

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE COMMISSION

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Thursday, March 12, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.

698 Second Street, Room 102

The audio file has been uploaded onto the Fire Commission Website at.
http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=133&clip_id=22276

President Andrea Evans called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM and made a change to the order of the agenda items, moving item 6 to follow item 7.

1. ROLL CALL

Commission President	Andrea Evans	Present
Commission Vice President	Francee Covington	Present
Commissioner	Stephen Nakajo	Excused
Commissioner	Michael Hardeman	Present
Commissioner	Ken Cleaveland	Present
Chief of Department	Joanne Hayes-White	Present
Mark Gonzales	Deputy Chief – Operations	
Ray Guzman	Deputy Chief – Administration	
Jeff Myers	EMS	
Dale Carnes	Airport Division	
Ken Lombardi	Support Services	
Shane Francisco	Homeland Security	
Michie Wong	Prevention	
Raemona Williams	Division of Training	
Assistant Chiefs		
Robert Postel	Division 2	
Kirk Richardson	Division 3	
Staff		
Clement Yeh	EMS Medical Director	
Mark Corso	CFO	
Jesusa Bushong	HR	

2. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Presentation of Certificate to Mr. Zachary Crockett for his outstanding outreach and dedication to the victims of the Mission and 22nd Street Fire.

Chief Hayes-White introduced Zachary Crockett, as a wonderful San Franciscan and noted what a great job he did in stepping up to help the victims of the January 28, 2015 fire at 22nd and Mission Streets. She acknowledged that Commissioner Covington spearheaded this Agenda Item. She went on to say that what Zachary did and that everyone was so impressed by, is he passed by the fire and saw a lot of people videoing the fire and talking about the challenges the night of the fire, and he went home, and through social media started a “Go Fund Me” website for the 64 victims that were displaced because of the fire and he raised \$180,000.00 dollars. The Commissioners

thanked Mr. Crockett and told him how proud they were of him. Mr. Crockett thanked everyone for the certificate.

Public Comment: Michael Petrelis, Mission resident thanked Zachary for what he has done and thanked the Chief and the Commission for recognizing this great example of citizen engagement. He also reached out to attendees at the meeting to let the Red Cross know if they are aware of affordable housing in the City.

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Petrelis stated he thinks a conversation needs to be started about using tax payer funded facilities for the homeless and other members of the public who need to use a bathroom and shower. He suggested that the firehouses could be open during limited hours for this purpose. He asked someone from the Department get in touch with him so he could go take videotape of the shower facility without any personnel being there.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- a. Minutes from the Regular Meeting on February 12, 2015
- b. Minutes from the Special Meeting on February 26, 2015

Commissioner Hardeman Moved to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Cleaveland Seconded. Motion to Adopt Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 12, 2015 as amended was unanimous, Motion to adopt Special Meeting Minutes on February 26, 2015, was unanimous.

5. PRESENTATION AND OVERVIEW OF FIELD OPERATIONS AND TRAINING FROM THE AIRPORT DIVISION

Report on current issues, activities and events within the Airport Division

PowerPoint Presentation attached <http://sf-fire.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentID=3908>

Chief Carnes shared his PowerPoint Presentation. He shared some of the facts about the Airport and the target hazards they deal with at the Airport Division. He gave an overview of some of the recent changes and changes that are coming down the pike. He touched upon the challenges currently facing the Division as well as some opportunities that are coming their way.

