

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE COMMISSION

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Thursday, April 9, 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=22453

President Andrea Evans called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM

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	
Shane Francisco	Homeland Security	
Michie Wong	Prevention	
Raemona Williams	Division of Training	
Assistant Chiefs		
Robert Postel	Division 2	
Dave Franklin	Division 3	
Staff		
Clement Yeh	EMS Medical Director	
Mark Corso	CFO	

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Secretary Conefrey read the following announcement: The Fire Commission will hold its regular meeting on Thursday April 23, 2015 at 4:00 P.M. in an alternate location. The Fire Commission will meet at Archbishop Riordan High School. The meeting will be followed by a Fire Department Promotional Ceremony at 6:00 p.m. in the Theater. Archbishop Riordan High School is located at 175 Phelan Avenue at Judson Avenue, across the street from City College of San Francisco Ocean Campus.

There was no public comment.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HEROIC EFFORTS

Acknowledging the heroic efforts that Madison Van exhibited on January 13, 2015 that contributed to the quick response of the SFFD that helped save her Father's life.

Chief Hayes-White introduced 5-year-old Madison Van and her Father, Dennis. She acknowledged the heroic efforts that Madison exhibited on January 13, 2015 that helped save her Father's life, along with the good work of Paramedic Jeremiah Rivera and Paramedic Paul Hobbs. Mr. Van described the events that led up to his illness that day and the quick actions of Madison and Paramedics Rivera and Hobbs. He acknowledged how touched he was of the Paramedics and their concern and attention to his daughter Madison. Chief Hayes-White thanked Mr. Van for telling his story and acknowledged Paramedic Ribera and Hobbs for the fine work they did that day as well as other members of Engine 18. Chief Hayes-White continued to present a certificate to Madison. The Commissioners proceeded to convey their well wishes to Mr. Van and expressed their appreciation to Madison, Jeremiah and Paul for the heroic work they displayed in saving the life of Mr. Van.

4. 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.

There was no public comment.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

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

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

There was no public comment

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

REPORT FROM CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

Report on current issues, activities and events within the Department, including Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget and discussion regarding the SFFD Drug and Alcohol Testing Program.

Chief Hayes-White reported on information since the last meeting on March 26, 2015. She stated that the Budget Committee met yesterday, and acknowledged the presence of Commissioner Cleaveland and the chair of the committee Mark Corso, who had compiled and submitted their priorities for the \$11.6 million dollar enhancements. She announced that the Budget and Finance Committee is scheduled to meet on April 22, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., followed by two more meetings that will be scheduled in June.

Chief Hayes-White stated that on Monday, she was pleased to welcome 42 new members into the Department for the EMT academy. She added that a bulk of their training will be held at the Treasure Island Training facility. The graduation date is scheduled for May 22, 2015.

Chief Hayes-White stated they are awaiting the Budget Analyst's draft report on the audit of the administrative staffing and strategic planning. She announced that she was told it

was delayed until probably the end of April. She reported that the results of the H-6 Investigator exam from DHR have been posted, so there is an active list. She added that 22 members took the test and she thinks the list is nearing adoption. Deputy Chief Gonzales confirmed that it was adopted on April 8, 2015.

Chief Hayes-White gave a brief update on Station 48 and stated that Chief Guzman would go into more detail during his report. She added that the move in date would probably be by the end of the month.

Chief Hayes-White touched upon events that she attended recently, which included meeting with the United Fire Service Women. She participated in “When I Grow Up” event with Congresswoman Jackie Speier for the benefit of young women looking at different careers. She also participated in an all-day training session on implicit bias that was conducted by the Human Rights Commission in conjunction with DHR. She also attended an AWSS Management Oversight Committee meeting at the PUC along with Deputy Chief Guzman and Assistant Deputy Chief Lombardi. She met with NERT Advisory Board and visited Station 16 with Chief Guzman, Chief Lombardi, President Evans and Commissioner Cleaveland. She announced that the Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the Public Safety Building is scheduled for April 16, 2015 at 11:00 .a.m. She also announced the 1906 anniversary events that will be taking place.

