent. Also I've looked at those investigations that have been closed out, the cause of the fires. The majority of them are due to electrical, accidental, or at this point undetermined. So as far as knowing whether they're arson or not, I'm not ready to go there yet. We do have focus on this and we are tracking this. Part of our community outreach when we go and give fire safety talks, is we're going to break down fires from each community, and we'll have that data when we go out and we can discuss these fires and the causes for those that have been determined accidental and come up with advice and recommendations, best practice and safe practices to prevent these fires.

Vice President Covington asked Chief DeCossio for feedback on how things are going in terms of the previous backlog in arson investigations. Chief DeCossio explained the overall backlog is down to 325 from a high of 407, and it's trending in the right direction He added that you must keep in mind, as they reduce these numbers, they are investigating new fires. Vice President Covington asked Chief DeCossio if he could touch upon the smoke detector giveaways. Chief DeCossio explained that they go out and conduct safety talks, they bring smoke alarms with them and donate about 700 per year. He added that they are still trying to figure out the best way to expand the offer to the various communities. Vice President Covington expressed her desire as part of the outreach efforts that they recruit people to be trained for NERT, especially in the Mission and Bayview and have further discussion pertaining to this issue.

Commissioner Cleaveland thanked Fire Marshal DeCossio for meeting with him this morning and was gratified to hear that the statistics that are coming out are saying that there are no more fires in the Mission than any other part of the City. He suggested that they were getting more

press coverage because of perhaps the fears of gentrification. He added that it's important that the community understands what is causing these fires and he thinks that the new public information officer would come up with the top 10 reasons why you might have a fire at your home so they understand preventing fires is basically their job as residents and tenants. He suggested getting that information out in as many different languages as possible.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief DeCossio. He also thanked Chief Hayes-White and Chief Gonzales for reaching out to Mr. Hernandez. He also mentioned that he supported the concept that we take advantage of our meetings at City Hall and that for him it's part of history as he leaves Headquarters on 2nd Street and he remembers when the Commission Room was built. He confirmed with Mark Corso that the meetings at City Hall have been budgeted for the 2016 year. He commented that the reason we have these new dates and times are through the advocacy of the Commissioners and also the cooperation of the San Francisco Police Commission and DPW that allowed us to have those meeting times.

President Evans thanked Chief DeCossio for this report and asked if the data that he pulled together could be broken out a bit further. Particularly going back more than 3 years and delineating between residential and commercial buildings. Chief DeCossio replied that he could. President Evans also supported public safety messaging and outreach to groups in neighborhoods and suggested it be a multi-pronged approach to really reach people. She asked Chief DeCossio if the Department could conduct random inspections of buildings. Chief DeCossio answered they can be random and if they can't gain access, they reach out to the owner and set up an appointment to inspect the common areas. They do not have access to the individual units. President Evans commented that it's helpful to know that in those buildings the Department's control is the common areas only, and the fires aren't happening in the common areas, they are happening in the peoples units. She suggested figuring out a way to get this information out community.

Commissioner Hardeman expressed his disappointment with the news that the Department was asked to cut 1.5 percent from their budget. He further commented on the nurse practitioner position and the two new recently filled EMS 6 positions. He also commented on the meritorious awards ceremony and how he enjoyed the event.

President Evans stated her delight with the filling of the recruitment coordinator position and the EMS 6 positions. She also expressed her delight that the 44 million dollars is locked in for Station 49 and asked about funding for furnishings. Mark Corso explained how the funding will work to furnish the Station once it is built. She went on to congratulate Chief Williams on her promotion to CD-3.

Commissioner Cleaveland asked Dr. Yah where the new EMS 6 employees will be posted. Dr. Yah stated that they will work out of Station 49 and will be concentrating on the Civic Center Plaza area for the most part.

Public Comment:

Michael Petrelis wanted a written version of the Chief's report in addition to her verbal presentation. He also stated he would like to advocate that regarding addressing fires in the Mission should be presented at City Hall where it will be aired on TV and people who aren't at the meetings can tune in any time and it will get more people from the community down to City Hall rather than going out to the Mission District. He also suggested getting every incident report that is filed after a fire online for public access.

Unidentified Male who is part of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter American Red Cross spoke regarding the smoke alarm program. He stated that volunteers from the Red Cross went door to door after the February 2015 fourth alarm fire and checked peoples smoke alarms and helped with installation and identification of escape routes.

Chief Hayes-White responded that they have entered into a partnership with the American Red Cross for detectors and have been to a few different neighborhoods and they hope to continue the partnership into 2016. She went on to personally thank Chief Guzman for his dedication during his entire career with the Department, but specifically since 2012 when he took over as CD-3.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Report on the Administrative Divisions, Fleet and Facility status, Finance and Support Services within the Department.

Deputy Chief Guzman reported on the month of December 2015.

He stated that Support Services Division continues to work very hard on the ESER projects. He announced that Joe Barbero is returning to the field and Captain Steve Macfarlane will take his place. He also announced that James Reidy was appointed as the new Water Supply Officer who will be the liaison between the Department and PUC. He touched on projects that were taking place at various facilities within the Department.