Chief Carnes stated that the SFFD is the fifth busiest Airport in the US, and they had 47 million passengers going through the airport this year and are expecting approximately 48 million by 2016. He added that it's growing and continues to be a very busy airport. Right now, they average about 1200 flight operations a day, and that's almost entirely commercial aviation. He described what an index E airport is. The FAA issues a level of certification at commercial airports, A through E, with E being assigned to the largest airports. It's based on two things; the size of the aircraft that the airport services, as well as the frequency of those aircraft. He stated that the large commercial aircraft consists of the 747 and the Airbus 380. He added that they have the highest index level which dictates the level of fire protection they're required to provide to keep the airport open and operational. He stated they are required to have a minimum of six-thousand gallons of product, meaning foam and water, spread between three apparatus. He added that as a Division they far exceed that and they have always exceeded that, which sets them out in front of other airports. He added that just like the rest of the Department, his Division isn't all hazard assignment; they don't just concentrate on the airplanes, they're also

responsible for all the structural fire protection and all the other hazards they have to mitigate. In the five square mile area that covers the airport they have approximately a little over five million square feet of structures.

Chief Carnes stated that by 2019 they'll be adding another 24 gates in just one terminal alone, so the airport continues to redefine itself. There's always construction and growth going on at the airport despite being landlocked. About the time they finish rehabbing one terminal, they move to the next terminal.

Chief Carnes added that they do all the structural fire protection, EMS, Marine fire and rescue, hazardous materials, and confined space rescue. He stated they also have a large fuel farm at the east end of the airport and they have roughly 10 million gallons of jet fuel present at all times. They have enough fuel in the underground system at the airport that should there be a problem with the fuel farm they can maintain normal flight operations for anywhere from three to five days before it runs dry. They have the largest aircraft maintenance facility for United Airlines west of the Mississippi, so they do everything but build aircraft.

He went on to describe the staffing, equipment, training, and the SOP development.

Chief Carnes stated that they have some pretty interesting and unique opportunities coming their way in response to the Asiana crash. The first one is literally being the tip of the spear, both nationally and internationally. Because of the low frequency of major airline crashes, when an agency has one, especially the size of Asiana, you instantly become the resident relative subject matter expert on airline crashes. That's exactly the role that we've been handed. As we try and wring every ounce of training value out of that incident, we continue to do that today, and subsequently try and enhance and improve our capabilities, the airport industry, the ARF industry worldwide is looking to us to share that information, and to help solve issues that we're all dealing with. The NTSB and the FAA are actively encouraging us to do just that. And to that end, we have shared our experience and our lessons learned from Asiana multiple times on a nationwide basis. He added that recently Chief Hayes-White allowed him to go to Ireland to attend the UK annual ARF conference where they were invited to share the information. He was able to present to ARF fire officers and chief officers from about 15 different nations. He stated that our Fire Department is impacting current and future ARF doctrine on a worldwide basis, which is pretty incredible and impressive. Because of that we've also had the opportunity to become a much more active member of the greater ARF community. We are being reached out to by multiple different organizations. Our presence and our involvement is being requested in things like IFSTA, who is one of the major producers of fire department manuals. He added that they've been asked to be involved in the next edition of the ARF manual. They've been requested to be involved with the National Fire Academy's Curriculum Development Committee for training of ARF officers because that's now something that the National Fire Academy is branching into. He added that while no one ever likes to see a tragedy like Asiana, it is a huge opportunity for SFFD and other agencies, other airports, other ARF organizations, to save more lives in the future, it's just an incredible time for our Department and our Division, and we're taking advantage of it at every chance we can.

Public Comment: Unidentified male stated he had his doubts of the readiness for the airport in conjunction with the Asiana crash but he thinks Chief Hayes-White filled the position of the Airport Chief with the right person.

Vice President Covington thanked the Chief for his presentation and congratulated him for the trial by fire in handling the Asiana crash. She added that she was happy he was able to get the funds from the Airport for the Department's needs. She was also happy to hear that staffing is increasing and that things are going well.

Commissioner Cleaveland also thanked Chief Carnes for his presentation and asked for confirmation that the Airport's 350 million dollar department budget is separate from the San Francisco Fire Department's budget. Chief Carnes confirmed that they have their own separate operation and training costs budget. Commissioner Cleaveland asked what the requirements for working at the Airport Division are and Chief Carnes explained that you need to have three years of experience in the Department and then you submit a General Form through Deputy Chief of Operations requesting to be placed on the relief list. They try and wait until there are at least 5 or more openings because of training costs. It's more cost effective. Discussion ensued with regards to EMS calls, alarm calls, aircraft related calls and hazmat as being the order of call volume.