Chief Hayes-White touched on the Department’s drug and alcohol testing program. She wanted to clarify that the SFFD’s random drug testing program is one of the very few that exists across the country in the fire service and that most departments do not have a random alcohol/drug testing policy and she is very proud of the program the SFFD has. She added that through the good work with Local 798 they developed the policy. It was a collaborative development that when she became chief, she felt it was important to have transparency in terms of letting the public know that when members come to work, they’re professional and able to perform their duties in a non-impaired way. She added that although there were other policies that existed in terms of reasonable suspicion and post-accident incidents, there was no “random” testing until it was developed in collaboration with Local 798 as part of the Memorandum of Understanding. She addressed the highly publicized incident in July of 2013 that prompted D.A. Gascon to submit a letter to the Department suggesting changes to the policy. Chief Hayes-White talked to D.A. Gascon and addressed the issues he raised and confirmed that the Department is in alignment with the Federal Department of Transportation standards. With regards to the accuracy of the devices, because they’re used for internal purposes only, they are tested every 30 days, as suggested by the manufacturer for the purposes that the Department is using them for, and not used as evidence in a court of law. She added that if there was an accident, the involved member would need to be re-tested by someone that is trained in law enforcement in order to be upheld in an evidentiary hearing or a court of law.

Commissioner Hardeman acknowledged the remarkable work that was negotiated between the Chief and Local 798 to develop the random alcohol and drug policy and he finds the current public criticism very offensive and upsetting. He added that the SFFD is way ahead of the curve and finds the policy reasonable.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked the Chief for addressing the alcohol testing program in her report and stated that it’s important to disseminate all the information available as it’s been in the press recently and he wants to reinforce transparency in terms of policies and he suggested that the Department start doing more random testing. He confirmed that the Department has about twelve devices that are tested for accuracy every 30 days and that Captain Zanoft maintains the log. Chief Hayes-White added that ISB will typically go out and administer the random testing, but for post-accident or times of reasonable suspicion, the Assistant Chiefs have been trained on the devices and Captain Zanoft has also trained many of the Battalion Chiefs.

Commissioner Cleaveland thanked the Chief for her report and praised her for bringing the budgeting process this time around in a more collaborative process. He also mentioned that he is very interested in the Auxiliary Water Supply System and hopes they will have further discussions about it at a future date along with a signed MOU with the PUC. Commissioner Cleaveland thanked the Fire Department's willingness to work with the Building Owners Association on the annual drill that makes sure the tenants in commercial office buildings downtown have some expertise in how to evacuate appropriately in the case of an emergency.

Vice President Covington thanked the Chief for her report and confirmed that Station 16 is going to be a total tear down and rebuild, as well as Station 5 and Station 35 will be partial teardowns and rebuilds to be funded with monies from ESER 2010. She also inquired in regards to air rights over the Stations. Chief Hayes-White confirmed that conversations took place with Mr. Updike from the Department of Real Estate and the news was discouraging in that there is no value in air rights at this point and the Department of Real Estate would not support or advocate for air rights for the Department. Vice President Covington explained that she was thinking along the lines of workforce housing and not selling the air rights but particularly for new firefighters and public school teachers. She added that the Mayor had a very good idea for air rights pertaining to emergency housing for people who are displaced by fires and other disasters.

President Evans thanked the Chief for acknowledging the Van Family. She went on to add that she is interested in the implicit bias training that the Chief participated in and would like to get any written materials or hearing further about what was shared at the training. President Evans inquired about the Budget Committee and whether the Mayor's office would be supportive of the Community Paramedicine Program and other enhancements that were asked for. Mark Corso confirmed that at this time, he did not have an update on the Mayor's position. She touched briefly on the recent fires and was wondering if there would be outreach to make people more aware of fire safety and smoke detectors. Chief Hayes-White confirmed that they did put something out to the press addressing these concerns.

Chief Hayes-White also confirmed that she is still waiting for the H-2 firefighters list from DHR.

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, in addition to updates on plans for Pier 22 1/2 rebuild, Station 16, and mapping jurisdiction for Station 4.

Deputy Chief Gonzalez reported for the period of March 12th to April 7th. He stated that there was one greater alarm during the reporting period and it was at 1447 Van Dyke Avenue. He added that Chief Franklin was in command and the crews did a good job, knocking it out quick. There was also a single alarm fire on 1050 Columbus that unfortunately involved a fatality. Chief Gonzales stated that he is currently reviewing all the general orders dating back from 1987 to the present to decide which ones need to be rescinded, retained, updated and reissued. He is also working with 798 regarding the 42 hour workweek schedule for Station 49. He mentioned that Station 4 was put into service on March 30th at 449 Mission Rock and the Bureau of Fire Investigations moved into 1275 3rd Street. He went on to describe work being done on Code 2 calls, and adding the BLS tier to the system. He touched on his meetings with various personnel pertaining to NFIRS and the R-1/R-2 Company inspections and getting the members to be more comprehensive on the narratives in the reports involving their inspections. He added that

they are reviewing ADC Wong's proposal to relocate to 1660 Mission Street to address Plan Check as they still have a backlog and will try to add personnel to help.

