

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

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**Wednesday, March 28, 2018 – 5:00 p.m.  
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400, San Francisco, California, 94102**

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The Video can be viewed by clicking this link:

[http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=180&clip\\_id=30131](http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=30131)

President Cleaveland called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Commission President	Ken Cleaveland	Excused
Commission Vice President	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Michael Hardeman	Present
Commissioner	Francee Covington	Present
Commissioner	Joe Alioto Veronese	Present
Chief of Department	Joanne Hayes-White	Present
Mark Gonzales	Deputy Chief – Operations	
Jeanine Nicholson	Deputy Chief --Administration	
Dan De Cossio	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Tony Rivera	Support Services	
Michael Cochrane	Homeland Security	
Andy Zanoft	EMS	
Joel Sato	Division of Training	
Assistant Chiefs		
Kevin Burke	Division 2	
Tom Siragusa	Division 3	
Staff		
Mark Corso	Deputy Director of Finance	
Olivia Scanlon	Communications and Outreach	

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on March 14, 2018.

Commissioner Covington made a short amendment to the minutes to add a sentence on page 5, paragraph 3 as to how the issue came to light. Commissioner Veronese Moved to approve the above meeting Minutes as amended. Commissioner Hardeman Seconded. Motion to approve above Minutes as amended was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

**4. CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT [Discussion]**

**REPORT FROM CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT, JOANNE HAYES-WHITE**

Report on current issues, activities and events within the Department since the Fire Commission meeting on February 14, 2018, including budget, academies, special events, communications and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Hayes-White reported on events since the last meeting on March 14, 2018. Chief Hayes-White stated that in regards to the budget, she shared copies of the presentation she presented before the Budget and Finance Committee on March 15, 2018, and she thanked Mr. Corso for assisting her with the materials. She described the new procedures that Supervisor Cohen has outlined for chairing the Budget and Finance Committee which includes breaking down the different budget priorities into four categories which are; public safety, clean streets, homelessness and affordable housing. They plan on presenting one more time during the week of April 9, 2018.

With regards to the Division of Training, Chief Hayes-White mentioned that 42 members were welcomed into the 124<sup>th</sup> academy class and they will be joined by 12 members from Station 49 in two weeks. She wished Chief Sato well in his first class he's overseeing as the Director of Training. Chief Hayes-White summarized the activities she participated in during the reporting period including the St. Patrick's Day Parade, the annual United Fire Service Women's meeting, the monthly labor-management meeting with Local 798; and the SPUR Good Government Award ceremony where they acknowledged IT manager Jesus Mora. She touched briefly on the roundtable meeting involving other city agencies pertaining to the autonomous vehicles that may be traveling the streets of San Francisco in the near future. She asked that the meeting be adjourned in the memory of retired Battalion Chief Mark Groshong.

Commissioner Veronese asked that in regards to the autonomous vehicles that if she feels that some major issues that she doesn't think are being addressed, to please notify the commission so they can be a second voice with those concerns.

There was no public comment.

**REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION, DEPUTY CHIEF JEANINE NICHOLSON**

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

Chief Nicholson reported on events for the month of February 2018. She confirmed that the 124<sup>th</sup> academy class started Monday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of March and that Chief of Training, Joel Sato is up and running. She added that they selected Captain Theresa Quan to replace Chief Sato's vacant position. She stated that they have also had 11 permanent promotions and 28 acting promotions. Chief Nicholson described various in-service trainings that took place during the month of February. She touched on NERT, the Physician's Office, Investigative Service Bureau, Support Services and Homeland Security. She announced that they have selected two acting H-32's who will work closely with Assistant Deputy Chief Rivera in terms of projects with MTA and developers in the city that involve the Department. She mentioned that they are currently working with the artists that have been selected to submit artwork for the new

Ambulance Deployment Facility's outside area. She also mentioned that both the sprinter ambulances are out on the street undergoing evaluations by different crew members each week.

Commissioner Covington asked for more information about the artists and the artwork that's being proposed. Chief Nicholson explained that the artwork is for both of the fences that lead into the ADF and the Arts Commission is involved because two percent of every new construction in the city is earmarked for art and the Arts Commission basically asks for submissions from artists who are interested and the department goes through a selection process with them. Commissioner Covington confirmed that the two new positions in Prevention are new positions and they worked with MTA and the developers to obtain funding, so it's not coming out of the department's budget. Chief Hayes-White added that the funding is indefinite and it will be something that they will have to lobby for going forward. Commissioner Covington also confirmed that Chief Cochrane's position is federally grant funded.

Commissioner Hardeman thanked Chief Nicholson for her report and was glad to hear about all of the promotions and he asked to be kept up to date on the artwork for the new ADF.

Commissioner Veronese asked who decides what pieces of art get accepted. Chief Nicholson responded that it is a collaborative decision between the Department and the Arts Commission. Chief Hayes-White added that the panel that was referred to was only to pick the 5 finalists to submit their artwork, but the decision on what art pieces are used, is the Department's decision.

There was no public comment.

##### **5. DISCUSSION ON HOW FIREFIGHTERS ASSESS THE PLAN OF ATTACK ON A WORKING FIRE [Discussion]**

Deputy Chief of Operations, Mark Gonzales to explain how firefighters assess the plan of attack on a working fire.

