

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE COMMISSION

FIRE COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES

Thursday, April 23, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.

Archbishop Riordan High School Cafeteria

175 Phelan Avenue ■ San Francisco ■ California ■ 94112

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The audio recording for the April 23, 2015 meetings has been uploaded to the FC Website at:  
[http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=133&clip\\_id=22612](http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=133&clip_id=22612)

President Evans called the meeting to order at 4:17 PM.

**1. ROLL CALL**

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

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Evans called for public comment and no one came forward

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- a. Minutes from the Regular Meeting on March 26, 2015
- b. Minutes from the Special Meeting on April 9, 2015

President Evans suggested that the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2015 be deferred to the next Commission meeting for approval until we confirm if Resolution 2015-03 has been amended.

Commissioner Hardeman Moved to approve the Minutes. Vice President Covington Seconded. Motion to Adopt Minutes of Special Meeting on April 9, 2015 was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

#### **4. EMS RESPONSE PATTERN AND HIGH-USER PROGRAM UPDATE [Discussion]**

Report on EMS response pattern and high user program.

Dr. Yeh's PowerPoint presentation is attached: <http://sf-fire.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=3952>

Dr. Yeh stated that his plan was to talk about the response pattern changes that were made in January of 2012 and what the process is for updating that. He referred to FRES pattern, which stands for fire response pattern. He explained that it's the matrix that takes the information given at the 911 center to the call taker and then transforms that into a specific dispatch determinant, which is usually a code such as 40-year-old male with abdominal pain. That information then goes up as a 1 Charles 5 or 6 and the FRES translates that information into what type of response is sent out, in this case, a Code 2 ambulance response. The idea was to align the call types and resources with the actual historical need for that particular call time. He added that an overview of the process that was undertaken to revise the EMS response pattern significantly decreased the volume of Code 3 calls without any episodes of compromise of patient care. He touched on the "high user" calls and the efforts taken to ease the EMS system by utilizing other resources that are available.

Commissioner Nakajo asked when and how was the data accumulated. Dr. Yeh confirmed that it was based on data from 2010 and 2011 and was extracted directly from the computer-aided dispatch system through patient care records and hand done analysis. He also confirmed that the new system they are trying to implement does not have much of an adverse impact comparative to the data that was presented.

Vice President Covington asked for clarification on the phrase "over triage and safety." Dr. Yeh stated that over triage is responding to calls or events with maximal resources, Code 3 ambulance, ALS engines, BLS engines, and rescue captains. Most of the time statistically, the patients are stabilized on scene and can be transported to the hospital without lights and sirens and they do not require time-sensitive ALS interventions like defibrillations or CPR. He added that safety in terms of response, there is an inherent higher risk for responding to incidents faster than the normal speed of traffic. Dr. Yeh touched on the co-staffing with San Francisco Homeless Outreach Team. Vice President Covington asked how priority is established with the co-staffing and Dr. Yeh answered that the main mission is to respond to people who have non-emergency situations and to be adequately triaged out of the emergency care system.

President Evans asked if there is a national standard return rate for the dispatch system. Dr. Yeh replied that there is no national standard, but for comparable urban EMS systems, a six percent return rate is typical. President Evans added that it doesn't seem that there's an urgency to look at the numbers right now but it would be prudent that every so often we revisit these categories and see if we're making progress. President Evans asked if there was a way to know when a "high-user" call comes in. Dr. Yeh responded that the Department of Public Health maintains a high user list. He added that the goal is to have a system where the high-user personal information can be entered into the data base and it would send an alert with a case management plan, notifications to the social worker and primary care physician. President Evans asked if there were any particular challenges that those guidelines pose for implementing a program he described. Dr. Yeh stated that there are challenges but he is confident it can be accomplished in an innovative way. President Evans mentioned that once it gets underway, she would like another update. Dr. Yeh agreed.

There was no public comment

#### **5. 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 thanked the Commission for allowing the meeting to take place at Riordan. She stated that the Budget Committee reconvened earlier in the week at City Hall and the Mayor's Budget Director Kate Howard will have an update on the budget process that is ongoing through the third week of May, at which time they will button up the budget submittal through the Board of Supervisors collectively. She added that they talked about the list of priorities that were submitted. She added that she was hopeful and optimistic that the Mayor will look favorably upon the enhancements that were submitted.

Chief Hayes-White announced that there were 42 members in the academy undergoing EMS training at the Treasure Island Training facility. Chief Hayes-White also mentioned that response times are looking good and are heading in the right direction, downward. She added that she thought it had a lot to do with the 35 new hires in September and the much better working relationship with the private providers and with the 19 new ambulances that the Department took delivery of, have all helped to improve performance.

Chief Hayes-White stated that she and Assistant Deputy Chief Wong attended a pedestrian and bicycle safety seminar at City Hall on April 14, 2015. She added that she attended the ribbon cutting at the Public Safety Building and thanked the Commissioners that attended as well. She touched upon the 1906 Earthquake ceremonies she participated in. She added that she was happy to see President Evans at the Lotta's Fountain commemoration as well as some of the command staff. She stated that there was a NERT drill and Commissioner Covington attended. Chief Hayes-White announced that in October there will be a big celebration for the 25 year anniversary of NERT. She added that Commissioner Nakajo and Commissioner Hardeman joined her, the Deputies, Chief Carnes and the Mayor when they marched in the Cherry Blossom Parade. She also touched upon the plans and challenges for Superbowl 50.

