

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE COMMISSION

Fire Commission Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 - 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

AGENDA

Item No.

1. ROLL CALL

President	Stephen A. Nakajo
Vice President	Francee Covington
Commissioner	Michael Hardeman
Commissioner	Ken Cleaveland
Commissioner	Joe Alioto Veronese
Chief of Department	Joanne Hayes-White

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public may address the Commission for up to three minutes on any matter within the Commission's jurisdiction and 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.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on February 27, 2019

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

REPORT FROM CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

Report on current issues, activities and events within the Department since the Fire Commission meeting on February 27, 2019, including budget, academies, special events, communications and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

REPORT FROM OPERATIONS

Report on overall field operations, including greater alarm fires, Emergency Medical Services, Bureau of Fire Prevention & Investigation, and Airport Division.

5. RESOLUTION 2019-01 *[Discussion and possible action]*

Discussion and possible action regarding proposed Resolution 2019-01, recommending that the Mayor's Office create a taskforce focusing on the creation of a safer San Francisco Coastline for the enjoyment of its residents and visitors with the hopes of preventing an increase in cliff, sea and beach rescues.

6. COMMISSION REPORT *[Discussion]*

Report on Commission activities since last meeting on February 27, 2019.

7. AGENDA FOR NEXT AND FUTURE FIRE COMMISSION MEETINGS

[Discussion]

Discussion regarding agenda for next and future Fire Commission meetings.

8. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED *[Discussion]*

- Emails in support of Edna the Cat

9. ADJOURNMENT

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES**

Wednesday, February 27, 2019 – 5:00 p.m.

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400, San Francisco, California, 94102

The Video can be viewed by clicking this link:

http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=32534

President Nakajo called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Commission President	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commission Vice President	Francee Covington	Present
Commissioner	Michael Hardeman	Present
Commissioner	Ken Cleaveland	Present
Commissioner	Joe Alioto Veronese	Present
Chief of Department	Joanne Hayes-White	Present
Mark Gonzales	Deputy Chief -- Operations	
Jeanine Nicholson	Deputy Chief --Administration	
Khai Ali	Airport	
Michael Cochrane	Homeland Security	
Andy Zanoff	EMS	
Joel Sato	Division of Training	
Assistant Chiefs		
Rex Hale	Division 2	
Steven Bokura	Division 3	

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following members of the public spoke on behalf of their support of having pets in the SFFD Stations and recommended that Edna the cat be returned to Station 49: Michele Estrada; Nadine May; Christine Gagan; Carol Brownson; Paul Wermer; Liza Ibanez; and Linda Connelly;

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Special Meeting on February 8, 2019.

Commissioner Cleaveland Moved to approve the above meeting Minutes. Commissioner Veronese Seconded. Motion to approve above Minutes was unanimous. There was no public comment.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on February 13, 2019

Commissioner Hardeman Moved to approve the above meeting Minutes as amended. Commissioner Cleaveland Seconded. Motion to approve above Minutes as amended was unanimous. There was no public comment.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on February 14, 2019

Commissioner Cleaveland Moved to approve the above meeting Minutes. Commissioner Hardeman Seconded. Motion to approve above Minutes was unanimous. There was no public comment.

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 13, 2019, including budget, academics, special events, communications and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Hayes-White reported on events and activities since the last meeting on February 13, 2019. She mentioned that the budget was timely submitted on February 21, 2019, and acknowledged the work that Director Corso puts it to that task year after year. She announced that she and President Nakajo co-signed a letter to the Mayor acknowledging the budget and indicating that they are team players but were unable to meet the reduction request and the reason why, as well as highlighting a variety of needs that were identified during the Budget Committee process, including increasing emergency medical services resources, restoration of the Incident Support Specialist and additional funding for equipment, both for frontline engine and trucks, as well as disaster preparedness such as hose tenders. She stated that the 125th academy class is in their fifth week and that graduation will be in mid-June and that they anticipate the 126th H-2 academy class beginning in fall. She touched on recent activities she attended since the last meeting, including a fundraiser for Zuckerberg SFGH Hearts and Heroes event, the Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Day, a meeting with the Mayor's office, along with other stakeholders in anticipation of the opening of the Warriors Chase Center arena, a Healthy Streets Operations Committee meeting, the annual AAGE lunch sponsored by the Asian Firefighters Association. She described the tragic landslide at Fort Funston that trapped a woman who was walking on the beach with a friend and a dog, and the valiant efforts of the members of the Department that were trying to locate her. To date, the victim has not been located. She also attended the opening season of youth baseball in collaboration between the SFFD, and Rec and Park and overseen by the FLAME program and run by Firefighter Rick Hui. She added that she, Phil Ginsburg and Mayor Breed threw out the first pitch. She participated in the Law Enforcement Polar Plunge which raises money for the Special Olympics. She thanked President John Choy of the Asian Firefighters Association for hosting the dinner following the Chinese New Year Parade which she attended along with Commissioner Veronese, President Nakajo, members of the Department and the Command Staff. She also attended a read aloud with first graders at Mission Dolores Academy and a meeting with the Merced Ingleside Group of Neighborhoods to talk about their concerns of PG & E transmission lines that run through their neighborhood.

Commissioner Cleaveland asked if there have been any discussions or plans made with regard to a new station around the Chase Center. Chief Hayes-White answered that the City is

fortunate that Station 4 which is one of the newer stations is approximately two blocks from the Chase Center and the nearest engine company would be Station 25, which is at 3rd and Amador.

There was no public comment.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION, DEPUTY CHIEF JEANINE NICHOLSON

Report on the Administrative Divisions, Fleet and Facility status and updates, Finance, Support Services, Homeland Security, Training within the Department, update on MOU between Department and Guardians of the City and MOU between Department and Port regarding Station 35.

Chief Nicholson reported on events for the month of January. She mentioned that the Physician's Office has conducted 56 promotional and permanent physicals in multiple ranks as well as 40 return to work evaluations. She stated that the Investigative Services Bureau conducted 90 random drug and alcohol tests which were all negative. She mentioned that Support Services had over 120 facility requests and they are working closely with Public Works to get that list down. She touched on the Bureau of Equipment where six new engines are being outfitted by Central Shops. She stated that the Operations Center at Headquarters is being upgraded which will give the Department great ability to be able to see what's going on in the city in case of a large disaster. She attended the Capital Planning meeting where they passed the 2020 ESER bond that includes 150 million dollars for a new training facility and 125 million dollars for AWSS which is now called EFWS, Emergency Firefighting Water Supply. She touched on the Ambulance Deployment Facility, Station 16 and Station 5. Regarding the Training Division, she stated that all staff underwent implicit bias training as well as most of the Command Staff. She stated that the H-8 per diem academy has begun with 27 students. She touched on the Fire Reserves, NERT, outreach, recruitment where Jonathan Baxter and Keith Baraka have gone to several different events and attended the City Job Fair career information sessions at the DOT and are now working with high schools, specifically, with Mission High School working towards getting a public safety career pathway and expanding it to other schools. Regarding the MOU with Guardians of the City, she stated that they have come to realize how complicated it is and will take time to hash it all out. In the meantime, they came up with a 12-month interim plan which includes a communications plan, creating a list of events and what vehicles they will want to use and coming up with a creative solution in terms of storing the antique vehicles on Treasure Island. She touched on the progress of the MOU with the Port in regard to rent at Station 35 which is work in progress.

Chief Hayes-White acknowledged Chief Cochrane and Chief Zanoft for working collaboratively on putting together a stellar event action plan for the Chinese New Year event. She also clarified the amount of the 2020 ESER bond by stating it is to be a 600-million-dollar bond in which 400 million is slated for the SFFD; 150 million for the training facility, 125 million for the emergency firefighting water supply and 125 million for the neighborhood fire stations ongoing seismic and structural work.

Commissioner Cleaveland thanked Chief Nicholson for her comprehensive report and asked what the washout is for the H-8 per diem classification. Chief Zanoft explained that the H-8 academy is a very hard one and testing is very difficult, and they have lost four or five people from an H-8 academy in the past. He also complimented her, PIO Baxter and Recruitment Officer Keith Baraka for establishing the public safety career track at Mission High School and he would like to see that track flourish and be replicated in other high schools in the City. He also commented that he hopes the MOU with GOTC will eventually get done and that the

interim agreement will set forth exactly what the responsibilities are for the Department and GOTC, as he thinks it is an important part of the history to maintain and exhibit the historic fire engines and fire apparatuses and a healthy partnership between the two organizations is needed.

Commissioner Veronese asked about the update on the drones. Chief Nicholson stated they are waiting for the policy to be approved by the City Attorney's Office. Commissioner Veronese stated that the policy has already been approved by the Commission. Mr. Corso stated that the policy had some additional comments that were circulated internally as well as from the commission and that final feedback, combined with the original round of city attorney comments were incorporated and sent back for final review. They are also waiting for an FAA waiver they need to receive from the State but the policy has to be in place before any of that can be done and it needs to be signed off by the City Attorney's Office. Commissioner Veronese asked that once the city attorney has reviewed it and made changes to it, that it comes back to the Commission so that the Commission can vote on it because the only current policy that's been adopted by the Commission is the one that was adopted two months ago. Chief Cochrane added that because the drone is grant funded and the aviation request form goes to Cal OES, and that Cal OES has requested the full policy before the Department can order a drone. Commissioner Veronese asked Chief Nicholson to add to her report the test results from the cancer study from Local 798 when they become available. He also confirmed the reason that Central Shops outfits the apparatus instead of the manufacturer is because the Department has different equipment that needs to be considered, such as SCBAs, thermal imaging cameras, and radios. It was confirmed that not only is the purpose of the MOU with the GOTC to restore the historical vehicles but to also determine what rigs get driven and by whom and for what events as well as other artifacts that are stored. It was also confirmed that there were several antique apparatuses that are stored indoors on Treasure Island. Commissioner Veronese confirmed that the memo that was provided in response to the 2018 Peer Support Resolution was not the response that he required but was informational only. Chief Hayes-White responded that she has been very upfront and candid about how ambitious the resolution is and she thinks the Department has a very robust Peer Support Unit and she acknowledged that it is an important issue and is in her top 10 priorities, probably 9 or 10 and she thinks it is going to take more time. Commissioner Veronese stated he understands that this is the bottom of Chief Hayes-White's priority list, but he will continue to advocate for a state-of-the-art Peer Support Unit as he thinks they can do better.

Commissioner Hardeman conformed that the contractors might be asking for a 7-day extension to complete Station 5. He also commented that it was good news on the ESER bonds. He also mentioned that the sooner the better the department will be on getting drones.

Vice President Covington confirmed that the 2020 ESER Bond monies will not be covering new fire stations at Candlestick Point and out by the former Schlage Lock company and that funding for those stations is to be determined down the road, that there may be some private funding based on the developments slated for those areas. Vice President Covington also expressed here concerns on having sufficient funds for a training facility and that the Commission needs an adequate update on the training facility. She is also concerned with how they came up with a figure for a facility without knowing what the land cost will be. She added that for at least 10 years, the department has known that it is not included in the master plan on Treasure Island and in that period of time, the costs of land in the city have escalated beyond anyone's imagination and that it is essential that the Commission, as an oversight body for the

Department, have something before them to at least discuss. Chief Hayes-White responded that it is a complicated issue and part of the reason the land costs were not initially looked at is that they were potentially looking at doing a property exchange and the entity they were looking to swap land with is no longer viable given unforeseen circumstances. She added that the City administrator and the Mayor's office are aware of the issue. Vice President Covington added that she has expressed her concern repeatedly regarding the training facility and that there needs to be some kind of timeline and that it is very frustrating to her as a commissioner not to have something that they can look at, discuss, and make decisions and suggestions about. Chief Hayes-White responded that she believes they have briefed Vice President Covington and given her a thick document in terms of what the needs assessment are and agreed with her that an essential piece is the identification of a location, which time after time has not come to fruition. She added that they have done a lot of work in terms of what their needs are and have been working with Real Estate, Capital Planning, the City Administrators and the Mayor's office and she encouraged the commission to continue to support and advocate the issue with the Board of Supervisors as it has been the top priority for the Department. Vice President Covington acknowledged all the hard work that has been mentioned, but she needs to see results as well as an action plan. There was a brief discussion on the tragic event at Fort Funston. Vice President Covington confirmed that Chief Cochran and Chief Sato will be the drone operators once they have been procured and that they will take a 24-hour online class to get their license.

President Nakajo thanked Chief Nicholson for her comprehensive report and stated that at the next Commissioner meeting there will be the Operations report where they can discuss in further detail the Fort Funston incident and the PG&E gas explosion.

Ms. Tana Hall stated she got to the meeting late because of MUNI and missed general public comment where she wanted to voice her support for the return of Edna the cat to Station 49. An unidentified female also expressed her support for Edna.

5. RETREAT SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE AND ACTION PLAN [Discussion]

Vice President Covington and Commissioner Veronese to provide an update on action to be taken following the September 25, 2018 Commission Special Meeting/Retreat.

Vice President Covington stated that they have been very busy on the Commission interviewing people for the position of Chief of the Department as well as well as other duties and that the update on the retreat items took a back seat. Commissioner Veronese added that he and Vice President Covington did meet regarding the retreat and they looked at each of the items and notes and came up with a list on how they will be approached, some are legislative, some require budgets and that the goal is to determine the best strategy and to prioritize those items. President Nakajo agreed to continue the matter to a time when both Vice President Covington and Commissioner Veronese agreed on, so they could work on a more in-depth substantive report.

There was no public comment.

6. COMMISSION REPORT [Discussion]

Report on Commission activities since last meeting on February 13, 2019

President Nakajo stated that he and Commissioner Cleaveland met with Supervisor Mars Office. He also met with Supervisor Peskin's office to clarify and understand information in terms of the reference of Station 13 and the possible rebuild of that station. He also thanked Chief Zanoft, Chief Cochrane and Chief Molloy for the briefing of the Chinatown parade as well as AFA president John Choy. He acknowledged Chief Hayes-White, who retires on May 5th for the great participation that she does at events including the Chinatown parade. He mentioned that he would be reaching out to the commissioners to advocate for the budget to individual Board of Supervisor members.