Commissioner Hardeman thanked Chief Carnes for his report and acknowledged long standing Airport Director John Martin and Airport Commission President Larry Mazzola. Commissioner Hardeman asked about the commitment required for a firefighter to transfer to the Airport. Chief Carnes confirmed it was five years, unless they get promoted or retire.

President Evans thanked Chief Carnes for his report and asked what was the biggest training take away they got from the Asiana crash. Chief Carnes responded as follows: "Literally not just our Department but nationally, actually worldwide because of the Asiana incident, and not because it happened in SFO, just because of the incident and nature of the incident itself, we've had to completely rethink our doctrine. Traditionally in the ARF assignment you expected to deal with large fuel fires, we'll call them three dimensional fuel fires, the left over jet a fuel from after the aircraft crashed, and some smoldering wreckage, and then transitioning into body recovery. That was primarily what we focused our training on. We did not anticipate large survivor populations on major airline crashes. Now because of the current generation of air frames they are coming out with, we are seeing just the opposite. We are seeing with relatively low to moderate impact crashes, a very large increase in the survivor population. To think that we would have only three fatalities on a crash the magnitude of the Asiana 214 incident, several years ago would have everybody laughing at you if you brought that up. One of the greatest advantages we have at the Airport Division is the institutional experience in structural firefighting. We have a very senior crew. Most of the personnel have been in the department anywhere from 15 to 25 years. So compared to other fire departments they've seen a lot more urban structural firefighting. We didn't have a whole lot of plays in the playbook on doing interior aircraft firefighting. It's just not something we trained on. And yet they defaulted to what they knew best and they went in and facilitated the rescues of five people that were literally honestly trapped in that aircraft and would have burned to death. They did so with under live fire conditions. So literally we now know as an industry we've had to step back and go, okay, this is the new norm for us. We now know this is one of the reasons everybody's coming to us, including training institutions. They're picking our brain on what was it that was different that you guys didn't expect? How did you handle it? Because, obviously it worked. When the FAA showed up in my office, one of the first things the day after the crash, they said to me was, "We just, before we do anything else, we want to tip our hat to your personnel because before we came out here we went through our records and literally, this is the only documented example of interior firefighting on a burning commercial airline that we could find." He added that was the biggest take away and why we have a responsibility to help the industry go down that road and write this new document because we own it.

President Evans commended Chief Carnes for taking such a leadership role and sharing this information not just in the country but around the world and she thinks it is incredible.

6. DISCUSSION ON OPTIONS FOR BUDGETING FOR TELEVISIONING FUTURE FIRE COMMISSION MEETINGS: (Discussion and Possible Action)

Public Comment: Michael Petrelis congratulated President Evans on becoming the President of the Commission. He advocated the importance of airing the Fire Commission meetings on SFGOV TV so the public could have seen the Airport Presentation and the need for transparency. He was glad the Commission was at the point of discussing the costs of moving to City Hall.

Commissioner Cleaveland stated that he was probably the first commissioner that brought up the issue of making sure the Fire Commission meetings are open to the public and being televised as much as possible in real time. He encouraged his fellow Commissioners to discuss the options on televising the meetings at City Hall.

Vice President Covington stated that we should earmark the funds to have the meetings televised at City Hall and see what opens up for meeting dates and times after the City's overall budgets are approved.

Chief Hayes-White stated she would defer to whatever decision the Commission makes. She added that she thinks there's value to having the meetings televised for those people that can't make it to the meetings because of times and/or logistics.

