

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE COMMISSION

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

OCTOBER 8, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.
698 Second Street, Room 102

The audio file has been uploaded onto the Fire Commission Website at:
http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=133&clip_id=23892

President Andrea Evans called the meeting to order at 4:05 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
Mark Gonzales	Deputy Chief – Operations	
Ray Guzman	Deputy Chief – Administration	
Jeff Myers	EMS	
Ken Lombardi	Support Services	
Shane Francisco	Homeland Security	
Dan De Cossio	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Dale Carnes	Airport Division	
Raemona Williams	Division of Training	
Assistant Chiefs		
Jose Velo	Division 2	
Kirk Richardson	Division 3	
Staff		
Clement Yeh	EMS Medical Director	
Mark Corso	CFO	
Jesusa Bushong	Human Resources	

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 Regular Meeting on September 10, 2015
- Minutes from Special Meeting on September 24, 2015

Commissioner Cleaveland moved to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Hardeman seconded. Motion to Adopt Minutes was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

4. RESOLUTION 2015-09 [Discussion and possible action]

Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution 2015-09, recommending that the Board of Supervisors authorize the San Francisco Fire Department to accept and expend a SAFER grant from FEMA in the amount of \$8,221,860 for the hiring of thirty-six new firefighters.

Resolution 2015-09 is attached: <http://sf-fire.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=4146>

CFO Mark Carso explained the Resolution in detail. Questions and answers ensued. Commission Secretary Conefrey read the Resolution into the record.

Motion to approve Resolution 2015-09 was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

5. RESOLUTION 2015-10 [Discussion and possible action]

Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution 2015-10, recommending that the Board of Supervisors approve the gift and authorize the Chief of the Fire Department to accept the gift of \$350,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Osher for use by the San Francisco Fire Department to purchase two new ambulances; and that the Fire Commission and Fire Department extend their gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Osher for the generous gift to the City and County of San Francisco in support of the Fire Department and public safety.

Resolution 2015-10 is attached: <http://sf-fire.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=4145>

CFO Mark Carso explained the Resolution in detail. Questions and answers ensued. Commission Secretary Conefrey read the Resolution into the record.

Motion to approve Resolution 2015-10 was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

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 budget.

Chief Hayes-White's report covered the period since the last meeting on September 24, 2015. She went on to acknowledge Mr. Corso who diligently worked on the finalization and close out of last fiscal year's budget, as well as coming up with a hiring plan and matrix for filling the positions that she would like to move forward to this fiscal year.

Chief Hayes-White stated that in regards to the 118th academy class, she acknowledged the Division of Training under the direction of Chief Williams and what a great job they are doing. She stated that 119th academy will begin in January 2016 and she anticipates having 54 recruits in that class. She added that with regard to the EMS H-8's, she acknowledged Chief Gonzales for his dedication, in addition to Chief Myers, Chief Molloy, Jesus Mora of IT, and LT. Rob Neuneker of the Assignment Office for all their hard work related to the schedule changes, including getting the concept off the ground and implementing the new hires. She also acknowledged Dr. Yeh for his work on the development of the EMS 6

program, along with the Department of Public Health on frequent uses and callers of the 9-1-1- system that may be better served using another service. She stated that they are looking for interested folks that would be interested in working a 42-hour workweek on a 12-hour shift out of Station 49, for this EMS 6 program.

She gave a brief update on the 150th Anniversary of the Department and stated the celebration will be a yearlong event, and acknowledged Assistant Chief Dave Franklin, Dave Ebarle and Vice President Covington for taking this task on.

Vice President Covington gave a brief update on the 150th Anniversary planning. She stated that many of the former chiefs are very involved. Former Chief Tabacco is serving as the finance chair and doing a fabulous job. She mentioned that it was time to get started on subcommittees. She explained the wonderful events that would be taking place next year, including the fireboat commissioning; kick off at Lotus Fountain, film Festival and activities during EMS week. She mentioned that there was a suggestion that all of the former chiefs of the Department serve on a panel talking about the history of the department and the challenges that they faced during their individual tenures as chiefs. She added that there is going to be a parade and muster, which will include food, ladder raising and, a police/fire mass, and she anticipates piggy backing on events that will already be scheduled in the city. She concluded by stating the final event will be the gala ball which is scheduled for December 3rd, the actual day of the founding of the Department.