There was no public comment.

7. AGENDA FOR NEXT AND FUTURE FIRE COMMISSION MEETINGS *[Discussion]*
Discussion regarding agenda for the next and future regular meetings.

Commissioner Veronese referenced general order 19-A07, which is the policy regarding animals on Department property and he acknowledged and thanked the public who came and spoke. He also acknowledged the many emails in support of Edna and asked that they be a part of the next agenda packet.

- Coastline Resolution
- Pets in the workplace and rule change Resolution
- Resolution in support of the Fire Reserves given consideration for employment
- Update on Department's Strategic Plan
- Retreat update
- Cancer Accord Resolution

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURNMENT President Nakajo adjourned the meeting in the memory of retired Battalion Chief Jack Bogue, Jr., and Public Defender Jeff Adachi at 7:00 p.m.

JOANNE HAYES-WHITE
CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT



LONDON N. BREED
MAYOR

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

February 21, 2019

Honorable London N. Breed
Mayor, City and County of San Francisco
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 200
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mayor Breed,

As per the instructions from your Budget Office, the Fire Commission, in conjunction with the Fire Department, respectfully submits the Department's proposed budgets for Fiscal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21, along with this joint letter for your consideration.

At its regular Meeting on February 13, 2019, the Fire Commission voted to approve the Department's Fiscal Year 2019-20 and 2020-21 budget proposal as presented by the Department. As you know, Departments were instructed by your Budget Office to reduce their respective adjusted General Fund operational support by 2% in each of the next two fiscal years, with an additional 1% contingency reduction requested. At this time, the Department is unable to submit reductions to meet the request of your office. The Department has struggled balancing reduction requests with the increased demand for services seen by the Department in recent years, resulting in annual call volume increases, including to the City's most vulnerable populations.

As part of this year's budget process, the Department reconvened its Budget Committee to discuss and compile Departmental needs and priorities. Your Budget Director, Ms. Kelly Kirkpatrick, was kind enough to host the SFFD Budget Committee at City Hall for a meeting to educate members on the City's current financial status and try and shed light onto the vast economic challenges that the City is facing leading up to the Mayor's submittal of a balanced budget to the Board. In addition, the Budget Committee, working with Department Administration as well as labor partners Local 798, met to discuss budgetary issues and increasing demands on the Department. As the Department has been funded in recent years to rebuild its infrastructure and staffing levels after years of budget reductions, the consensus was the belief that further reductions would interfere with the Department's ability to provide crucial services to the public, and this position was supported by the Fire Commission.

The Commission and the Department understand the economic constraints that the City is facing, including structural issues such as personnel and benefits costs, both in the long term as well as the short term. Both the Commission and the Department recognize there will be many difficult choices that your office must make to balance the budget and address issues not only over the next two budget years, but further into the future. With numerous policy changes discussed, the Department recognizes the direct and indirect impacts of financial changes at the Federal and State level to its budget as well as to the City as a whole.

The Department and Commission are wholly appreciative of the efforts of the Mayor's Office in recent years to support various initiatives for the Department. During Mayor Ed Lee's tenure, several multi-year funding initiatives were created to address needs of the Department, specifically a Public Safety Hiring Plan for much-needed personnel as well as an Equipment/Fleet replacement to address an aged inventory of apparatus and front-line equipment. Over the next two years that are addressed in this upcoming budget cycle, both of these initiatives are scheduled to sunset, and while these initiatives have made a significant impact to the overall health of the Department, there is still much work that needs to be done to catch up to the current demands on the Department. The Department would like the opportunity to discuss with your Budget Office the potential ways to extend and enhance these initiatives

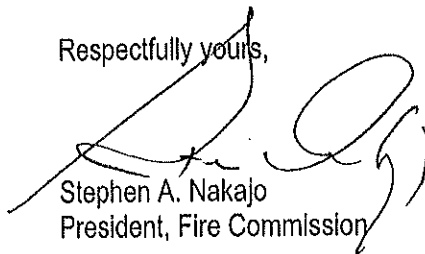
The Department's main challenge in its budget discussions during this process was identifying avenues of budget reductions considering the increases in demand for services the Department is experiencing. As call volume has increased in recent years, staffing and additional supporting resources have not increased along the same lines. As mentioned previously, members of the Department's Budget Committee, along with members of the Department's Administration as well as Local 798, met to discuss Departmental needs in advance of the Department's budget submittal. There were a variety of needs identified and discussed, but all parties agreed that the main three priorities for the Department are as follows:

- Increased Emergency Medical Services (EMS) resources, both for front-line Ambulances and personnel as well as the Department's successful EMS6 program
- Restoration of Incident Support Specialists in field operations
- Funding for equipment, both front-line (Engines, Trucks) as well as disaster preparedness (Hose Tenders)


We look forward to working with your staff on addressing these issues and providing the necessary data and documentation to support these needs.

As in previous years, the Fire Commission has instructed Department staff to continue to work closely with your Budget Office over the coming months in advance of the submission of your balanced budget by June 1st. There are a few budgetary issues that the Department feels strongly were not incorporated into previous years' budgets, and the Department is committed to continuing the discussion on these items with your staff in the coming months, while at the same time exploring ways for cost savings and efficiencies. On behalf of the Fire Commission and the Fire Department, we appreciate your office's continued support, and look forward to working toward solutions in advance the release of your June 1st budget.

Respectfully yours,



Stephen A. Nakajo
President, Fire Commission



Joanne Hayes-White
Chief of Department, Fire Department

Enclosures

cc: Kelly Kirkpatrick, Mayor's Budget Director

FIRE COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco
London N. Breed, Mayor

Stephen A. Nakajo, *President*
Francee Covington, *Vice President*
Michael Hardeman, *Commissioner*
Ken Cleaveland, *Commissioner*
Joe Alioto Veronese, *Commissioner*



698 Second Street
San Francisco, CA 94107
Telephone 415.558.3451
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Maureen Conefrey, *Secretary*

RESOLUTION 2019-01

SAFE COAST TASK FORCE

Author: Commissioner Joe Alioto Veronese

WHEREAS, the mission of the Fire Department is to protect the lives and property of the people of San Francisco from fires, natural disasters, and hazardous materials incidents; to save lives by providing emergency medical services; to prevent fires through education and prevention programs; and to provide a work environment that values health, wellness and cultural diversity and is free of harassment and discrimination, and

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco is surrounded by water on three sides, with coastal topography that includes beaches, rocky shorelines, steep cliffs and environmental elements that include powerful tides, steep cliffs, fog and cold water, and

WHEREAS, over the past two years, the San Francisco Fire Department has been responding to a steep increase in coastal and marine calls, including the tragic loss of 17-year-old Victoria La Rocca on June 22, 2017 at Land's End and the tragic loss more recently on February 22, 2019 at Fort Funston.

WHEREAS, there are at least nine separate local, state, and Federal agencies that have some level of jurisdiction over the San Francisco coastline and each time any member of these agencies responds to a cliff or marine rescue, their members are exposed to significant risk of injury,

BE IT RESOLVED, the San Francisco Fire Commission recommends that the residents and visitors of the City and County of San Francisco and each of these agencies having jurisdiction along the San Francisco coastline would benefit from the formation of an ad hoc multi-agency task force to (1) identify areas along the coast of San Francisco that pose an elevated risk of danger to life and safety of civilians, (2) identify any possible gaps in service for basic and advance lifesaving response along the coastline, and (3) identify baseline needs in resources (technology, personnel, vegetation, signage and otherwise) to enhance coastline safety, hereinafter collectively to be referred to as "Coastal Baseline Assessment"), and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fire Commission respectfully recommends that the Mayor of San Francisco establish such an ad hoc task force in partnership with the United States Park Police, the San Francisco Fire Department, the San Francisco Police Department, the San Francisco Department of Parks and Recreation, the San Francisco Youth Commission, the San Francisco Port Commission, the California Highway Patrol, and the United States Coast Guard, and any other government organization as deemed necessary by the Mayor, for the purpose of identifying solutions to the "Coastal Baseline Assessment", and (4) reporting those findings back to the leadership of each agency involved on the Taskforce, with recommendations on how each Agency may be able to address the challenges through this joint partnership, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fire Commission recommends that the ad hoc task force meet bi-monthly and as necessary for six (6) months following its establishment and shall report back to the Mayor on a Plan of Action ("Plan") for the creation of a safer San Francisco coastline for the enjoyment of its residents, visitors, and first responders, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Fire Commission recommends that the San Francisco Fire Department retains jurisdiction over the Plan following the recommendations of the task force for purposes of reporting back to the Mayor on implementation and progress.

Adopted at the Regular Meeting of the San Francisco Fire Commission on March 13, 2109

Ayes:

Nays:

Maureen Conefrey, Fire Commission Secretary

SAN FRANCISCO



FIRE DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION &
INVESTIGATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief of Department, Joanne Hayes-White

FROM: Fire Marshal Daniel E. de Cossio, DFPI

SUBJECT: Activity Report for the Division – July 2018 to February 2019

DATE: March 5, 2019

REFERENCE: Rules and Regulations, Section 2209

This is the activity report for the Division of Fire Prevention and Investigation for the period from February 1, 2019 thru February 28, 2019.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel E. de Cossio", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel E. de Cossio

1. BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

a.) **Revenue Generating Programs** - The Bureau of Fire Prevention collects fees for services based on California state laws and regulations. For most of the services we provide, we are permitted to charge fees to recover costs. Table 1 outlines budgeted fees and revenues for the Division of Fire Prevention and Investigation and provides a percentage of where we are in relation to where we should be at this time.

Table 1 – Revenues for the Division of Fire Prevention and Investigation (Source—PeopleSoft)

BFP Revenue: July 2018 to February 2019				
Fiscal Year 2018–2019				
Revenue Program	Budgeted Revenue	Actual Revenue*	% of Budget	Projected Year-End
Plan Review Fees	8,710,000	6,219,315	71.40%	9,328,973
Construction Inspection Fees	2,031,250	1,690,371	83.22%	2,535,556
Fire Dept. Permits	1,002,000	647,885	64.66%	971,828
False Alarm Response Fees	220,500	90,000	40.82%	135,000
Waterflow Request Fee	212,500	160,000	75.29%	240,000
Referral Inspections	181,250	125,915	69.47%	188,873
Code Reinspection Fees	172,250	104,902	60.90%	157,353
Pre-Application Fees	150,000	149,970	99.98%	224,955
Medical Cannabis Dispensary Fees	45,500	0	0.00%	0
Fire Administrative Citation	0	7,000	0.00%	10,500
Miscellaneous Fees	11,500	16,609	144.42%	24,913
Revenue Programs Subtotal	12,736,750	9,211,968	72.33%	13,817,951
Annual Permit Renewal Fees*	1,990,000	215,329	10.82%	1,990,000
High-Rise Annual Inspection Fees*	1,950,000	1,053,649	54.03%	1,950,000
Fire Residential Inspection Fees	627,041	323,742	51.63%	485,613
Revenue Programs Total	17,303,791	10,804,687	62.44%	18,243,564
Projected Surplus/Deficit				939,773
	Revenue**	Expenditure	Surplus/Deficit	
Overtime Revenue/Expenditure	1,635,116	1,677,650	(42,534)	2,516,475

*as of March 5, 2018

* Full recovery of revenues is expected for the categories of Annual High-Rise Inspection and Annual Permit Renewal Fees. Revenues for these programs fluctuate throughout the year based on the method of collection by the Tax Collector's Office.

** Revenue shown in this column does not reflect the overtime surcharge collected by the Tax Collector for Annual Permit Renewal Fees, which covers a portion of the overtime expenditures. The estimated amount of Annual Permit Renewal Fees that should be allocated to this category is \$204,160.

Description of Revenue Programs:

Plan Review—The BFP's Plan Review Section is located within the Department of Building Inspection at 1660 Mission St. The Section reviews plans to verify compliance with State Building and Fire Codes.

1. High-Rise Annual Inspection Fees-All high-rise buildings in the State are required to be inspected annually, as mandated by the California State Fire Marshal. This program is designed to recover 100% of its cost, but revenues fluctuate throughout the year.
2. Construction Inspection Fees-The plans reviewed by the plan check division generate construction inspections which are carried out by the district fire inspectors.
3. Annual Permit Renewal Fees-Fire Department Permits are required by the California Fire Code for special uses, such as hazardous materials, public assemblies, etc. The fees for these permits are charged annually and are collected by the Tax Collector's office after the initial filing fee is collected.
4. Overtime Fees-Many inspections and plan reviews are conducted on an overtime basis at the request of the applicant, who also pays for the service. Overtime for Place of Assembly Nighttime Inspection Surcharge is included in Annual Permit Renewal Fees.
5. Fire Dept. Permits-As stated above, certain uses require Fire Dept. Permits. This category is for the initial fees that are collected by the BFP when the permit is issued.
6. False Alarm Fees- The SF Fire Code requires that when the SFFD responds to excessive false alarm calls at buildings, the owners be charged a penalty fee. The BFP processes bills and payments, including the maintenance of records for such fees.
7. Referral Inspections-The BFP is responsible for inspecting occupancies requiring a fire department clearance as part of a federal, state, or local license.
8. Waterflow Request Fees- The BFP flows hydrants and performs analysis that provides fire protection contractors with the water supply information necessary to design fire protection systems. A fee is charged for this service.
9. Miscellaneous- This is a catch-all category for BFI subpoena revenue, photocopy revenues, and various consultation fees.
10. Pre-Application Fees-The plan review section meets with architects and engineers prior to the detailed design of buildings to discuss code issues specific to projects.
11. Re-Inspection Fees- During the course of the BFP's inspections, a Notice of Violation may be issued for fire hazards found. This fee is charged for each re-inspection until the condition is corrected.

b.) Non-Revenue Generating Services – Some of the services provided by the BFP are not fee generating in the same way our other programs are. These services are supposed to be paid for by local taxes, according to California law. Examples include: complaint inspections (fire hazard), public education presentations, telephone consultation, etc.

c.) San Francisco International Airport – SFFD BFP personnel provide fire prevention services to the airport, entirely under the SFO budget.

d.) Port of San Francisco – The Port Fire Marshal is the Fire Department's liaison to the Port and conducts construction and referral inspections, plan review, pier surveys, and issues permits along the Port's 7 ½ miles of waterfront jurisdiction. The Port Fire Marshal sits on the Joint Fire Operations Committee and is responsible for coordinating special events and activities of the Port with the Fire Department and other City Agencies.