Commission Vice President Covington so Moved to move the Fire Commission meetings to City Hall. Commissioner Cleaveland seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 3-1. (Ayes, Evans, Covington and Cleaveland, Nays: Hardeman).

7. CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT [Discussion]

REPORT FROM CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

Report on current issues, activities and events within the Department, including Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget.

Chief Hayes-White confirmed that the budget was submitted with enhancements on February 23, 2015 and they would be reconvening tentatively on March 24, 2015 at 1:00 for further discussion. She also confirmed that she was waiting for the draft audit from the Budget Analyst that they're conducting on the Department regarding strategic planning and the overall administrative side of the Department.

Chief Hayes-White stated that they are in the process of putting through backgrounds and medical screening on potential candidates to become part of a 40 member academy and her goal was for March 30, 2015 but for a whole host of reasons, the start date looks closer to be April 6, 2015. She gave a brief update on Station 48, that the structure that houses the apparatus has been completed, and she acknowledged the great work being done by Chief Lombardi.

Chief Hayes-White also gave a brief overview of Stations 4 at the new Public Safety Building which will have an engine company and a truck company along with the old firehouse that was used by the toy program and will now house the Arson Unit.

Chief Hayes-White stated that she, the Deputy Chiefs' and Jesusa Bushong met with the recently formed Rescue Employee Group. She mentioned there was just one member there, but it was a good exchange of information and she will continue to meet, hopefully on a quarterly basis as well as with the United Fire Service Women.

Chief Hayes-White touched on the Chinese New Year's Parade and acknowledged the fine work from the Asian Firefighters preparing for the event. She acknowledged the

donation by the Antonini family of 40 wetsuits to the Aquatic Rescue Program and thanked them as well. She acknowledged the nice job of Battalion Chief Rudy Castellanos and his involvement in the Water Rescue Program.

Chief Hayes-White announced that there will be a promotional ceremony on April 23, 2015 at Riordan High School.

Chief Hayes-White touched on the unfortunate incident on March 7, 2015 in the early morning, involving Engine 1 colliding with a bicyclist who sustained very serious injuries and remains at SFGH. She also acknowledged the fine work done by members of the Department in responding to the second alarm fire at 24th and Treat. She added that the fire injured a family of five. She acknowledged Chief Gonzales and Father Green who responded to the difficult scene, to provide support for the family and members of the Department. She acknowledged that it's always difficult in situations where injuries or deaths happen. She touched on the two individuals that were sleeping in the locked market below the unit that caught fire, who didn't require any medical attention, but should not have been sleeping in the market and they will work with the Fire Marshall on putting out an educational packet reminding shop owners or store owner of those types of locked gates and they are not meant for sleeping.

Commissioner Cleaveland asked if it was the responsibility of the Department to check on occupants in terms of commercial occupancies or people sleeping in stores. Chief Hayes-White answered that it is complaint driven. Chief Wong added that the Fire Department is called out on what is called a DPH referral, a Health Department referral for any restaurants or stores that open to check them for fire clearance, which is basically exiting, fire extinguishers, the signage that doors remain open during business hours. Since this particular building was a low rise B and an R-3, which equates to one or two units, that falls under the Building Department's jurisdiction. She concluded that SFFD would only respond to a situation like that if it was complaint driven.

Commissioner Cleaveland asked if there was going to be a special opening ceremony for Station 4 and Chief Lombardi stated there would be, and once the date was determined, he would advise the Commission.

Vice President Covington stated that she was at the Treat Street fire and was taken upstairs to see the damage and the origin of the fire and stated it was devastating to see the amount of destruction. She added that she is concerned for the members who are in those circumstances when people are in dire straits and what they have to see in order to save people. She acknowledged she was happy that the Department has a Stress Unit. She added that there needs to be constant education about fire detectors.

Commissioner Hardeman gave kudos to the brave firefighters. He also touched on the lack of smoke alarms at the recent fires and he added that it would be nice to have every family have a smoke alarm in their house.