Chief Hayes-White stated that Station 48 and Station 16 remain works in progress and they have received options from DPW regarding the project. She thanked Commissioner Cleaveland for his diligence in the project. She concluded by remembering Firefighter Amituanai who passed away on April 12, 2015

Commissioner Cleaveland thanked the Chief for her comprehensive report and asked if she got any feedback from the Mayor's Budget Director Kate Howard on the enhancement priorities that the Department submitted. The Chief answered that Ms. Howard told her she did not get a chance to view it until an hour before the meeting, but she felt that Ms. Howard would not be surprised at the list. She added that she understood the IT request and asked quite a bit about the second academy class in January. Chief Hayes-White announced that the Department received support from the five members of the Budget and Finance Committee, Mark Farrell, Katie Tang, Scott Wiener, Eric Mar and Norman Yee. Three of the five Supervisors verbally said that they would support the January academy class. Chief Hayes-White confirmed that she was planning for an academy class in August, and she is awaiting the list from DHR. Commissioner Cleaveland acknowledged how he thinks the SFFD is the most diverse in the country and applauded the Chief's efforts and those in her command staff and to make sure the Department continues to be as diverse as possible, as reflected in the City. He went on to thank Chief Lombardi for his excellent presentation on the AWSS, and he felt more confident that our AWSS system is good and is going to get better.

Commissioner Cleaveland inquired as to whether there has been a change in the Department's sick leave policy. Chief Hayes-White acknowledged that there were discussions taking place and she would defer that subject to Jesusa Bushong, HR Director and perhaps have her discuss the issue at a future meeting.

Vice President Covington asked if the Chief has put together any preliminary plans to commemorate the Department's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Chief Hayes-White replied yes, that she

would be meeting with Department historian David Eberle and she is in the process of establishing a committee.

Commissioner Hardeman stated he was sorry to have missed the celebration of Station 4, but was glad to see Arson had a nice space.

Commissioner Cleaveland added that he thought forming a C-3 charitable organization that could take private donations could be a big boost to the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. That it would be a good way to launch a “Friends of the SFFD.”

President Evans thanked the Chief for her leadership around all of the recent commemoration events. She thought it was amazing to see how many citizens were at Lotta’s Fountain at 5:00 a.m. to mark the anniversary of the 1906 earthquake.

President Evans commented on her participation of the Budget Committee and the meeting with Kate Howard and she thought Ms. Howard made it quite clear that the Department will not be getting everything on their enhancement list. What President Evans took away from that meeting is there is such disconnect between the services the Department provides to the City and recognition of what it costs to provide those services. She feels they do not understand the cost. She commended the Chief for arguing for every penny, but she thinks that the Department needs to engage more people in the advocacy for the budget. She added that the Commission should consider having some of the meetings out near firehouses and in different neighborhoods to let people share with us what they want and help us advocate for the Department’s needs. Chief Hayes-White acknowledged Chief Burke and the instrumental work he has done in the last few years, honoring members with proper funerals and other arrangements for various members.

#### REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Report on the Administrative Divisions, Fleet and Facility status, Finance and Support Services within the Department in addition to update on ESER Bond 2016.

Chief Guzman presented his report for the month of April 2015. He acknowledged the hard work of Chief Lombardi. He touched on the progress and challenges of Station 48 and the progress on Station 4, and modifications to Station 49. He talked about the seven million dollar project to replace the generators and pumps at Headquarters.

Chief Guzman stated that Chief Williams and her staff are very busy with the H-3 Level 1 academy and the 42 recruits due to graduate on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Chief Guzman commented on the Module 3, live fire training that began on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, which are valuable fire training exercises that will continue to be held on a monthly basis.

Chief Guzman mentioned the planning efforts that Chief Francisco is working on for the upcoming Urban Shield exercise, Vice President Biden’s visit and the World Golf Championship. He added that Captain Hunter has conducted 161 random alcohol and drug tests, 15 of which were conducted during nights and weekends.

Vice President Covington asked for clarification on the Arson Fire Safety and Prevention Grant. Chief Wong explained that it consists of a trailer set up with a kitchen and would be used to simulate grease fires, in which the participants would handle an extinguisher. It would also have other training and educational components that could be taken to various locations to provide information to communities that request it. She added that the grant would pay for personnel and equipment and initially it would be a year support from the grant and if the program is successful, the goal would be to roll the cost into a fee.

Commissioner Cleaveland asked that Chief Guzman keep the Commission updated on the Fireboat FEMA Grant. He also asked if the Department has researched installing video cameras on the fire trucks. Chief Hayes-White stated that it is not something the Department has explored, but there are many intersection cameras that have been very helpful.

President Evans stated that she was out at Station 48 and thought the members seemed excited to get into new quarters. She was disappointed to hear that there were hold ups in the permit approval process, but at least they seem to be in the home stretch.

**6. AGENDA FOR NEXT FIRE COMMISSION MEETING [Discussion]**

Discussion regarding agenda for the May 14, 2015 regular meeting.

- DHR Presentation
- Retirement Certificate Presentation
- AWSS After MOU is signed with PUC

There was no public comment.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED APRIL 10-17, 2015**

1. Email from Chris Wong dated 4/17/15
2. Email from Marc Tosca dated 4/20/15

There was no public comment.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

President Evans adjourned the meeting in memory of Firefighter David Amituanai at 5:53 PM.