2. Bureau of Fire Investigation – The monthly and year-to-date report for the BFI is included as an attachment.

San Francisco Fire Department Bureau of Fire Investigations

Summary Report From 02/01/2019 To 02/28/2019

	YTD 07/01/2018 To 02/28/2019		02/01/2019 To 02/28/2019	
	Count	Property Loss Contents Loss	Count	Property Loss Contents Loss
STRUCTURE FIRES	19	\$21,070,100	1	\$100,000
ACCIDENTAL		\$1,895,701		\$65,000
INCENDIARY	28	\$8,440,600	0	
UNDER INVESTIGATION	2	\$1,827,000	1	\$825,000
UNDETERMINED	4	\$521,000	1	\$250,000
STRUCTURE FIRES TOTAL	53	\$31,858,700	3	\$1,175,000
VEHICLE FIRES	2	\$13,500	0	
ACCIDENTAL				
INCENDIARY	32	\$278,704	5	\$43,626
UNDER INVESTIGATION	1	\$10,000	0	
UNDETERMINED	5	\$15,882	0	
VEHICLE FIRES TOTAL	40	\$318,086	5	\$43,626
OTHER INCIDENTS	56	\$206,219	4	\$7,250
COMMERCIAL	28	\$16,715,100	2	\$350,000
RESIDENTIAL	25	\$15,143,600	1	\$825,000
STRUCTURE FIRES TOTAL	53	\$31,858,700	3	\$1,175,000
GREATER ALARMS	5		1	
2ND ALARMS				
3RD ALARMS	3		1	
4TH ALARMS	0		0	
5TH ALARMS	0		0	
GREATER ALARMS TOTAL	8		2	
OTHER	14		0	
ARRESTS				
DEATHS	4		0	
INJURIES	21		0	
JUVENILE FIRE SETTERS	0		0	
SUBPOENAS REQUESTED	123		10	

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Breed, Mayor London (MYR)
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2019 8:47 AM
To: ebednarcyk; Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: RE: Really? Was there an inspection? RETURN EDNA TO THE STATION!!

Good Morning E. Bednarcyk,

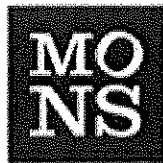
Thank you for contacting Mayor London Breed's Office regarding Edna the cat. At this time, Edna has been relocated and is being cared for and safe. The reason for the decision to relocate Edna was due to the fact that the workplace in question was not a Fire Station, it is the San Francisco Fire Department's Ambulance Deployment Facility, which is used by ambulance staff to provide crucial, lifesaving emergency health care.

It is important to note that our Fire Department engages in Peer Support and has a Stress Committee to provide critical self-help services to Fire Department members. The Fire Department Chief has also reached out to San Francisco Animal Care & Control and other animal welfare organizations to host a pet adoption day for First Responders.

You can read the San Francisco Fire Department's full statement here: <https://sf-fire.org/sites/default/files/Official%20SFFD%20Statement.pdf>

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any further questions.

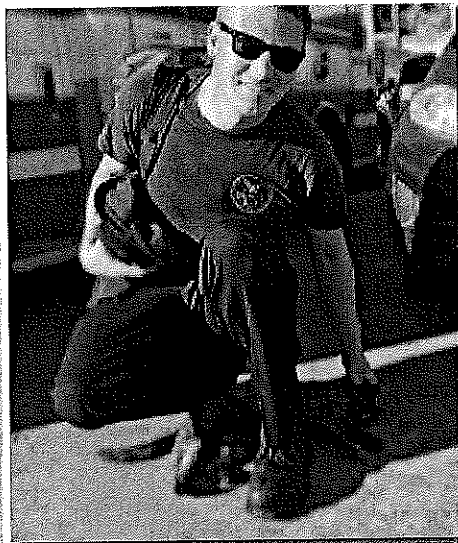
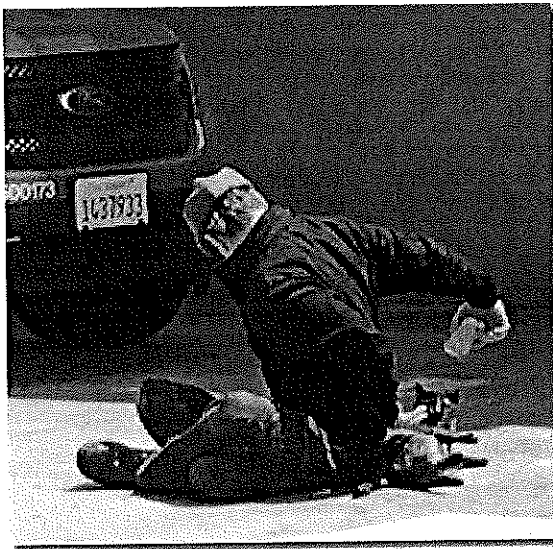
Ashley S. Murray
Neighborhood Services Liaison, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services
Office of Mayor London N. Breed
City & County of San Francisco
1 (415) 554-6723 | Ashley.Murray@SFGov.org

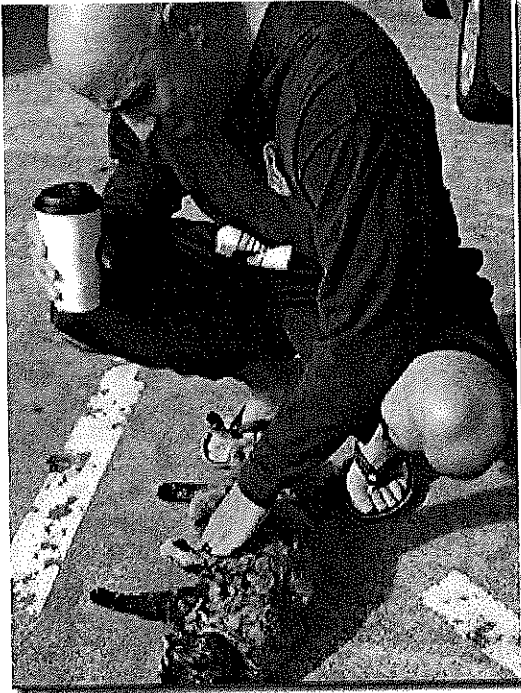


From: ebednarcyk [mailto:ebednarcyk@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 6:05 AM
To: Breed, Mayor London (MYR) <mayorlondonbreed@sfgov.org>; Commission, Fire (FIR) <fire.commission@sfgov.org>
Subject: Really? Was there an inspection? RETURN EDNA TO THE STATION!!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

So one anonymous complaint (which is now being said was by an employee) and the cat must go? Was an inspection done? Were other employees spoken with about possible issues? No? I didn't think so! Shame on you! This cat is not just a killer of vermin (although I can now see who the real vermin is), but a therapy cat! Need proof? Look at her instagram page:





This wonderful cat costs you as a city Nothing and yet gives to the station Everything! Return Edna to her home at the Station!!
Not Anonymously,
E. Bednarczyk
Goshen, NH

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: ebednarcyk <ebednarcyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2019 8:58 AM
To: Breed, Mayor London (MYR); Commission, Fire (FIR); FireAdministration, FIR (FIR); FirePIO, FIR (FIR)
Subject: Your arguments are lacking....Take a look at others and LET EDNA RETURN

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Need proof that your arguments are bogus (re: a cat at an EMS station). There's "Killer" at a New York City EMS Station and "Defib" in London, along with many others.

Here's what EMS workers have to say about "Flame the Cat" at their station in Greenville, NC:

Since his arrival, Flame has come to be not only a companion for the firefighters, who can spend many hours away from home, but a kind of therapy cat for them as well.

"We see a lot of bad stuff," Segars said. "And it's like he knows, he can sense, that maybe they aren't having a good day. And he will just rub up on them and sit in their lap, and be like, I'm here for you."

Are you that backwards thinking that you cannot see the value of a cat at an EMS station?

Not Anonymously,

E. Bednarcyk
Goshen, NH

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Debbie Pickvet <3boysnamom@charter.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 02, 2019 8:20 AM
To: FireAdministration, FIR (FIR); Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna the fire cat


This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

What is going on that one person who complains is unable to have a wonderful station house THERAPY CAT removed from their home?! She is performing more good every day than most people. This is a travesty! You must realize she's an Internet celebrity with worldwide support. Send her back home now!

Sent from my iPhone

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Bananas <dave.bananas@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 3:43 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR); FireAdministration, FIR (FIR); Breed, Mayor London (MYR)
Subject: Edna the cat

 This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Shame on you all!
Pathetic!

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Nikki Linn <mynikkilinn@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2019 5:21 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Fire fighters

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear fire commission

About a month ago my daughter was at Princeton when she was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance after falling at an event. These EMT firefighters saved my daughters life and took care of her while we were far away in Colorado. I can't imagine the weight of that job... of trying to save someone else's child.... This is why we are fighting so hard to bring Edna the firecat back to her station. These firefighters need all the emotional support they can get!!! Here's your chance to be a true hero for these first responders-and all the animal lovers in San Fran and around the world!! I understand some of the issues and we are happy to help overcome them!!! We will donate our products-kitty Kasas-and build Edna her own area-and build any other containing wall to make sure supplies are separate and sanitary. We will also donate food and litter and anything else Edna needs. There is a solution to this and we are here to help!!!! It was extremely disappointing to hear about the commission meeting the other night. If thousands of people are concerned about an issue wouldn't you address it?! Please take this chance to do the right thing!! In today's world and all the issues we have this is a simple solution and can really make a difference in the morale of the city!!! Be a hero for first responders and animals!!!!!! Thank you!! Nikki Linn Kitty Kasas Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Cristian Martucci <melmart2975@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2019 1:21 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Fire Cat Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

What you are doing is absolutely Cruel & Heartbreaking! You are letting down all your hardworking EMS, Firemen/women, and anyone else who found her presence soothing. You better rethink this Insane response to 1 Assholes complaint about a cat! Stupidity at its finest right here

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Dusty Rainbolt <dustycatwriter@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 4:13 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: RE: Outcome of last night's meeting

Thank you so much. I know this has been difficult issue for everyone involved.

Have a great evening.

Dusty

On Thursday, February 28, 2019 Commission, Fire (FIR) <fire.commission@sfgov.org> wrote:

Hello Dusty,

I've attached the video link from last night. http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/player/clip/32534?view_id=180 Go to 1:48:20 and watch through 1:54:42 to the dialogue concerning animals in the workplace. I do not have the minutes prepared at this time.

Commissioner Veronese is supposed to prepare a resolution that will be presented at a future meeting for the commission as a whole to discuss.

Go to 1:48:20 and watch through 1:54:42 to the dialogue concerning animals in the workplace. I do not have the minutes prepared at this time.

-----Original Message-----

From: Dusty Rainbolt <DustyCatWriter@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 1:51 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR) <fire.commission@sfgov.org>; Dusty <dustycatwriter@verizon.net>
Subject: Outcome of last night's meeting

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hi Maureen,

I am writing an article about the cat formerly with Station 49. Could you please update me on the commission's recommendations from last night's meeting. Also, do you have notes from the meeting I might be able to read?

Thank you so much for your help.
Dusty Rainbolt

--
Dusty Rainbolt, ACCBC

Award-winning author of /Cat Scene Investigator: Solve Your Cat's Litter Box Mystery/ Member International Association
of Animal Behavior Consultants Past president Cat Writers' Association www.dustycatwriter.com

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Bananas <dave.bananas@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 3:43 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR); FireAdministration, FIR (FIR); Breed, Mayor London (MYR)
Subject: Edna the cat

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Shame on you all!
Pathetic!

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Belinda Renno <pharmgirl1973@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 2:20 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear **Joe Alioto Veronese, Esq**

Thank you for championing the cause of Edna the fire cat and her civil servant caregivers. You must be aware that over 45K people from around the globe have signed a petition and are rooting for your presentation this afternoon.

Belinda Renno

Sent from my iPhone

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Marilyn Ponte <marilyn.ponte@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 11:53 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Fwd: Station 49 cat

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Good afternoon Fire Commissioners,

Below is an email to the Fire Chief supporting Edna to stay at Station 49. I maintain that support. Please do not let ONE anonymous person muck up what appears to be a very happy and healthy situation.

Please let Edna stay where she loves and is loved. Good grief. She's one cat.

Tax Payer and yes, Cat loving citizen
Marilyn Ponte

and thank you again for your service.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Marilyn Ponte <marilyn.ponte@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Feb 11, 2019 at 2:02 PM
Subject: Station 49 cat
To: <Secretary.FireChief@sfgov.org>

Good afternoon,

I'm writing to support the cat to remain at Station 49. It sounds like this cat is very loved and happy at that Station and she should be allowed to stay. I love the idea of the fire fighters taking care of a cat. My tax dollars well spent. For one, anonymous person, to complain and have the cat gone is ridiculous. This person should should identify himself/herself if this cat is a problem. Hiding behind an anonymous does not warrant ANY action. Please let Edna stay!

Tax paying, citizen,
Thank you for your service.

Marilyn Ponte (not anonymous)

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Mary Maher <marymaher03@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 8:03 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna The Fire Station Cat

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Fire Commissioners,

Please allow Edna the Fire Department Cat to remain in her home at the fire station. The majority of the staff appear to love her and she looks extremely happy living at the Fire Station.

Serving as a Fire Department staff member can at times be extremely stressful and demanding. Edna appears to provide some respite and relaxation to the staff.