Chief Gonzales described in detail how firefighters assess the plan of attack on a working fire by stating the following: "it is a very comprehensive subject, how firefighters and incident commanders assess the plan of attack on a working fire. Structure fires are very dynamic incidents that require in most cases, a complex decision matrix within one's head. Fire ground decisions are made based on experience, training, resources available, building construction type, occupancy type, smoke conditions, fire conditions, building access, street access for apparatus, size of the structure, roof type exposures, time of day, weather conditions, topography. Dispatch information you receive over the radio and the MDT. On scene occupants give you info. Often times, that is vital information, or a building under construction or renovation, as we experienced on Union Street. And also, ADC Rivera's favorite subject, obstacles such as overhead wires, Muni wires, it all comes into account when you make that decision." He went on to cite pointers that were in the Risk Management manual as well as went over the Rules of Engagement for Firefighter Survival.

Commissioner Veronese thanked Chief Gonzales for his presentation. He confirmed that there is a lot that goes into fighting fires, and a lot of these decisions are made on the ground when you've got your feet in the water and you're facing the fire. He acknowledged being at the fire on March 17, 2018, to observe the members who were at the fire and he stated that the attack on that fire was like a well-orchestrated opera. He commended Chief Gonzales, Chief Hayes-

White and all of the members of the command staff that were there, as well as the members of the Department that went face to face with that fire. He also thanked the fire reserves. He mentioned the fine work of the SFPD who were on scene. He confirmed that the Department arrived on scene just under two minutes and had water on the fire within six minutes.

Commissioner Covington stated that she asked that this item be put on the agenda to take advantage of every opportunity available to educate the public and fellow citizens as to how the members of the Department do their job and hopefully there will be less chance of confusion going forward. She mentioned that at the March 17, 2018 fire, there was no loss of life, and all members were able to return home. She added that she thinks it is really incumbent upon all of us to understand that there is a very classic system of how to fight a fire and it is not something that people develop on the fire ground. She asked for more information on how they measure the force of water coming out of the hoses and Chief Gonzales explained it has to do with hose size; whether they use large hose streams, small hose streams, or deck guns. He added that it also depends on whether they are attacking offensively or defensively. She confirmed that there were 130 members and approximately 40 apparatus at the March 17, 2018, 4 alarm fire. She commended the Chief for being extremely active at that fire and that it seemed everyone did what they were supposed to do and everyone is safe as a result.

Commissioner Hardeman stated he was watching the March 17, 2018 fire on the news and commented that he thought that the leadership of the Fire Department was saying all the right things in response to comments being made. He mentioned that as Commissioners, you don't tell people what to do and he thinks that people in other government positions that have strong authority should take that into consideration. He concluded by stating he was very proud of the way everybody handled themselves at that fire.

Vice President Nakajo thanked Chief Gonzales for his report and appreciated the education level it brought. He added that as a commissioner he knows that he can respond to fires, and that it's their protocol whether it's a one alarm, two alarms, three alarms or four alarms and what is great about that is that they learn and observe and see how the men and women in the department handle the incident as well as how the command staff deals with it. He knows there's a whole lot of stuff going on at the same time and one of the things he learned right away was to be attentive, don't get in the way and keep your ears open.

There was no public comment.

**6. RESOLUTION 2018-01 [Discussion and possible action]**

Resolution acknowledging the heroic efforts displayed by the members of the SFPD who responded to the 4 Alarm fire on March 17, 2018 at 659 Union Street.

Vice President Nakajo asked Commissioner Veronese to introduce the resolution.

Commissioner Veronese stated that he asked for this item to be put on the agenda because having been at the scene the night of March 17, 2018, and recognizing the heroics of the members of the Department, the leadership of the Chief and her command staff and everybody down the line previously mentioned and because it was an extraordinary fire, he wanted to formally acknowledge all first responders.

Chief Hayes-White thanked Commissioner Veronese and stated that she appreciates the acknowledgment for the work on this fire, and stated they don't get a lot of fourth and fifth alarms and that's because of the great work that the members do each and every day.

Commissioner Veronese read the amended Resolution into the record.

Commissioner Covington Moved to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Hardman Seconded. Motion to approve the Resolution as amended was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

**7. COMMISSION REPORT [Discussion]**

Report on Commission activities since last meeting on March 14, 2018

Commissioner Covington thanked Commissioner Nakajo for inviting her to the Japan Center 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony and she stated it was a wonderful gathering and celebration and it was a pleasure to be a part of it.

Vice President Nakajo reported that on March 20, 2018 there was a meeting with The Guardians of City to follow-up on comments that the Guardian made at the last Commission meeting that he attended. At the March 20, 2018 they talked about improving communications and coordination between the Department and the Guardian with regards to the recent towing of the antique rigs to Treasure Island, the shrink wrap of the rigs in terms of security and preservation and reimbursement for the cost of the towing and wrap. They also discussed completing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Guardians. The final concept they covered was the need for a committee to work together to find a "permanent" location for the antique rigs. Vice President Nakajo also congratulated Jesus Mora who was the SPUR Award winner for good employee representing the Department.

There was no public comment.

**8. AGENDA FOR NEXT AND FUTURE FIRE COMMISSION MEETINGS [Discussion]**

Discussion regarding agenda for the April 11, 2018 and future regular meetings.

Vice President Nakajo stated with no suggestions, the Commission will go into the next regular meeting with a report from Operations and the Chief's report.

There was no public comment.

**9. ADJOURNMENT 12. ADJOURNMENT**

President Cleaveland adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m. in memory of retired Battalion Chief Mark Groshong.