Chief Wong added that they have met with the SRO collaboratives of the Mission, Chinatown and Central City Districts to create an alliance between the Housing Inspection Services, the Department, Red Cross and the building owners to have fire safety workshops and to help install smoke alarms. She added that there is a grant being written to ask for a public education inspector.

Chief Gonzales went on to describe the map jurisdiction of Station 4. He added that they would consider putting a Battalion 3 there.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Gonzales for his mapping and description of the Station 4 jurisdiction. President Nakajo asked for clarification on reclassifying Code 2 calls. Chief Gonzales explained that when you send a fire engine to a Code 2 call they might be sitting there for a long time when in fact that fire engine might be able to do a better job somewhere else requiring emergency response.

Commissioner Cleaveland confirmed with Chief Gonzalez that the H-8 per diems are close to an agreement in that DHR and Local 798 are working out the finer points and when it comes to fruition, it will be shared with the Commission. Chief Gonzales also clarified that Chief Wong would not be moving to Plan Check permanently, she will be there as much as needed to try and ease the backlog. Commissioner Cleaveland also inquired as to how many of the SRO's have sprinklers to date and Chief Wong answered that she thought it was in the 90 plus percentile. Commissioner Cleaveland was very impressed with that answer.

Vice President Covington asked how members were selected for assignment at the new Station 4 and Chief Gonzales answered that it was filled by seniority from a list and all vacancies have been filled, including two strong captains, Kevin O'Sullivan and Mike Mullin.

President Evans suggested that when Chief Gonzales is reviewing the General Orders, that they include the City Attorney's Office as part of the process when need be. She also inquired as to the number of additional inspectors for BFI the Department has asked for in the Budget. Mark Corso confirmed there are two separate requests for BFI and the total number is Nine. Chief Wong added that she has asked her inspectors if they would mind plan checking and most have stepped up to the plate and she and a lieutenant will be training those inspectors after hours while doing the backlog for Plan Check. President Evans expressed her gratitude to those that have stepped up. President Evans was also happy to hear that they were putting in for a Federal Grant for the public education person.

President Evans also asked for clarification on the study being done to the changes in Code 2 and Code 3 calls. Dr. Yeh emphasized that it is in no way, shape, or form meant to attempt to change the amount of care people are getting. They are system changes that need to be done. The last time they were done was four years ago with the idea of safety and improving people's care, not about reacting to whatever the current situation would be. President Evans suggested that he prepare a data presentation for a future meeting. Dr. Yeh agreed.

Commissioner Cleaveland asked for an update on the Pier 22 ½ rebuild project. Chief Guzman stated that the Warriors arena was slated to be built at Pier 30/32 and with that project; they were going to give the Department a free firehouse. He added that unfortunately that project is being relocated to the other side of McCovey Cove so it puts us back on track with the original plan of Pier 22 ½, which includes numerous different

approvals that need to go through before starting that project. He added that they have a meeting scheduled with the PUC and DPW and Chief Lombardi is very busy getting that project back on track. When the new fireboat arrives February 24 of next year, the plan is to take one of the fireboats and house them directly to the southeast at Pier 24, which is right next door to Station 35. The estimated cost for the rebuild will be upwards of 25, 30 million dollars. Chief Guzman confirmed that 20 million is coming from ESER 10 and there is discussion of ESER 14 funding the remainder, but that has yet to be determined.

There was no public comment.

7. AGENDA FOR NEXT FIRE COMMISSION MEETING [Discussion]

Discussion regarding agenda for the April 23, 2015 regular meeting.

- Presentation from DHR on H-2 list update
- Establish a Friends of the SFFD Account
- Report from the Budget and Legislative Analyst
- Home Team - EMS related issues
- Update on AWSS and PWSS
- Report on the ESER Bond
- Presentation from the Surf Rescue Unit

8. ADJOURNMENT

President Evans adjourned the meeting in memory of Retired Battalion Chief John Harris at approximately 6:06 PM