I ask you to allow Edna to remain in her home at the fire station.

Thank YOU,
Mary Maher
Milpitas, California

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Borisova Evgeniya <evgeniya_borisova@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 1:35 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: A pledge for Edna of San Francisco

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear fire commission of San Francisco,

I am writing to you regarding the situation of Edna the cat who has been evicted from her home, the fire station. The important question to ask ourselves in this situation would be: would you be alright if someone banished you from your home? From people you are attached, too? Cats, just like us, have feelings, emotions and memories. They can love. Isn't it unkind to deprive the world of that spark of kindness, of that rare heartwarming hope that is born in our hearts when we see people helping a feral cat to find home, to become loved and protected, and to love humans back? Is depriving Edna and people who love her of their loving union and connection, is that what we, humankind, stand for?

Please do right by Edna and brave fire station community! Please let Edna to come home!

Best wishes,

Evgeniia,

A Siberian who lives in Sweden and cares about Firemen and Firewomen of San Francisco and about their sweet Edna the Cat

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Deborah Garfinkle <dhgarf@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 7:51 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Return Edna the Cat to Station 49

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners:

I cannot believe that this is something that you are having hearings on. Animals play a very integral part in reducing the stress of their human relatives. In this city, we have far bigger fish to fry than taking a cat away from a loving home for bureaucratic nonsense. A cat is not going to threaten the public health of the station or the ambulance crew. Please return Edna to her home at Station 49.

Sincerely,
Deborah Garfinkle
400 Beale St 613

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Robin Galante <robinbird78@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 5:17 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: In support of Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to voice my support of Edna staying at station 49.

Animal mascots have a long history in fire and police departments. Jake the pit bull in South Carolina's Hanahan fire station. Flame, a fire cat in Belmont South Carolina. Twenty, a dalmation gifted to the New York City Fire Department after 7 of their firefighters died in the World Trade Center during 9/11.

And Edna, the fire cat at station 49 here in San Francisco.

These animals are not just cute faces. They are not nuisances. They act as a connection between public servants and the public. We see you when our houses are burning. We see you when our mother or father is having a heart attack. We see you when we smell gas in our home, and you tell us to maybe turn the burner off (that was me).

But we *don't* see you in the quieter moments, when you are at the station waiting for the next call. We don't see the stress, the PTSD, the anxiety that comes from constantly putting your own lives on the line to save us.

However, because of animals like Edna, we *do* see you in those quiet moments. And because of Edna, your job is little bit easier. A smile, a quick cuddle, a respite before the next siren sings.

As of tonight, Edna's Instagram page has 43,000 followers. People all the around the world have been touched by her and the story of Station 49. She and your firefighters have supporters – including other fire stations - in Ohio, Michigan, Saratoga Springs New York, Tucson Arizona, Venice Italy, Wales, Portugal... the list goes on. You could say there is a worldwide movement in support of Edna. And by extension, in support of Station 49.

In a world that can sometimes seem harsher and darker by the day, please let this little cat stay with her friends at her true home, Station 49.

Thank you,

Robin Galante
Resident
Sutro Heights, San Francisco

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Holly Swanson <haswan55@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 2:58 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Fire Station 49 - Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Members of the Fire Commission,

I ask that you reconsider the decision to evict Edna from Station 49.

I understand that there was a complaint about Edna being there. Shouldn't the station have the opportunity to address the complaint and take steps to remedy the situation? That seems only fair. After all, Edna has been there for quite awhile without issue.

It should also be taken into consideration that there have been studies done that petting a cat relieves stress and even lowers blood pressure. What a great benefit for the firefighters!

I see many other stations have a resident cat or even a dog. Firefighters get a comforting companion and the cat or dog gets a home instead of living on the street.

Isn't this a win-win situation for both Edna and the Station 49 firefighters?

Please reconsider the eviction. Give Station 49 the opportunity to remedy the issue complained about.

Sincerely,

Holly Swanson

haswan55@aol.com

Sent from my iPhone

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Wendy Leung <wleung375@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 2:27 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To SF Fire Commissioner,

I am writing to give my support to Edna the cat. I feel strongly that she should be returned back to Fire Station 49 and join her family. This is where she belongs. She is an asset at the fire station. She provides the much-needed balance to all the firefighters to help reduce stress. She also knows how to stay out of places that are off limits.

Please consider allowing Edna the opportunity to return back to her home, Fire Station 49 and let her live out the rest of her life there.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Wendy Leung

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: sandra yagi <sandrayagi@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 12:28 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna the Cat

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello

Hello

I am writing as part of the public comment concerning Edna the cat at station 49.

I am in favor of making accommodations as well as comprehensive department-wide policy so that the cat can remain at the station to help relieve the stress of EMT first responders.

It is increasingly recognized by the medical community that animals have a positive effect on human stress. Many hospitals have incorporated animal-assisted therapy in their children's wards to help children adjust to being away from home with life-threatening illnesses. Animals reduce their stress, bring a sense of normalcy and possibly even promote healing. It's also common practice at many fire stations, such as NYFD, to allow cats and animals in the station. First responders experience elevated stress from emergency situations, and from witnessing death much more frequently than the average person. A therapy animal can help them decompress and reduce stress.

I also want to say that I am very disappointed in the ham-fisted manner that the SFFD reacted to the situation. Instead of taking the anonymous complaint and looking at various solutions, managements' response was to demand removal of the cat, or they would send in Animal Control (that is, throw Edna in the pound to possibly be euthanized). What this says to me as an animal lover is that the SFFD does not value animals, does not recognize animal-assisted therapy as legitimate, and regards their staff with disdain. Then there was a court injunction to make the staff stay silent. This is a staff that goes out every day to save lives of ill and injured San Franciscans. As a taxpayer and property owner of this city, I would want a paramedic to be a valued team member of the city staff.

The lame excuse that the cat is a sanitary risk is so bogus. Nursing homes often have on-site cats living there. The medical supplies are usually boxed, and from the comments of former staff, the critical supplies were separated from areas that the cat frequented.

The SFFD totally mismanaged this entire situation. This can be made right by setting up a therapy animal-friendly policy that addresses staff stress relief, the need for separation of medical supplies, and promoting compassion towards our four-legged companions. Please approve a policy that corrects the wrongs that have occurred.

Thank you.

Sandra Yagi
246 Sanchez Street
#C
San Francisco CA

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: RedCabo <redcabo2001@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 12:26 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Fire Cat Edna of Station 49

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioner Veronese,

I am writing to you today because I will not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow. I live in Maine. I do wish to remind you of the strong love and support for Edna and her plight that is now worldwide.

I realize that you are not a cat person per se.

That was probably not the most enthusiastically received statement at your meeting, however you stated that you are a horse person so that makes you an animal lover. I am also convinced that if you spent any time at all with Edna you would grow to love her. Just from photos and videos her personality and fierce loyalty for her Station 49 companions and care givers is obvious.

I do not wish to name call or call anyone out but it does appear that there is more to it than the public can know and as much as there is great support for Edna staying the powers-that- be are against it. I don't understand why after 4 years of Edna living and working at the station.

In addition to keeping vermin and apparently raccoons out of the station Edna has been an unsung therapy cat. It may be hard to believe but it's true. My Husband comes from a long line of Fire Fighters. He was a First Responder when our town did not yet have it's own Ambulance. He was Deputy Chief for a time and a Fire Fighter and EMT. There were times when he would come home from a particularly difficult call, sometimes involving colleague injuries or death. My husband was not allowed to discuss calls with family. Stress debriefings didn't always resolve the issue. Companion animals did. Our many cats and dogs over the years knew when to comfort. Their presence and comfort is invaluable.

Of course there may be new employees who may be allergic or adverse to domestic animals being nearby. Posting a sign inside entrances to warn visitors or new hires of the presence of a cat should be enough. Pet wipes to remove dander periodically should help. Allergy shots help those who wish to continue to be owned by pets but are sensitive or allergic. It does not seem like this has ever been a problem. For those who don't care for pets around them, typically pets can sense this and stay away.

This situation has broken many hearts and cost Edna the only home she has ever known. To evict her was cruel and heartless.

To try to counteract the outrage by offering to organize pet adoptions (for the EMS employees) is a kick in the face to Edna and those who love her. Of course public pet adoption clinics are a great idea, in general, but they do not address the love and companionship and trust built for Edna.

Morale is terrible because employees feel unheard and not respected. Think of the boost in morale when you allow Edna to stay.

Commissioner, I am writing to you because you seemed open to working this out in such a manner that would allow Edna to stay and to pave the way if the situation should arise in other stations by updating the current rules. Thank you Sir for your openness to observe, be respectful and encourage other people's opinions.

Please do all you can to protect that beautiful little cat and those who love her.
Thank you sincerely for your efforts to bring Edna back to Station 49 and for paving the way for other animals to adopt stations and the hero's that live and work in and out of them.

Please be the hero we all hope you will be.
Take a stand for Edna. Amnesty for Edna!

Sincerely,

Patricia Hanson
Hollis, ME

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: lynda.connelly@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 10:42 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I have a suspicion that the anonymous person has a personal grievance against the fire house or one of its personnel. Cats are territorial and do not go where they are not allowed. I could understand if this was a barking dog but cats are clean, quiet and independent. Edna is a family member to these brave men and women doing some of the most important work in our community. My husband was recently taken care of by the Fire Dept. Medic Unit and I credit them for their quick response and medical care in helping to aid his recovery. The inside of their vehicle was spotless and the fire medics were, too. Has the firehouse ever had a health citation? If not, send Edna back to her home and loving family.

Lynda Connelly

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: William F Votra <votrawf197@potsteam.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 8:52 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To Whom it May Concern,

The removal of the therapy animal Edna from Station 49 shows a tremendous lack of support for the emergency service members that serve under you. The resulting gag order on these men and women from speaking about their companion illustrates that your priorities lie with placating a discontent minority at the expense of the men and women who serve underneath you. I urge you to express leadership as opposed to management in this situation, and allow Edna to return to her home at Station 49. The story of Edna and her eviction has traveled across the country, all the way to Upstate New York where our hearts break for the affected members. We express our sympathy for our brothers and sisters toiling under an oppressive regime that treats its members as machines instead of people, a regime that demands conformity while remaining deliberately oblivious of the conditions of its workers. This animal has brought healing and hope to members being physically and mentally broken by the toll of this job, to remove her from this environment shows a lack of empathy for these embattled workers. I ask that you please reconsider your decision and allow Edna to return to her home.

Respectfully yours,
William Votra

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Carla bzik <cbzik@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 8:36 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: RE: Fire stations historically have dogs?

Maybe that's an antiquated policy

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

On Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 8:10 AM, Commission, Fire (FIR) <fire.commission@sfgov.org> wrote:

There is a policy that no animals are allowed.

From: Carla bzik <cbzik@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 8:08 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR) <fire.commission@sfgov.org>
Subject: Fire stations historically have dogs?

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

so what is the difference if the fire station animal is a cat? isn't that discrimination that Edna gets the boot?

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Janell Harris <janellharris@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 8:34 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna Stays!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Edna is a therapy cat for the hard-working people of Station 49. Sterile medical supplies are surely protected already. If not, that seems like the problem, not Edna.

SF Resident for 23 years
- Janell

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Carla bzik <cbzik@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 8:08 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Fire stations historically have dogs?

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so what is the difference if the fire station animal is a cat? isn't that discrimination that Edna gets the boot?

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: SHERI TAYLOR <sherit@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 5:27 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: I wished I lived in the SF area so I could attend the meeting in support of Edna the cat ...

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but as someone who values the incredible work of first responders and someone who loves animals and knows the wonder of loving a cat, let this email stand in my place.

Please, please, let Edna go back to the fire station. She had a home there and the guys love her.

I remember growing up seeing countless images of Dalmations atop fire trucks... they were as much a symbol of the station as the big red engine. Why can't Edna be that symbol?

Please, Please, Please!

Respectfully,

Sheri Taylor-Emery

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Stephen <stephen.w.colyer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 10:06 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Can we get a grip? Edna has lived at the station for over four years and never caused a problem and is loved by these hardworking dedicated employees. I think the Mayor should ask if she has ever done anything that was outside the letter of the law, rules and/or policies for morale of herself or others in the workplace. The San Francisco government has allowed the city to become a safe haven for criminals, illegal aliens and drug users. Let's fix these problems and leave the cat alone!

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: J Ray <janieceray@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 9:37 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Please let Edna stay!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear sir or madam,

I am writing to let you know that I am strongly in favor of letting Edna stay at the Station 49.

If nothing else, it should be up to the men and women that are working at Station 49 every day. Perhaps a vote for all of the employees of the station could go out? To me, that seems fair.

What truly seems odd about the whole situation is that she has been living at the station for four years, suddenly one anonymous person has a complaint and she gets the boot? From the articles I've read and the things I've seen online that she was truly loved by many of the workers.

These men and women sacrifice enough for us daily, please let them keep their pet.

Best regards,

Janiece Ray
Orange County, CA 92626

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Stacy <sbshanto@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 9:14 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

EDNA NEEDS TO STAY!
Her home is at the station. That's where she belongs.

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Elissa DeCaro <bewareofmuddle@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 8:45 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Please Let Edna Stay

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

The world is often a cruel, ugly place - especially for those who deal with loss, suffering, and violence on a daily basis. Edna brings comfort, light, and kindness with her mere presence. She is clearly a very special creature.

Please allow her to return to her home. Edna is an irreplaceable ambassador for good. The San Francisco Fire Department would be remiss to forsake such a worthy representative.

With Respect,
Elissa DeCaro

Sent from my iPhone

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Rachel Arnott <rachel.paige.arnott@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 8:40 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Fire cat Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello,

I'm writing to encourage the Fire Commission to allow Edna to return to Fire Station 49. I have read that there are concerns with having an animal in close proximity to the ambulance and medical supplies. I am hoping the commission can work with the EMS staff to put in place appropriate protocols that will keep the community safe and allow Edna to return to Station 49.