Commissioner Cleaveland thanked Vice President Covington for all the time she has put in on the 150th. He asked if there was a budget and if there is any portion of the fund raising the Commission can help with. Vice President Covington stated she was happy to hear he was willing to help and she encouraged all the Commissioners to jump in as well because this is a celebration of the Department and its history and she would like all hands on deck. She added that there was a draft budget and it will be included it in the Commission packets for the next meeting.

Chief Hayes-White continued with her report and touched on the productive strategic planning meeting on October 6, 2015. She added that many great ideas were suggested from members of the committee, which encompasses active and retired members, and that retired assistant Deputy Chief Brendan O'Leary was able to attend the October 6, 2015 meeting. She anticipates presenting to the Commission, hopefully in February, a draft strategic plan. She acknowledged President Evans for helping out extensively with the strategic planning process and her excellent writing skills. President Evans added that they were making progress and mentioned that the committee was made up of dedicated people that have stressed that they really want the plan to be a shared vision. She stated that while it is a small group working on the plan, they really want to get input from as many people as possible. They are open to anyone that has suggestions to add to the strategic plan.

Chief Hayes-White touched on her productive ongoing meetings with MTA related to Vision Zero. She acknowledged Chief Lombardi and Chief DeCossio who have collaborated in a great way in working closely with MTA. She touched on the ongoing discussions pertaining to the Department's fleet status with the Mayor's Office, Supervisor Wiener and Kate Howard.

Chief Hayes-White announced the upcoming events, including fleet week, the Italian Heritage Parade, and cross training involving the Division of Training, Homeland Security, and Urban Search and Rescue.

She acknowledged the unveiling of the two new ambulance buses. She stated that former Assistant Deputy Chief Peter Howes from the EMS Division created the concept. She went on to describe the decommissioned MUNI buses that were donated by MTA. She added that with the Grant Funding they received, they were able to convert and modify the busses

into casualty transport unit. They can be used in the event of a large-scale emergency, with the ability to be able to treat and transport up to 24 patients at one given time. They can also be used for drills and she can envision using them for the SF Marathon or Bay to Breakers when people do not necessarily need to be transported, they might be used for respite or heat exhaustion.

Chief Hayes-White concluded her report by announcing that they are on track by the end of the year to administer the H-50 Assistant Chief exam and for early next year, the H-30 Capitan's exam.

Commissioner Cleaveland thanked Chief Hayes-White for her comprehensive report. He asked what the NFPA guidelines are for dealing with fleet replacement. Chief Hayes-White answered that for frontline apparatus, their guidelines are set for 10 years. As you go into relief status, it is five years. She added that Chief Lombardi has put together an excellent spreadsheet of what the apparatus proposal is and what the current state of the fleets is.

Vice President Covington acknowledged everyone who has worked on the ambulance bus. She thought the photos are spectacular and it is a good execution of the concept. She asked how the busses were refurbished. Chief Hayes-White responded that they have new engines and the one she was on yesterday, had about 60 thousand miles on it. Vice President Covington asked if MTA staff are the only ones who can currently drive the busses, and how that will work. Chief Lombardi stated that they are in the process of working with MTA to get an MOU, and MTA has agreed to store them, maintain them, and drive them whenever we need them.

Commissioner Hardeman thanked Chief Hayes-White for her uplifting report. He went on to express his frustration with some of the comments that were made at the last meeting. He stated that although the Chief needs no defending, she has just been hammered about the lack of operable engines in the fleet and then she comes up with decision she had to make, and he did not think it was fair to criticize her decision.

President Evans asked if Chief Williams could give a brief update on how they are doing with getting recruitment off the ground. Chief Williams explained that they give a monthly recruitment orientation to perspective candidates. They hold a Q and A informational meeting at different community centers throughout the city. They have also created a committee who participate in different outreach events.

President Evans echoed Vice President Covington's comments about the ambulance bus. She stated that it is a great opportunity for San Francisco to highlight being a pioneer in this type of work and she thanked everyone who made it happen.

Commissioner Nakajo asked for some feedback on the two positions that would specifically work in the EMS-6 program out of station 49. Chief Hayes-White explained that working with the frequent users, they will be looking for someone that has passion for this type of work. It is more proactive and working collaboratively with DPH to try and identify ahead of time, people that they might be able to assist and point in the direction of the services that they truly need. Dr. Yeh added that the model they are looking at is really a co-response and team effort with existing outreach workers who are currently with the Department of Public Health. These are some of the toughest cases medically, socially, and otherwise in the system that we deal with.