REPORT FROM OPERATIONS

Report on overall field operations, the Bureau of Fire Prevention & Investigation, Airport Division, Emergency Medical Services and the Division of Emergency Communications,

Chief Gonzales presented his report from February 11, 2015 to March 11, 2015. He stated during this period there were two greater alarms. The first greater alarm was a third alarm at 301 Church Street at 4:11 p.m. He added that Assistant Chief McNaughton was the incident commander at that fire. He described the structure and the strategy to put the fire out. He complimented the outstanding job the units did fighting this fire. He mentioned that most of the damage was confined to the two buildings and it was one of the quickest he's seen a third alarm go out. He added that there was minor damage

sustained in the third building around the corner on Church Street. He stated that the area of fire origin, according to the Arson Unit was in the laundry room of the main fire building, most likely cause by an electrical fault or failure in that area. He stated that Supervisor Wiener showed up and was very appreciative of the good job done by the firefighters in this district.

Chief Gonzales talked about the March 11, 2015 fire at 24th and Treat. He described in detail the rescue efforts of the first responders' actions. They rescued a mother, father and three siblings from the fire and immediately performed CPR on three of the occupants. They also rescued two males that were locked in the market below the burning unit. He added that according to the Arson Unit, it does not appear to be suspicious in nature at this time.

Fire Marshal Wong stated after the recent series of fire there has been legislation proposed by both Supervisor Campos' office and Supervisor Kim's office to start collaboration on a community outreach program regarding fire safety with specific need for placement of smoke alarms.

Chief Gonzales stated they have been working hard with DHR and the EMS Division on the H-8 per diems along with 798 trying to get an MOU amendment on the wages, training and hiring procedures. He also talked about the upcoming H-3 Level 1 academy that might start about April 6, 2015 and the H-3 Level 2 bump up. He stated that the Divisions are working with Captain Columbini at Treasure Island on the in-service training and the goal is to get all the Battalion Chiefs and Companies to be on the same page at incidents. They do a great job, but we're striving to just get a little bit better. He added that he and the Administration Staff are reviewing all the General Orders back to 1987 to come up with a current retention list. He touched on the Station 16 rebuild, the mutual aid, dive policy and the Airport relief list General Order.

He recognized the great job that the Asian Firefighters did organizing the contingent at the Chinese New Year's Parade.

He stated that there is still a backlog at Plan Check and they have instructed Assistant Deputy Chief Wong to work out of Plan Check one day a week to help with the backlog.

Commissioner Cleaveland thanked Chief Gonzales for his comprehensive report and asked if there was an update on Station 49. Chief Lombardi answered that there were no updates on Station 49 right now, but there's a meeting next week with the Capital Planning, to discuss bond moving forward, but all indications are they're still on track for June of 2016 to be on that ballot. There was brief discussion about the training facility on Treasure Island.

Vice President Covington suggested doing a simple public service announcement regarding smoke alarms. She volunteered to work with anyone in preparing the announcement.

President Evans asked for clarification on the Treasure Island training facility. Chief Lombardi stated that since it's going to be a 10 year project, he doesn't see any reason to tear it down early. There was further discussion pertaining to the anticipated legislation introduced by Supervisors Campos and Kim and Chief Wong added that the Department fully supports it.

There was no public comment.

8. COMMUNICATIONS [Discussion]

- Email from Lawanda Anderson
- Email from John Doe

President Evans stated that the email from John Doe expressed concerns of members of the public videoing the meetings. She added that she wanted to make it clear that filming is perfectly appropriate, it is within anyone's First Amendment rights.

9. AGENDA FOR NEXT FIRE COMMISSION MEETING [Discussion]

Discussion regarding agenda for the March 26, 2015 regular meeting.

- Update on MOU between SFPUC and the Fire Department
- Update on SFFD Harassment and diversity training programs

10. ADJOURNMENT

President Evans adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:20 PM