I think it's a wonderful story that Edna found the fire house and provides comfort and companionship to the employees. Sometimes it's the smallest perks that can mean the difference between a rewarding work environment and just a job. Please return Edna to Station 49 and let her continue her good work.

Regards,

Rachel Arnott
249 Pierce St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Eileen Tse <eileentse2010@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 7:51 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Regarding Fire cat Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand there was a complaint made about this cat being at Fire Station 49. I understand the person was concerned about keeping supplies sanitary and having animals at a fire station is not acceptable. I am hoping in this day and age that there can be flexibility on this rule, as it seems this animal provides much comfort and happiness for employees working at that location.

I am assuming that the employees at Fire Station 49 are not lakadaisical about their jobs and protocols, so the level of cleanliness etc is maintained. I'm assuming that measures were taken to keep Edna away from the supply room, etc. I'm assuming this, as it seems no incidents have occurred in the 4 years this cat has been there? I could be wrong.

At my workplace of 12. If the majority of people want something, it happens, as we want to keep employees happy. If it's just one person who works at that location that doesn't want the cat, this person's complaint can't carry more weight than the others that want the cat there. There's got to be some way both parties can be happy.

It would be such a loss to your employees at Fire Station 49, if this cat is not allowed to return. I mean the cat will adjust and have a happy life, but I am more concerned about your employees. What they do is stressful, and if that cat provides a level of comfort, it should be able stay with arrangements made to make the other party feeling less disgruntled.

You cannot deny how much support/uplift this cat has provided to Fire Station 49 employees.

I hope you can reconsider the decision.

Sincerely,

Eileen Tse

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Colleen Camacho <tuckerdog2011@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 5:55 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna stays!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Saw the posts about Edna. You should reconsider and let her stay at the fire station. Sounds like she is well loved and taken care of.

Thanks

Colleen Camacho

Sent from my iPhone

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: AGATHA TORIBIO <agathatoribio@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 3:24 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Good evening,

I was shocked to learn of Edna being evicted out of her home. Edna is a hero and deserves to be there. Her spirit has helped these hard working stressed out firefighter working night and day. Edna is a hero because she is their to support them when they feel they cant go on any longer. Let Edna go back please that is home and where she belongs. Please

Thank you

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Lisa Lorraine <Lisal@folsompartners.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 3:03 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Cc: Lisa Lorraine-Eneqvist
Subject: Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Fire Commission of San Francisco,

Please consider the benefits of allowing Edna to be with the Fire Station 49 Team.

I am sure that you have been getting loads of emails and you can understand the benefits of the fire team having Edna. I am in Folsom, CA and read about the story. This email is to extend my support for Fire Station 49 EMS to keep Edna.

The vibration of their purring actually has healing properties. Cats have helped people recover from infections, depression anxiety disorders, surgeries and more!

Cats provide their own brand of unconditional love and comfort.

They help us relax and cope with the stresses of life in a special way. When our feline friends run to greet us after a long day away, it affects us physically. Many studies have shown that having a cat can calm nerves, lower blood pressure, help prevent and treat cardiovascular disease, cancer and chronic pain, strengthen the immune system and even help you live longer.

I grew up in the Bay Area and my Grandma was born and raised in San Francisco. We left our hearts there for a reason. . .

Thank you so much for having a heart, I know you will make the decision and allow Edna to live there and support the fire Station Team by loving them all of her days. I had a Tortie named Lille, who loved and supported me through a lot of family hardships. She was a rescue and was the best cat I ever had.

Here is some more truth specifically about Tortie Cats.

Tortoiseshell cats make more than good pets, they have a very rich history and a place in folklore in many different cultures. Although we know that the beautiful tortoiseshell pattern comes from the result of a complex genetical pattern that is only found in female cats, the Khymers of South East Asia believed that the first tortoiseshell arose from the menstrual blood of a goddess born of a lotus flower.

Black cats have always been regarded as lucky, but stories about torties in particular go back to ancient times when the Celts believed that tortoiseshell cats brought good luck to their homes. It is still regarded as good luck in both Scotland and Ireland if a stray tortie settles in your home, and we certainly believe that any home with a tortie is a lucky one!

Male tortoiseshell cats are very rare (only about 1 in 3000 tortoiseshell cats are male), and perhaps this is why Japanese fishermen tried to carry a male tortoiseshell on board their ships to protect them from ghosts and from storms out at sea. There is also an English old wives tale that you can cure warts if you rub them with the tail of a male tortoiseshell cat during the month of May. We are not so sure about that one!

If you are lucky enough for a tortie cat to appear in your dream then you will enjoy good fortune in love.

Best regards,

Lisa Lorraine, 916-792-5103



Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Nicole <nicole.kartowski@standup-inc.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 12:48 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Inquiry

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear San Francisco Fire Department,

I believe you all are making a huge mistake in evicting Edna from the premises of the Department's Ambulance Deployment Facility. Edna is a key part of what makes your workers do such an incredible job at what they do! Edna calms them, supports them, and provides them joy after some very traumatic work days. I am uncertain how you could believe that having a cat is a sanitation issue with medical equipment. As per standard, medical equipment must be secured where contaminants cannot access it. Due to this, an animal would not be able to affect the medical equipment in an unsafe manner, so long as you all are following codes to properly secure the medical equipment. I work alongside with a non-profit organization in my state called Bedford Cares. We assist with the trap, neuter, and return of feral cats, along with care for these cats once they are returned to their home, by providing consistent food, water, and shelter. The most important fact that I have learned from this program about feral cats is, it is ALWAYS best to return them to their outdoor home. Feral cats are most comfortable there, and do not acclimate to being stuck indoors or at a new environment as well. For a feral cat, their outdoor home is all that they have ever known. They have just as much right to remain there as you do. Please research feral cat information, along with the therapeutic benefits that an animal provides to your staff. It would be in great benefit all around for Edna to be able to live her life happily at the fire station unit that she was at. Do not let ONE person take away her and your staff's happiness! I know you all do a great deal in fighting for the lives of humans..now it's time to transfer that into fighting for Edna and what is right for animals. You have a large platform to fight for what is right, I pray that you will do right by Edna, which can in turn teach many others about how important the lives of feral cats and animals, are!

Thank you!

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Mary Hegarty <marylouise.hegarty@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 8:00 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna the Cat

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am away on a business trip and unable to attend your Commission's February 27, meeting at City Hall, during which you will be hearing about Edna the Cat.

The informal adoption of Edna by Station 49 represents all that is right and good about our fair city. Plagued by chronic homelessness, Edna's story represents hope for San Francisco. She has become an important part of the Station 49 community. She is loved and cared for, and in return she provides comfort and unconditional support to our service workers who everyday endure events on the streets for which there are no words.

Edna is no longer feral.

Edna does not represent a health threat.

Consider the good her presence offers when you vote to LET EDNA STAY.

With gratitude,
Mary Louise Hegarty
Tel. 603.630.6282

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Melissa Luo <mytluo@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2019 6:59 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Please Let Edna Return to Station 49

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear SFFD Fire Commission,

Please let Edna return to Station 49. She obviously brings joy and comfort to the EMS employees there, and the sterile equipment has been secured long ago to ensure its inaccessibility to Edna. As a pet owner, I can assure you having a pet onsite who is familiar with you is infinitely more comforting and stress-relieving than having to actively seeking out different support groups. On top of which, Edna is now a certified therapy cat and **should** be a part of the support services offered to Station 49. This has become national news and makes San Francisco and California in general seem callous and petty. On a more personal level, most of Station 49 evidently loves Edna and wants her back. Please don't take her permanently away from her forever home.

Sincerely,
Melissa
Santa Clara, CA

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Carmen Otero <carotero@juno.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2019 6:20 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please let Edna stay at the firehouse!

Carmen Otero

Popcorn Does This To Your Brain (Proof)

clearstateofmind.com

<http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL3132/5c7350fe1c77550fd146fst02vuc>






Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Renee Taylor <renee.taylor3@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2019 10:04 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna the cat

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

PLEASE LET HER STAY! PLEASE!

Renée   
Louisville, Kentucky

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Kimberly Jan <kwhittaker2011@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2019 8:58 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Fire Cat Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Respectfully please allow sweet Edna return to her home at the fire house.

Sincerely,

Cat lover from Atlanta, GA

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Emporia Animal Shelter <emporiakansasanimalshelter@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2019 8:13 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: #EdnaStays

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To whom it may concern,

Hello, and greetings from the Emporia Animal Shelter in Emporia, Kansas!

We wanted to reach out to you to show our support for Edna, the gorgeous tortoiseshell kitty who currently resides at San Francisco Fire Department, station 49. Cats are wonderful, independent critters who provide a whole host of services to the people that care for them, and to our communities. We ask that you reconsider your decision to have Edna forcibly removed from her current home, and allow her to continue living at the fire station.

The in-house shelter kitties at our facility provide an invaluable service - they greet our customers and are shining examples of how sweet and helpful cats are, and show people that with a little time and patience, even shy cats can come around and become valued family members. Like our shelter cats, Edna provides a great service to her fire family and the Bay Area community. We hope you are able to find room for her in your hearts, as she has already found a wonderful home with the crew at station 49.

Regards,

Emporia Animal Shelter
1216 Hatcher
(620) 340-6345
Peggy Perez Manager
Barbara Haynes Shelter Assistant

"Saving one dog or cat will not change the world, but it will change the world for that one dog or cat" -Unknown

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Leo Larsen <hollypark156@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2019 8:12 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Keep Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Sir or Madam,
Edna the cat is a moral booster for the firefighters, I vote to keep her where she is, Leo Larsen Foster City Ca.

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Gustav Flohr <flohrskade@t-online.de>
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2019 8:09 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Mister Commissioner,
as a member of the volunteer fire department of Hagenheim in Bavaria / Germany, I ask you to give back Edna her happy life on her beloved fire station home. Happy cat – satisfied firefighters.

Thanks und best Regards,
Gustav Flohr

Gustav Flohr
Kapellenstr. 17
86928 Hagenheim
Germany
Mail: flohrskade@t-online.de

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Tonya Moore <vintagemedic78@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2019 5:31 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To whom it may concern: My name is Tonya Moore and I am a 22 yr veteran of the fire/EMS services. I can attest, first hand, to the value of having a "therapeutic" animal on station. We also had a cat. He was wonderful to have on station. It gave us all a bit of comfort after the hellish calls that we all have to deal with on a frequent basis. I have one memory that is indelibly etched in my memory. We had a commercial fire in a body shop. In short, we had an exterior wall collapse and injure 2 of our men. However, it didn't end there. We lost a captain. I can remember being the primary medic for him. I remember the sights, smells and sounds of that day. I remember it every September 30th in particular. But I also remember having our cat back on station to hold and eventually let loose all of the emotion with. He gave us all comfort. He was one thing we could all come together over, the one being that transcended every disagreement we ever had. Our Buddy was something we all agreed on. We kept him happy and healthy and he gave us comfort when we needed it most. All of you at the fire commission need to rethink your closed minded decision to evict Edna. Think outside the box for once. Value your public servants over the opinion of one individual with a complaint. These men and women serve their community selflessly and deserve better than what they are being given. They serve this complainant day in and day out. They obviously don't understand what we go through on a daily basis, because if they knew the things we see, they would never have made that complaint. Please, I ask that you put the mental health and wellbeing of your servants over one person's complaint. Your men and women deserve better than this. Yours in Service- Tonya Moore, THFD, ret.

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: corinne coombs <corinne.coombs@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 24, 2019 12:18 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: EDNA THE FIRE STATION SUPPORT CAT

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hi there

I read with anger your lack of support for your fire station crew to be able to have a support cat in their station. This is such an incredibly insensitive and insulting decision made in response to a complainant that should have been told where to go! Animals are a great comfort to people in stressful situations. Why are you not standing up for the amazing people who put their life on the line so we can sleep safe? Have you ever undertaken this job yourselves? I should imagine not in light of the decision made. It's stressful enough to be doing this job without having people in positions of power making decisions that support and empower these amazing people, not insult them and disrespect them.

Shame on you all. You've definitely got this wrong!

Corinne Coombs
Tasmania Australia

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Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: John Kukulewich <jkuku@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2019 9:35 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna the cat

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To whom it may concern,

I am a Canadian Firefighter who has been following the Edna story. While I respect the decisions any administration make in regards to departmental needs, I must ask they reconsider this. Edna has become one of the family in that fire house. They care for her and she returns the favour and cares for them. Animals are often the ones who comfort us when we return home from those hard calls. To be on shift and not have a cuddle buddy for upwards of 20 or more hours after a hard call can take a toll. I think pets in the fire house(as long as all are ok with it and it doesn't effect health or operations) is a great idea. This should be reconsidered. The firefighters in that house miss Edna dearly as she has helped them through a lot. I know you will make the best decision for the department, I just hope this little tidbit helps. Best wishes and good luck.

Thank you for your time,

John Kukulewich
South Frontenac Fire Rescue
Ontario, Canada

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: kristine severson <seversonkristine@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2019 9:03 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: #ednastays

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please...let Edna stay in the fire station. It's clear she is wonderful support for the fire fighters. I don't know why an anonymous complainer would request that she be removed, but until they come forward, it is my opinion that #ednastays.

Thank you,
Kris

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Karen Kalagayan <kkalagayan@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2019 8:09 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna the Cat

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To the Fire Commission,

I am writing to ask that Edna the cat be allowed to return (and remain) at Fire Station 49. It is clear that Edna brings joy and positivity to the entire crew, and she receives the same in return. **Please reconsider your decision to remove her from Station 49, the only home she really knows and where she is loved and cared for by so many.**

Thank you,

Karen V. Kalagayan
Gig Harbor, WA

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail
Get the new AOL app: mail.mobile.aol.com

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: DAVID DARNELL <adeterman@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2019 6:31 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: In support of SF firefighters and fire cat Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to add my voice and hope that you will re-consider allowing Edna to return to the firehouse. I feel that the firefighters, who risk their lives so often and so selflessly, deserve to have her there, for stress reduction and general happiness. And, it is her home, too!