Commissioner Nakajo asked if the Department was going to lose the training facility at Treasure Island. Chief Hayes-White responded yes, and she would discuss it further at the Civil Grand Jury meeting that she will be appearing at in front of the Government, Audits and Oversight Committee on October 15, 2015. She added that the facility was

decommissioned from the Navy in the late 1990's and the Department has used it since that time. It's a unique facility and it is worth its weight in gold as far as she is concerned. Treasure Island Development Authority has redevelopment designs that have been brought to various levels of government and she thinks it is in the final phase of redevelopment, and the Treasure Island Training Facility would no longer exist to support the full development of the Island. She estimates that sometime in the next 7 to 10 years that development should begin.

Commissioner Nakajo congratulated everyone who worked on the mass casualty busses.

President Evans added that Treasure Island and the training facility is something that comes up as part of the discussion at the strategic planning meetings. She thinks that even though it's an uphill battle, she personally thinks it's something that should be tried again, and she doesn't think you can just walk away from that facility without bringing everything they can to try and keep it. She added that in addition to San Francisco, they might get some cooperation from neighboring counties that might be able to take advantage of it as well. She welcomed any thoughts, friends in other counties who might be willing to join in, sit down with TIDA, and make the case for keeping the facility. She added that the training facility is valuable for the whole region, not just San Francisco.

REPORT FROM OPERATIONS

Report on overall field operations, the Bureau of Fire Prevention & Investigation, Airport Division.

Chief Gonzales reported on the month of September.

Chief Gonzales first wanted to thank Commissioner Hardeman for his earlier words regarding their perspective on the Valley fire and the decisions that were made. He added that some of the members that did complain about the state of the fleet are the same members who were commenting regarding the administration's decision. Chief Gonzales gave the following perspective of what happened that day:

First, the decision was not made in a vacuum. It was made between CD-1, myself, CD-3, Assistant Deputy Chief Lombardi, and Captain Rivera. It was a very difficult decision but it was the absolute correct decision. Our fleet of engines are not up to par. They are far from it. We need to implement the rig replacement plan now. We need the money to do it and we need your help to get it. If Loma Prieto or worse happened today and we had sent those engines, we would only have 39 readily equipped engines for available.

What happened in 1989, we lost both hydrant systems. We need those engines if we had to use the PWSS to pump into that system. Therefore, I know the right decision was made. As much as you know I love attending these Commission meetings it pained me to miss that one. I wish I had been there. I just want to point out that the burden of the decision is on the Chief. If she makes it, it is on her. If she makes that call, and when I gave the example I put forward happened, that is on her. So she's responsible for the safety of these citizens and the safety of the firefighters in the City as well. I know she made the right decision along with us.

Chief Gonzales continued with his report. There were two greater alarms. The first was at 75 Pierce. The fire was in the rear of a residential garage. There were no injuries. The cause of the fire was accidental, most likely associated with an electrical fault or failure, possibly involving a battery charger. Acting Assistant Chief Taylor was the incident commander. The second was at 1351 Harrison Street. There were no injuries. The cause of the fire was accidental, unable to rule out electrical fault or failure or discarded smoking material. Temporary Assistant Chief Rubenstein was the incident commander.

He touched on the EMS 42 hour work week, the H-8's and the casualty transport busses, POTUS appearance, and Fire Prevention Week. He thanked ADC Myers and ADC Francisco for all the work they did on the fleet week preparations and planning.

President Evans asked Fire Marshal DeCossio how things are going with the backlog on planning and permitting. Fire Marshal DeCossio stated his focus is on having additional resources, new hires of H-4s and fire protection engineer. He added they are relocating resources and personnel with greater experience to help facilitate getting the back up.

Commissioner Cleaveland asked for an update on the Civil Grand Jury proceedings. Chief Hayes-White responded that her plan was to follow the response that was previously provided to the Commission. She anticipates there will be some questions and answers that will take place and she will provide a complete follow up at the next commission meeting.

There was no public comment.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

Communications to Commission received between 9/18/15 and 10/1/15.

- Email from Ted Corporandy, Battalion Chief, retired dated September 23, 2015

There was no public comment.

8. AGENDA FOR NEXT FIRE COMMISSION MEETING [Discussion]

Discussion regarding agenda for the October 21, 2015 regular meeting.

The next Fire Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2015.

- Update on 150 Anniversary Committee
- Update on Strategic Planning Committee
- Finalize SFGOV TV
- Update on TIDA Future
- Update on Station 16 and Station 49
- Transportation Advisory Committee/Vison Zero
- Projections on development at Bayview Hunters Point
- Surf Rescue Presentation
- Acknowledge Members of MTA

There was no public comment.

9. ADJOURNMENT

President Evans adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.