Chief Guzman announced that the Division of Training was gearing up for the graduation of the 118th recruit academy which will be held tomorrow at Balboa High School. He discussed the 2 day trial assessment project for members of Station 49 that they have worked with Local 798 to develop and impliment.

He thanked Vice President Covington for attending the Annual Fire Reserves Christmas dinner at Izzy's Steakhouse. He also thanked Chief Francisco of the Division Homeland Security for attending and participating in Super Bowl 50 tabletop exercises and the Executive Committee meeting for UASI.

With regard to Investigative Services Bureau, he mentioned that Acting Captain Sheila Hunter has been busy conducting backgrounds for the 119th academy. She conducted 10 random drug and alcohol tests, four of which were conducted on nights and weekends. He touched briefly on updates for the Fireboat.

Vice Present Covington thanked Chief Guzman for his service. There was discussion on the UASI Grant due January 15, 2016 that would consist of 23 units of hydraulic rescue tools.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Guzman for his service and dedication to the Department and acknowledged that it is a challenging position.

Commissioner Hardeman sated he was going to miss Chief Guzman as he was always so available and good at keeping the Commission updated on what was happening within his realm.

President Evans also expressed her appreciation for the service provided by Chief Guzman and she commended him for digging in and getting the fireboat back on track as well as for always being available. They touched briefly on the letter from the industrial hygienist and her findings at the Airport facility and she asked that the Commission be informed of any developments.

Chief Guzman thanked everyone he worked with while he was CD-3. He acknowledged that he liked to be able to go out and make new relationships, partnerships and advocate and to be an ambassador for the Department. He thanked each Commissioner for their support.

7. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE **[Discussion]**

Chief Hayes-White invited David Ebarle of DEM to join her on updating the Commission on the 150th Anniversary Committee. They touched on the following highlights:

- Meeting on December 4, 1025, pre-finance committee meeting and regular meeting.
- Continued to refine and make sure they are planning events that they are able to manage and fund.
- Decided to plan and execute events all the way, nothing halfway.
- Plans may need to be scaled back so they are realistic and can be properly enjoyed by all.
- Discussion with CEO, Mr. Johnson of the Chronicle. He verbally agreed they would be the Department's media partner.
- Discussed using MTA vehicles to highlight/advertise various events.
- Unveiling of the Academy of Art logos. Acknowledged Mindy Talmadge and Dave Ebarle for the dedication overseeing this project through the course of the semester working under the direction of Tom McNulty and Phil Hamlet of Academy of Art, along with Dr. Lisa Stevens. The students embraced the concept of design, graphics and website development for the 150th festivities.

Chief Hayes-White described how the art contest worked as follows: The students were given access at different stations, Station 16, Station 18, they rode on the fireboat, to get a flavor of the Fire Department and interact with some of our members, active and retired. The students are very reflective of their city. Very diverse. English is a second language for many of them. They're extremely talented. So my small part was spending the afternoon on the 10th with Mindy and Dave and the entire class, about 30 students. They split into two groups, two teams, and our goal was to select one team's design. It was very difficult to do. I returned on Monday this week to announce our selections. We had two teams, Team COIT and Team Pacific. They came up with different design guidelines, which we're going to use both of, but we did pick Team COIT's design for next year's 150th celebration. I can't thank the Academy of Art enough for taking this on as a project. I see it as a win win. Dr. Stevens was delighted because it was a great experience for the students. And then to have us come in and be sort of the judges after they gave the presentations, that was basically their final last week. But some of their ideas are wonderful. We've already embraced the logo that a graduate student has come up with and we intend to use into the New Year. The design of what's in the book, their theme is "Celebrate like it's 1866." Very clever.

Chief Hayes-White shared the portfolios with the Commission.

Mr. Ebarle added how they have been reaching out to retired members, and bringing members Larry Yup and Mike Day on board to help with fund raising issues. The goal is to get the entire San Francisco Fire Department on board and involved with the events and celebrations. He added that Vice President Covington has been very good at keeping him on task. He touched on the meeting with the Mayor's Chief of Staff and with Charlotte Schultz and ideas to get funding. He also described the concept of the mobile history unit.

The Commissioners all stated their appreciation for the amazing work from the students at the Academy of Art.

President Evans suggested sending a thank you letter to the participants at Academy of Art that supported this effort.

8. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENTS OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
[Discussion]

Chief Hayes-White stated that at the last meeting they broke off into subcommittees consisting of organizational structure, career development, health and wellness, EMS operations, suppression operations, facilities and equipment; partnerships in community engagement, communications, technology, and revenue opportunities. Those subcommittees are supposed to get a draft of their goals in by January 12, 2016 and the next meeting is January 21, 2016. She added that they have taken a look at many other strategic plans and they collaboratively agree that Seattle and LA City models are good templates to work off of. They discussed getting the document out to the field for feedback before it is finalized. She added that the target date for completion is spring of 2016.

9. AGENDA FOR NEXT FIRE COMMISSION MEETING [Discussion]

Discussion regarding agenda for the January 13, 2016 regular meeting.

- Fire Department's Capital Budget
- Fire Commission Elections
- Report from Fire Marshal

10. ADJOURNMENT

President Evans adjourned the meeting at 6:13 PM.