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Best Wishes,

Amy Darnell

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: ebednarcyk <ebednarcyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2019 6:46 AM
To: Breed, Mayor London (MYR); Commission, Fire (FIR); FireAdministration, FIR (FIR); FirePIO, FIR (FIR)
Subject: Your arguments are lacking....Take a look at others and LET EDNA RETURN

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Need proof that your arguments are bogus (re: a cat at an EMS station). There's "Killer" at a New York City EMS Station and "Defib" in London, along with many others.

Here's what EMS workers have to say about "Flame the Cat" at their station in Greenville, NC:

Since his arrival, Flame has come to be not only a companion for the firefighters, who can spend many hours away from home, but a kind of therapy cat for them as well.

"We see a lot of bad stuff," Segars said. "And it's like he knows, he can sense, that maybe they aren't having a good day. And he will just rub up on them and sit in their lap, and be like, I'm here for you."

Are you that backwards thinking that you cannot see the value of a cat at an EMS station?

Not Anonymously,
E. Bednarcyk
Goshen, NH

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Norm Rooker <nrooker911@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2019 11:52 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna, the Station 49 firecat

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear SFFD Commissioners,

I am writing in support of allowing Edna, the Station 49 housecat to be returned to her quarters. The above actions to date concerning Edna have been mishandled by certain individuals in the SFFD command staff and has put the department in a bad light with the public.

- 1.) The department's selective enforcement/justification is specious and has put the image of the SFFD in a bad light with the general public. (The gag order did not help the cause either.)
- 2.) Any reasonable court of law will state that selectively ignoring a policy for Four Years is in fact, a waiver of said policy.
- 3.) The argument that Station 49 is somehow different from other stations is capricious. All firehouses have medical supplies and storage areas for them. Station 49 just has more of them. Therefore this is not a rationale to justify allowing pets to stay or looking the other way for other SFFD stations that may have a station pet, cat dog or other.
- 4.) Currently there is an emphasis in emergency services on the "stress of the job". That we are having workplace issues and/or losing highly trained individuals to stress and PTSD.

With that in mind, Edna preforms a great service to the SFFD at no cost to the department in assisting with the morale and stress reduction of most if not all members assigned to Station 49.

Additionally, the department's managerial actions up to now have not assisted in reducing the level of stress or well being for any its members on this issue. Especially the dozens of personnel assigned to Station 49.

- 5.) This last point is shared or should be taken with tongue planted firmly in cheek. With all of the diversity and tolerance that makes the City of San Francisco the unique place it is to live, work and visit, why is the SFFD denying a cat who obviously identifies itself as a Dalmatian the right to be a station member/member of the department?

Respectfully submitted,
Chief Norm Rooker (ret.) Ouray County EMS, CO
SFFD H-3 #162 (retired 7-14-05)

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Joline Bradshaw <jolinebradshaw@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 12:53 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Let Edna Stay home at Station 49

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing this email in regards to Edna the Beautiful cat that was forced away from her home at Station 49 in San Francisco Because of a complaint from one unanimous person, when Edna has over 200 plus people who love and adore her at the station. Why is it fair or proper to allow her to be taken from her home of 5 years because of one person against over 200 plus other people who look forward to seeing her every day and rely on her for the love and comfort that she gives and helps destress them from their very stressful jobs. I myself think that is extremely wrong and unfair. Edna knows Station 49 and everyone there has her home and family. There ha never been an issue or problem in the 5 years she has been there and she has even now been certified as a Therapy Cat through the SF SPCA!

That is exactly what these men and woman need at the station when they get back every time from risking their lives every day. For Edna to be there waiting and welcoming them and calm them. As far as I'm concerned as well as millions of others b the looks and sounds of it. You have made a huge mistake by taking hour away from her very loving home and family. I just hope and pray that you do the right thing and realize that this one complaint against the 200 plus people is nothing and that Edna deserves to be allowed to go back home to Station 49 with her very large loving family.

Thank You
Sincerely
Joline Bradshaw

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Tom Hoover <awakens@well.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 17, 2019 12:23 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: cat brouhaha

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

esteemed Commissioners--

i write to add my small perspective to the brouhaha over the cat mascot at station #49.

i want to note that cats are also important for the control of vermin, that is, rats and mice.

and that section of town and waterfront is certainly not immune to such a vermin population.

also the idea that there are emotional and psychological issues that are improved by having a mascot i believe is good one.

the fact that a restraining order had to be put in place because of the person who filed the complaint argues in favor of the psychological benefits of the mascot to the majority of that crew or team. and taking it away has caused undue stress to harmony of the team.

this does necessarily mean that person who has reported is a bad person. especially if that person has a phobia or more likely an allergy to cat hairs, say, or to the litter box.

perhaps it might politic to be able to transfer that person to another station where there is no mascot or animal that would activate their allergy or phobia; quietly and with no fuss so they are not subjected to the bad feelings they seem to have caused amongst the majority of the crew.

thank you for time and consideration.

--Tom Hoover
Sausalito, Calif.

ps--part of my interest there is that in my younger days i longshored along the waterfront while it was still an active port [giving my age...]

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: ebednarcyk <ebednarcyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2019 11:52 AM
To: Breed, Mayor London (MYR); Commission, Fire (FIR); FireAdministration, FIR (FIR); FirePIO, FIR (FIR)
Subject: Put some steel in your spine and fix this! Return Edna!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

This is a fixable situation. Return Edna to her home and job!

Not Anonymously,
E. Bednarcyk
Goshen, NH

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: ebednarcyk <ebednarcyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2019 6:29 AM
To: Breed, Mayor London (MYR); Commission, Fire (FIR); FireAdministration, FIR (FIR);
FirePIO, FIR (FIR)
Subject: Therapy Cat vs. Politics

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Having a therapy cat at a place of employment, especially a stressful job such as Station 49 does, is almost a necessary item! For you to say that you will arrange a pet adoption event for the employees is ridiculous at best!

Your decisions reek and since the anonymous complainant is still anonymous, it reeks even further.

Sanctuary City? Might want to reconsider that one.

Return Edna to her home and job at Station 49.

Not Anonymously,
E. Bednarcyk
Goshen, NH

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: ebednarcyk <ebednarcyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2019 6:24 AM
To: Breed, Mayor London (MYR); Commission, Fire (FIR); FireAdministration, FIR (FIR);
FirePIO, FIR (FIR)
Subject: RETURN EDNA!!!!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Really? A Cease and Desist notice? You are making it seem like a true cover-up! What are you covering?
Nepotism? Pigsty Politics?

You do realize that without Edna to keep Station 49 clear of rats, mice, raccoons and other vermin they will
soon be swimming in unsanitary conditions.

I'll say it again.....Return Edna!

Not Anonymously,
E. Bednarcyk
Goshen, NH

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: ebednarcyk <ebednarcyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2019 11:07 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Fw: Edna the Cat

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

If you read below, you will see my response to the Mayor's office "blanket" email. Insulting at best. RETURN EDNA TO HER HOME!

From: [ebednarcyk](#)
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2019 2:04 PM
To: [Summers, Ashley \(MYR\)](#)
Subject: Re: Edna the Cat

Actually, the EMS staff probably needs Edna more than you know! If you are concerned about keeping the station sanitary, you may want to consider moving Edna BACK! Which is more unsanitary? A cat or a raccoon or rats or mice or even people! Think about this for more than a moment and return Edna to her home and her people! Hosting a pet adoption day is NOT the same at all!!! That's a bogus solution. The emails will not stop until Edna is returned to the station!

From: [Summers, Ashley \(MYR\)](#)
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 8:35 PM
To: ebednarcyk@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Edna the Cat

Thank you for contacting Mayor London Breed's Office regarding Edna the cat. At this time, Edna has been relocated and is being cared for and safe. The reason for the decision to relocate Edna was due to the fact that the workplace in question was not a Fire Station, it is the San Francisco Fire Department's Ambulance Deployment Facility, which is used by ambulance staff to provide crucial, lifesaving emergency health care.

It is important to note that our Fire Department engages in Peer Support and has a Stress Committee to provide critical self-help services to Fire Department members. The Fire Department Chief has also reached out to San Francisco Animal Care & Control and other animal welfare organizations to host a pet adoption day for First Responders.

You can read the San Francisco Fire Department's full statement here: <https://sf-fire.org/sites/default/files/Official%20SFFD%20Statement.pdf>

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any further questions.

Ashley Summers
Operations Manager | Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services (MONS)
Office of Mayor London N. Breed
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl. Room 160
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-5977 | Ashley.Summers@sfgov.org

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Lesandre <lesandre@nctv.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 6:57 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Cc: FireAdministration, FIR (FIR)
Subject: Comment

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear S.F. Fire Dept.:

Re: Edna and Station #49

<https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Edna-cat-fire-station-49-San-Francisco-ednastays-13608683.php>

Our family is heartbroken that a decision was made to cruelly evict Edna after five loyal years of friendship. That station was her family. And all because of ONE complaint from someone who obviously did not care for cats. Poor Edna had to be wrenched away from her family, the only home and family that she knew, and driven out into the world. The photo from this link says it all.

Cats are highly intelligent – they have 300 million neurons in the pre-frontal cortex of their brain. They use these for processing and strategizing. They are sensitive and feel anxiety just as humans do. Edna was not a problem for “public health and safety concerns, that is a gross overstatement. She was no threat to any of the medical supplies either, you know that. For you to be told "get rid of" the cat, by someone anonymous (??), before animal control was called, is malicious and unreasonable.

To quote from the above link:

“Firemen find cat
Firemen keep cat
Firemen love cat
Cat loves Firemen
Landlord says cat has to go
Firemen, say NO!!”

PLEASE KEEP EDNA!!!

Ayrey Family



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Megan Byrne <megbyrne27@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 5:46 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: EDNA

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to let request that you let Edna return. I was stationed at 49 last year and saw the joy she brought to many of our members. She doesn't really live there, but mostly just comes in at night. She has a couple of spots in the bay she spends time, none are near the medical equipment.

I hope you will review the policy of no pets in the fire houses.

Best,
Megan

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Taylor Wolf <t.wolf835@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 3:44 PM
To: Firadministration@sfgov.org
Cc: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To Whom it May Concern:

I believe you have made a grave mistake in evicting Edna from her home. Those first responders NEED joy and comfort and goodness in their lives and in their workplace.

I may not live in you city, I may be states away, but this is an issue that I feel very strongly about. Pets ARE important to the wellbeing of their owners. From what I have seen, this cat is very much loved by her community. Studies have shown that having a pet, especially cats, significantly reduce stress. First responders have a VERY stressful job and need to be at the top of their game every single time they go on a call. A cat that has been in their care for five years, cannot be that disruptive to the runnings of the department. Whoever made the complaint is a bitter person who apparently does not understand the impact a simple pet can have on a person. Sometimes, it really is the deciding factor between life and death. Clearly, as first responders, it is not only their lives you need to be concerned with.

If it is aatter of sterility, keep the cat out of that room(s) where they are stored.

For reference, I have included some sources for you to reflect upon:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?q=pets+reducing+stress&hl=en&as_sdt=0&as_vis=1&oi=scholart#d=gs_qabs&u=%23p%3DSu_4owQV4IcJ

<https://www.southbostonanimalhospital.com/blog/8-ways-pets-relieve-stress>

<https://science.howstuffworks.com/life/pets-happiness1.htm>

Thank you for your time, and I sincerely hope you reconsider you decision,

Taylor Wolf

Ashtabula Co, OH

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: IRENE YBARRA <sflifesavr@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 2:38 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Commissioner Veronese: Edna the Cat and Surf Signage

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioner Veronese,

My name is Irene Ybarra. I am a retired Paramedic member of the SFFD. Specifically station 49. I am one of the members that initially fed Edna, when she started wandering in to station 49 over 4 years ago.

I watched today's Fire Commission meeting, specifically to hear your take on the issue. Which by the way, given your limited amount of time, I thought was well presented.

I must point out a few things. Edna was NOT brought into the station by any one person. She was a feral little kitty, that like rats, mice, raccoons and skunks, are able to freely enter the warehouse, because of design.

Edna had been removed a couple times, as were the rest of the wanderers. However, Edna continued, despite her feral status, to come to the station. So, my partner and I bought her a small bag of kibble and left out a little food for her every now and then. At that time, you could not make contact with her.

This went on for some time, and we began to see a change in her, of becoming a little more sure of herself around us.

I came in very early one morning and Edna was chasing out, albeit VERY carefully, out a skunk from the warehouse. I thought wow, this is one brave little kitty. Another morning, she had a sizable rat in her mouth. Her feats of being the onsite pest control just grew from there, with this one being one of her most challenging. But this raccoon left. 😊



I felt like Edna was showing me her gratefulness for the food she was given. So as another reward, she was given a box, tucked out of the way, and a blanket to nap in. As you can imagine, the streets around the Bayview are not very forgiving. I felt she deserved some sense of safety.

Sometime went by and Edna came and went as she pleased, because she could, she wasn't a pet, she was a feral cat coming and going.

But then something happened, she started rubbing up against crew members that greeted her when they saw her. I personally thought WOW there's a friendly kitty in there.

So we made the decision to at least catch her and make sure she was healthy. Easier said than done. 😊 This took calling a Professional Cat Catcher. Yes, there is such a thing. Who knew.

Edna was eventually caught and taken to the SPCA, where she was deemed FERAL, but examined and vaccinated. Then returned "near by" station49. Keep in mind, crews were told by me, to NOT try to get too familiar with Edna, because I DIDN'T want her to be too comfortable around the parking lot, for fear she might be struck by one of many vehicles in the yard. But oddly enough, it was Edna, herself, that seemed determined to adopt station49 as her family.

'Where's Edna?' Soon became the first question of the morning or end of the day by crews. Crews were trying to get selfies. They'd sit on the floor to see if Edna could come over and check them out. And well, you know the rest of that story.

Sure Edna's priority was still 'vermin control' But now she was bonding with crews. And crews were spending more than just a few minutes with her. Some brought her treats that Edna got ONLY FROM THEM. lol Others bought her a new water and food dish. And 2 of us used private funds to buy her food, shots and monthly flea treatment. Which is still maintained.

Throughout all this time, Edna was observed by pretty much EVERY personnel in the department. Including, but not limited to Chief Hayes-White, late Mayor Lee, members of the grand jury, because she MADE herself noticed. No one tried to hide Edna.

We got a lot of support from the former EMS Chief Jeff Myers. He was a cat person and he knew what was a good thing for his crews.

I have to tell you, when Chief Myers left, so did any positive support for personnel at stn49. Encouragement for stn49 personnel to be involved in any departmental processes and moral plummeted. Just as an example, I was in charge of station 49 logistics and a member of the new station49 committee. As soon as Chief Zanoff took over, no meetings were held with me regarding EMS logistics operations. And I was no longer invited to take part in the new station 49 planning. But I digress. I decided my resolve, was to retire in June of 2017. Life's too short.

The idea was floated for me to take Edna with me when I moved to the Pacific North West. But there were 2 things wrong with that idea. First, I wouldn't have the accommodations for Edna for a while, because she would need some sort of outdoor space to feel comfortable and couldn't just let her go outside, as I live on acreage, with bears, coyotes and cougars. And lastly, Edna was PART OF THE STN49 FAMILY. How would that be for everyone else for me to take her away. So Edna stayed. And as you can obviously tell from all the outpouring of public support, became a huge part of station 49 moral.

Despite the claims of Chief Hayes-White, Edna HAS NOT been adopted. A station member was ORDERED by Chief Zanoff to remove her, and therefore, that member, out of fear for Edna's safety, was forced to take her home. I might add, that Chief Zanoff ordered this member to leave an hour prior to the end of her shift.

In October, I received a call from a station 49 member in a panic, because one of the storekeepers actually threatened, "We'll just report Edna, and that'll show these people" I told this person, that was "just an idle threat, no one is so mean and bitter to take his issues out on a cat that does no harm and HE feeds her too. He likes Edna, so he's just venting" Boy was I wrong.

I should have known I'd be wrong. There have been problems with the 1934 storekeepers for YEARS. But instead of resolving the situation, it just gets passed from person to person. In 2016, then Support Services Chief Lombardi passed the problem on to me. Quite frankly these are the most difficult people to work with. Just the mere suggestion of "I need you to get to work" or "please get off your cellphone and complete task xyz" incites agitation or "that's not our job" from them. One in particular has been disciplined 3 times for threats of violence against uniformed personnel. Most recently with a box cutter. But yet the crazy part is he's still there and still refuses to do his assigned job. Just to be clear, this is not new since they transferred from DPH to SFFD with the merger. The same problems existed with them at DPH. I came from there.

Edna has NEVER caused damage at stn49. She has been blamed a couple times and each time it was shown to be raccoons or rats.

The 'Sterile supplies' the storekeepers claim she is contaminating, are in a separate "clean room" that the storekeepers are REQUIRED, by the Industrial Hygienist, not only to keep closed, but also to not spend an extended amount of time in, themselves, because the storekeepers originally reported they "COULDN'T BREATHE" in that room. There "wasn't

sufficient ventilation” Yet this rule is CONSTANTLY broken by them, because it’s a “what suits us at the time” philosophy with them.

To be quite honest, given the threatening manners of the storekeepers as well as EMS Chief and Acting Section Chief and Chief Hayes-Whites OBVIOUS lack of empathy for Edna or the personnel from stn49, I don’t know that it would even be a safe environment for her if she were allowed to return.

I applaud you for pushing the Chief to come up with a plan to possibly integrate animals into the department, perhaps by way of the stress unit. But I would recommend perhaps talking to some members of station49 about their experiences with the so-called stress unit. It benefits firefighters who have the time to take a minute after a call to debrief. But its honestly of little benefit to sin49 members who are being yelled at by radio to be available for another call.

When I was on an ambulance myself, I had 2 events that I needed to take a minute and regroup. One was having citizen come out of nowhere on the street while I was tending to a patient and he punched me in the side of the head, knocked off and damage my glasses and left me with a nice bit of a headache. He was 6’5”, I’m 5’4”. Another incident was my partner and I had a gun pointed in our direction, because two men arguing, one decided to take refuge at the front grille of our ambulance. That incident we called for immediate PD response and got NOBODY. We had to work ourselves out of that one.

In both cases, we were pestered to “get back in service, we were needed for a call”. While not much bothers me after 32 years in EMS. In both events, my far less seasoned EMT partner had some serious trauma from the events. There was “no one available from the stress unit” in both cases. REALLY? And we were “running low, so we need you in service” Unbelievable. I put us out of service for the remainder of both shifts.

I think the bigger picture here, Edna is just a small example of the imbalance of the way stantion49 members are perceived, vs. how the rest of the department is perceived.

When was the last time you saw a member of station49 speak to the Fire Commission to represent station49, relating to anything positive or wanting to further involvement or recruitment for the Fire Department. And I don’t mean EMS6.

I’m not looking for a way for you to put the gavel down and force the department into something. I’m looking for YOU to become more familiar with station 49 and let them know that the Fire Commission IS thinking about them too and wants to hear from them and might want their input on how to better the department as a whole.

Thank you for You Time,
Irene Ybarra

BTW, I also had thought about the Surf Signage. I’ve been noticing highway signs popping up, that say “Don’t Drink and Drive” or “Don’t Text and Drive” and then at the bottom, they have “In Memory of,,,” I think it give a more human aspect to the sign. Perhaps one way to put out rough surf warnings, is to see if they can’t include an “In Memory Of” message. Perhaps when someone is too fare out on the rocks, they have a human reminder of the need for safety. Just a thought.

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: wkellyatty@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 1:51 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: SFFD Station 49 Cat

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

As an Army officer with 30 years of service I have experienced first hand how an animal can help people cope in stressful situations such as combat. I strongly urge the SFFD to reverse the decision to remove "Edna" from Station 49. The heroes who risk their lives every day deserve a companion who provides comfort and asks so little in return. Colonel Wendy Kelly, US Army (Ret.)

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail
Get the new AOL app: mail.mobile.aol.com

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Sarah G <triisarahtopp@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 1:40 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Be a hero

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello,

I'm sure you are beginning to receive an immense amount of emails regarding Edna the cat at firehouse 49.. we are all so concerned and disgusted with the actions taking place. These firefighters and medics risk their lives daily to help our citizens.. they rescued another life as well no one in your district seems to care for.. and that is Edna. They rescued her and I think she did the same for them. She provides a level of comfortable, stability, and stress relief.. the fact that an anonymous complaint is more important than the happiness and mental health of your cities heroes is beyond me.. please show some compassion for the people who deserve it most.. help return Edna to her home.. to the family that loves her. Save your firehouse the same way they save lives everyday.. step up and take action.. take a look at the [change.org](https://www.change.org) campaign.. about 20,000 people begging for someone to notice how wrong this is. Don't let us all down..

Sincerely a concerned citizen,

Sarah

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Laura Lieberman <laura.long.lieberman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 12:34 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Please Let Edna Stay

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Fire Commissioner:

Please reconsider and allow Edna, a fabulous Tortie feline, to remain at Company 49. After a long, exhausting day, there's nothing better than the affection of a cat who is grateful to have her "forever home". I had a Tortie myself as my very first rescue and she was a dear companion and source of great joy.

If our firefighters find some love in the local rescue kitty, you should not deny them the opportunity to treat Edna like part of the Company 49 family. What would your wife say? Your kids? Grandkids (if you have any)? They'd say, "Keep the kitty!"

Thank you for your time and consideration. Thank you for all that you do.

Best Regards,
Laura Lieberman
Lovettsville, VA
(owner of 7 rescue cats)

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: M Roan <bluefoot506@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 11:33 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Bring Edna back

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Edna does not cost the city any money. We all know how budgets go. Edna, adopted the fire service and we have let her down at the moment. It is well known that Gods creatures go where there are needed. Edna saves the well known SF Paramedics, EMTS, Firefighters and support personnel. You could not pay 100 psychiatrists what the power of one cat can provide. SF has rats. The city will always have mice and rats. Edna keeps those nasty things away and away from precious medical supplies. Every AMR ambulance deployment centers I have been to across the county has Ferrell cats. Many Fire Stations have dogs and cats that they rescued or were adopted by the animals themselves. They are important to the well being of the crews. Its things like this having a kitty around is a moral booster. The crews take care of them not costing the departments any money. They come and go as they please. They do important work behind the scenes. People who dont have pets feel they can love up the kitties at work. This is awesome for stress relief in the profession that has the highest suicide rates. I'd pay to have cats brought in just for critical incident stress management. Edna adopted us! The crews take care of Edna and it doesnt cost the department! Please Bring Edna Back! Thank you! Mary Roan EMTSan Francisco Bluefoot506@yahoo.com



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: SHERI TAYLOR <sherit@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 11:18 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Please add my name to the list of people outraged about the situation concerning Edna the cat.

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Could someone ... some bureaucrat ... show a little common sense and compassion?

Good Lord, this is ridiculous that this happened. Men and women who put their lives on the line to protect others love this animal. This animal loves her "home" ... and an anonymous complaint gets more weight than the wishes of the firefighters?

I am so sad/mad. Please reverse this decision.

Sincerely,

Sheri Taylor-Emery

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Gail Shem <g_shem@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 11:13 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Station 49's Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To whom it may concern,
As someone who has worked in emergency medicine for over 30 years, I ask that you do whatever you can to help the brave men and women of Station 49 keep their beloved cat, Edna. A fuzzy face can be such a comfort after a stressful shift. PTSD is a very real problem amongst first responders. Edna has been a working member of that station for almost 5 years chasing away rodents and helping the men and women of that station destress. I urge you to please let Edna stay at Station 49 for the morale of all who work there.

Thank you,
Gail Shem, RN

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Belinda Renno <Pharmgirl1973@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 6:12 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Feline Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear **Joe Alioto Veronese, Esq.**

Thank you for understanding the importance of service animals. Obviously you are aware that over 19K people from around the globe have signed onto a petition to have Feline Edna returned to Station 49. Many more individuals have commented on Instagram...Edna is very popular with over 85K followers.

I have read that you are attending a regularly scheduled meeting today for the commissioners and plan to appeal this unreasonable ruling of Edna's eviction from her home and "family" of over 200 civil servants.

**I applaud your conviction and appreciate your willingness to support this cause.
Good Luck**

Belinda Renno

Sent from my iPad

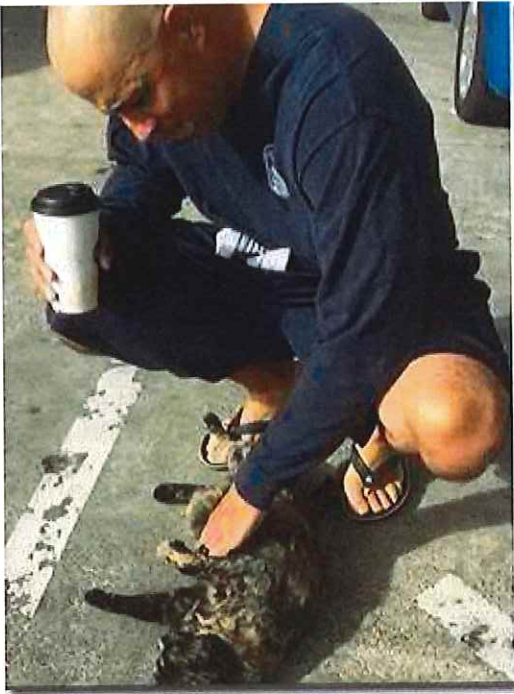
Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: ebednarcyk <ebednarcyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 6:05 AM
To: Breed, Mayor London (MYR); Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Really? Was there an inspection? RETURN EDNA TO THE STATION!!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

So one anonymous complaint (which is now being said was by an employee) and the cat must go? Was an inspection done? Were other employees spoken with about possible issues? No? I didn't think so! Shame on you! This cat is not just a killer of vermin (although I can now see who the real vermin is), but a therapy cat! Need proof? Look at her instagram page:





This wonderful cat costs you as a city Nothing and yet gives to the station Everything! Return Edna to her home at the Station!!
Not Anonymously,
E. Bednarczyk
Goshen, NH

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: ebednarcyk <ebednarcyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 5:59 AM
To: Breed, Mayor London (MYR); Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Return Edna Now!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I was truly surprised to learn it was an employee that complained! So this person will now be on call 24/7 to rid the station of raccoons, rats, owls, mice and any other vermin running rampant in your city? And all for a nice blanket, some food, and some scratches, too? Nice trade off..... I'd say someone of the human kind needs to go!



Not Anonymously,
E. Bednarcyk
Goshen, NH

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Cindy Newland <cindynewland@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 7:12 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR); Breed, Mayor London (MYR)
Subject: Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I respectfully request that Edna is allowed to stay. There are many fire departments that have dogs as a support for the firefighters, and obviously Edna is a support for the SF dept.

As a volunteer for the Kansas City Pet Project, I can attest to the emotional support people can receive from animals.

Please reconsider and allow the firefighters to receive that kind of support.

Sincerely,
Cindy Newland

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Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Phillis Stein <phillisstein44@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 7:11 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR); Breed, Mayor London (MYR)
Subject: #ednastays FAO: Chiefs Zanoﬀ and Hayes-White

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

FAO: Chiefs Zanoﬀ and Hayes-White

Let the cat Edna stay at the forestation!

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Fritz Lang <fritzl原因44@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 7:08 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR); Breed, Mayor London (MYR)
Subject: #ednastays FAO: Chiefs Zanoft and Hayes-White

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

FAO: Chiefs Zanoft and Hayes-White

Let the cat Edna stay at the forestation!

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Kristin Sundermeyer <kristindesiderio@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 6:47 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR); Breed, Mayor London (MYR)
Subject: Let Edna Stay

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello,

Please let Edna the fire cat stay at the fire station. These first responders are risking their lives and saving peoples lives every day and they can't keep a cat at their station because some jerk made a complaint? It's insanity. Please let Edna stay in her forever home that she has been in for 5 yrs and show the country that San Francisco cares!

Thanks!
Kristin

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Bananas <dave.bananas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 6:33 PM
To: FireAdministration, FIR (FIR); Commission, Fire (FIR); Breed, Mayor London (MYR)
Subject: Fire Cat Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Why have you evicted this lovely stray cat from firestation 49!?
The staff at this station love this cat!
Extraordinarily callous decision!
Show some empathy!
Shame on you!
Station animals are vital for emotional support!
There are other stations with animals! Why not at this one!

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: EA Amadio <eaamadio04@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 4:08 PM
To: Breed, Mayor London (MYR); Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Hello

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I am from across the country from you in Rhode Island and I heard about this story on Instagram.
I have two cats of my own and felt compelled to write to you.
Please allow Edna her to stay in her home - both for her and the men and women in the station - they need each other.
They are a family.
Thank you for listening.
Liz
Instagram @misspd13
Sent from my iPad

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Beejell Soco <beejell@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 3:06 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Station 49

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear San Francisco Fire Commissioners,

Firstly, thank you for the work that you do. The work of first responders is of utmost importance to the public, and these men and women are our everyday heroes. These are jobs that most humans, including myself, are not emotionally or mentally equipped to handle on a daily basis, which makes me even more grateful that these heroes choose to follow their calling for the good of society. With that said, they deserve to have a variety of options available to them for stress relief and emotional support. I understand according to the public statement released that there are a variety of stress relief options available for San Francisco first responders, though I do still urge you to consider allowing those in Station 49 to bring back Edna the fire cat for this purpose. This is a pet these men and women have emotionally bonded with, and I'm sure makes daily life at the station full of smiles, laughter, and love. As wonderful as the other stress therapy programs that have been stated sound (including the one with pets from the animal shelter), not much will compare with a bond shared with a pet that is your constant companion. Also, to be unwillingly forced to remove that pet creates hurt, resentment, and a low morale for those who work at Station 49. As I'm sure you are well aware, through TV news coverage and social media, hearts have broken all around the world for these men and women, who have been forced to remove a family member... and yes, pets are family, the mutual bonds created do become that strong.

I urge you, as leaders of such an important and public department, to consider other solutions to make it possible for the men and women at Station 49 to enjoy the company of Edna once again. She is a loving, loyal companion there, as opposed to the occasional stress relief provided by the other solutions already available. The public from all around the world has their eyes on you, San Francisco Fire Commissioners, to do the right thing. And sometimes the right thing means re-writing the rules and making certain compromises, and taking a hard look at rules that maybe were unnecessary before. There is always room for accommodations to be made, whether that means Edna is limited only to certain areas of the station, etc. The world is hoping that the administrators in your great city can find it in their hearts to find a way to support the men and women in Station 49 in their love and companionship of their beloved pet, Edna. The global reputation of your department and city is being weighed heavily due to this situation. Please be a hero to OUR HEROES.

--
Sincerely,
Beejell Soco
from Long Beach, CA

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Kiera Hagy <kiera.tippitt@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 3:04 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Save Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To whom it may concern,

What can we do to help change the laws so Edna and other cats like her? She's a help for the staff at the firehouse. Stress relief is important. We agree sanitation is important as well but cats cut back on vermin that can reside in homes. Without using chemicals that are harmful to our environment. It can be a win-win situation. Please let us know what we can do to come up with a compromise that will satisfy everyone and get Edna back home.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Yours-

Kiera Hagy
(865) 368-8911
Tennessee cat parent

Sent from my mobile device, all errors are self inflicted.

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: shugawaifu@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 2:49 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Please Let Edna Stay!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Fire Commission,

Our hearts go out to Edna and her fellow Fire Fighters. It disheartens all of us to hear that Edna has been evicted and removed from her loving home. PLEASE reconsider removing Edna.

For the past four years she has brought joy and relief to the fire department. Emotional support animals have a huge impact on those with high stress jobs.

Edna has very much become a part of the team to Station 49. For the sake of the team and Edna, please let her stay.

Sincerely,

Lushi Scheiler

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Chero Kee <cherokee2557@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 2:13 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: SF Station 49 NEEDS Edna to stay!!!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Fire_Cat_Edna has been at Station 49 for four years and helps first-responders cope with an extremely stressful job! It's the only home she's ever known, and she's not around food or the sealed medical supplies or hurting anyone!

An anonymous complaint is not worthy of this kind of damage and heartache. The cat is hurting no one.

SF already has enough problems on the streets without picking on a much-loved cat and making the lives of firefighters/EMTs worse.

PLEASE RECONSIDER and show compassion for this situation. After all, isn't that what Station 49 and life is all about?

Thank you.

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Liza Ibanez <liza.oceanbeach@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 11:11 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: #49 EDNA THE CAT

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to you regarding Edna the Cat at station #49. Your animal policy has to be updated! Our firefighters see and respond to ongoing stressful and life threaten situations and coming back to the station to see Edna the Cat is a stress reliever. It can help with PTSD and sense of softness and comforting to the hard environment our firefighters go through.

Firefighters and Firestations as always been associated with Dalmatians and your ban on animals is a contradiction to this tradition.

So, can you please give these hard working and well deserved firefighters their cat whom they love back.

Registered San Francisco Voter.

Regards,
Liza

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: ebednarcyk <ebednarcyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 10:47 AM
To: Breed, Mayor London (MYR); Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Bogus Reasoning! Shame on You!!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I just read your reasoning about "health concerns" with Edna. Considering that a former employee came forward to discount your reasoning, it truly makes you seem suspect. Return Edna to her post!

Swallow your pride, admit to be human and admit your mistake!

Shame on you

And this is NOT anonymous.

Edith Bednarcyk
Goshen, NH

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: ebednarcyk <ebednarcyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 10:28 AM
To: Breed, Mayor London (MYR); Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Here's a political take on your not returning EDNA!!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

If she was evicted due to ONE ANONYMOUS letter, then why are you all still in operation? I'm sure you have had your share of nasty letters demanding you leave. If all it takes is ONE, then why ARE YOU STILL THERE????????? I smell rotten politics happening here.

Release the letter, if there truly is a letter or let Edna return to her post immediately!

E. Bednarcyk
Goshen, NH

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Kelly Beckham <kellyebeckham@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 10:08 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Let Edna Stay

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I'm writing today to ask that Edna the therapy cat stay with her station. Our first responders already have a uniquely stressful job and deserve a therapy animal to help them perform. If not for Edna, please consider allowing her to stay for the mental health of our hardworking first responders. They absolutely deserve it.

Best,
Kelly Beckham

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: ebednarcyk <ebednarcyk@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 9:00 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Shameful! Return Edna Now!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To remove, or order to be removed, a therapy cat because of one anonymous complaint is shameful! It truly makes me wonder if there was a complaint. If the complaint is truly anonymous, then show it and prove that you are correct. Or is this bogus politics at work and machismo at it's worst? Admit the error and return the therapy cat to her home!! SFFS49 is waiting....

Just one more reason to stay away from your city.

E. Bednarcyk
Goshen, NH

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Marco Leonardo Cogrossi <kalosartipos@hotmail.it>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 8:09 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna!

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Please save Edna!!!
Please!!!
Marco, from Cremona, Italy.

Sent from my Wiko FEVER

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Tracy Deveau <tldwork@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 7:33 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Save Edna! Station 49

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I am sure you have received numerous emails asking to allow Edna the fire cat to remain at Station 49. There are so many compelling reasons she should be allowed to remain, but I am sure others have already covered it. My email serves as voicing support to #ednastays.

Station 49 should not be forced to evict Edna! [#ednastays](#)

Tracy Deveau
104 Summer Street 4B
Somerville MA 02143

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: L Taylor <lltaylor2014@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 12:30 AM
To: Breed, Mayor London (MYR)
Cc: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Please let Edna the cat come home

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Mayor Breed,

Please help the brave firefighters of station 49. They have been pleading for their beloved emotional support cat (now registered) Edna to stay, but their pleas, and those of the public, have been callously dismissed by the San Francisco Fire Department. They were not even given the respect and dignity of a reply.

And what about Edna? Ripped away from the people she loves, the only home she's known for five years. It's cruel and it's heartless and it's completely unnecessary. She is doing no harm at all. Quite the opposite, she is a much needed and loved source of comfort for the people who lay their lives on the line to protect San Franciscans every day.

She was banned from the station based on ONE anonymous, malicious complaint. This is neither fair nor reasonable. Your city and these brave men and women deserve better, and this animal who has done nothing but give love and support does, too. This presents a terrible image for San Francisco and for the administration that has shown so little care and concern for the EMS workers and this innocent cat. I can tell you neither I nor my family nor my business will spend one penny in San Francisco until this cat is returned to her rightful home.

Please do the right thing and let Edna come home, back to Station 49.

Thank You,

Lorrie Taylor

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Jason Joseph <jason.wci@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 10:18 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Fire cat Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Unbelievable that the city of San Francisco would have a problem with a cat at a station. My father is a 22 year member of LAFD and my brother a 2 year member. Both have cats at their stations and both have only seen a positive impact. Firemen and women give so much to serve and help our communities. How can the city not be ok with something that means nothing to the people on council but everything to the men and women in the field. Please reconsider your policies and have a wonderful evening

*Jason Joseph
Concrete Marketing & Sales Director*

Westcoastfloors.com
16611 Armintia St
Van Nuys, CA 91406
Cell: [\(805\)405-4991](tel:8054054991)
Office: [\(818\)785-2001](tel:8187852001)

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: FireAdministration, FIR (FIR)
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 3:03 PM
Subject: Message Regarding Station 49

To All Members:

The City received an anonymous complaint regarding a cat at Station 49. In response to the complaint, an independent investigation was conducted and concluded that having a cat at Station 49 compromised the sterility of supplies, equipment and pharmaceuticals used on patients. Public health and safety concerns counseled removal of the cat from the premises.

Moreover, with the exception of the canines assigned to handlers under the Department's Urban Search and Rescue Program, the Department has maintained a Policy Prohibiting Animals on Department Property for more than 20 years. Part of the reason that this Policy was adopted was for the safety of the animals, given onsite activities that routinely involve large apparatus and machinery operating under emergency conditions. In compliance with the findings, the reason for removing the cat from the facility is two-fold. First and foremost, the Department's primary responsibility and priority is public health and safety. Secondly, the cat must no longer remain on the premises for the animal's own safety and well-being. We are happy to report that a member of the Ambulance Deployment Facility has volunteered to adopt the cat as a pet at home, where she will be well cared for.

The Department has been a staunch supporter and advocate for providing emotional support to its members. A Peer Support Unit and a Stress Committee have been active for many years, and have provided critical self-help services, including counseling and stress management opportunities to members of the Department. The Department recently trained 80 members through a Peer Support program to enable our members to better support one another. Critical Incident Stress Debriefings are also conducted immediately following tragic or traumatic incidents.

In addition, the Department recognizes that animals can provide a great source of comfort to some individuals, especially for First Responders who work in stressful environments. To that end, the Chief of Department has personally reached out to the Executive Directors of San Francisco Animal Care and Control (ACC), San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), and Muttvillage, a non-profit rescue service for senior pets to coordinate a pet adoption day specifically for First Responders. San Francisco SPCA has also highlighted the availability of their shelter animals as sources of comfort through their "Cuddle Me" program. More information about these partner agencies can be found below:

San Francisco Animal Care and Control: <https://www.sfanimalcare.org/>

San Francisco SPCA: <https://www.sfspca.org/>

Muttville: <https://muttville.org/>

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Lori Sedlacek <barbiemama2002@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 11:45 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Fw: SAVE EDNA

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Lori Sedlacek <barbiemama2002@yahoo.com>
To: fireadministration@sfgov.org <fireadministration@sfgov.org>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019, 8:26:00 AM MST
Subject: SAVE EDNA

To the Management at Fire Station 49

There are so many BAD things in this world and it literally broke my heart to read the story about Edna at Fire Station 49. Everyone in this world has an opinion--but it does NOT mean they are all right. Management at Firestation 49-- PLEASE KEEP EDNA!!! How in the world can you just give up a cat and call animal control and act like she hasn't been a MEANINGFUL part of your family for the past FOUR years! Please stand your ground and KEEP this cat in your family. She deserves a home--the one she has been in since she was a kitten. The anonymous person that reported her needs to be "schooled" on what a firecat is and how they are trained and how they are safe. It's NOT the right answer to get rid of them. Edna is a stress relieving service animal in every capacity possible. This is YOUR firehouse--it is Edna's Firehouse!

Sincerely

Lori Sedlacek

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: Kepster <kepster925@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2019 12:02 AM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Edna

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Eviction? REALLY??? You people are heartless and DISGUSTING!! You should be ASHAMED for even THINKING of breaking up this loving relationship!!!! SHAME ON YOU!!!!



PK

Commission, Fire (FIR)

From: ND <ndolgireff@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2019 9:06 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR)
Subject: Let Edna the Cat Stay at SF Fire Station

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

It's time to grant Edna the cat a reprieve, allow her to remain a resident of the San Francisco fire station that adopted her, and let the crew enjoy her companionship and the stress-relief that comes from living with this beautiful feline. Please reverse Edna's eviction and make her an official mascot of the San Francisco Fire Department.

It's the least you can do for Edna, her SFFD family at the station, and all citizens who support Edna's continued, permanent residency at the station. San Francisco is, after all, named for St. Francis, the patron saint of all creatures, great and small, including cats.

After all, even New York has a fire station that has a resident cat with a huge, online following of admirers.

Thanks for finding it in your hearts to keep Edna in the SFFD family at her station.

Kind regards,

Natalie Dolgireff
Alameda, CA

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

3/2/2019 11:44:53 march 2 2019

Little Gators Preschool

16

March 15 2019

March 28 2019

March 29 2019

1:30PM

12

24 5 year old

Barbara Figone

Littlegatorspreschool@hotmail.com

3149 Steiner st San Francisco Ca 94123

415-346-8608