

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE COMMISSION

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Thursday, June 11, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.
698 Second Street, Room 102

The audio files have been uploaded onto the Fire Commission Website at:
http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=133&clip_id=23095

President Andrea Evans called the meeting to order at 4:09 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	Excused
Chief of Department	Joanne Hayes-White	Present
Mark Gonzales	Deputy Chief – Operations	
Ray Guzman	Deputy Chief – Administration	
Jeff Myers	EMS	
Ken Lombardi	Support Services	
Shane Francisco	Homeland Security	
Dan DeCossio	Prevention	
Raemona Williams	Division of Training	
Assistant Chiefs		
Kevin Burke	Division 2	
Tom Siragusa	Division 3	
Staff		
Clement Yeh	EMS Medical Director	
Jesusa Bushong	Human Resources	
Mark Corso	CFO	

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. RESOLUTION 2015-04 [Discussion and possible action]

Discussion and possible action regarding proposed Resolution 2015-04, pertaining to the Bank of America Medal Fund Accounts (Rainey, Sullivan and Scannell)

Vice President Covington moved to adopt Resolution 2015-04. Commissioner Cleaveland seconded. Motion to Adopt Resolution 2015-04 was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

a. Minutes from the Special Meeting of May 28, 2015

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

There was no public comment.

5. DISCUSSION OF AMENDING FIRE COMMISSION DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES TO PROMOTE MORE TIMELY AND EFFICIENT RESOLUTION OF CASES (Discussion)

President Evans continued this item to the next Commission meeting and has requested Zachary Porianda, who advises the Commission on discipline matters, be present to answer any questions that might come up in the course of discussions. She added that the discipline cases are taking much longer to wind their way through the system and it seems to be impacting the Department, the members, as well as the Commission and she would like to consider ways that might move these hearings along more expeditiously.

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 and 2015-2016 budgets.

Chief Hayes-White reported on activities in the Department since May 28, 2015. She announced that she will be prepared to present before the Budget and Finance Committee on June 17, 2015 at 10:00 and the Budget and Finance Committee is comprised of Supervisors Farrell, Wiener, Mar, Tang and Yee. She added that the goal is to meet with the committee members prior to the meeting. She went on to explain the structure of the typical budget process from past experiences. She invited CFO Mark Corso to talk about the process and acknowledged that he was able to provide a briefing to President Evans and Vice President Covington last week to bring them up to speed on where the Department was within the Budget negotiations.

Chief Hayes-White stated 42 new EMS members graduated from the academy last month and are working out in the field in the EMS Division and doing very good work. She added that they are in the process of transitioning approximately 30 H-3 Level 1's to H-3 Level 2 paramedics and nine H-2 firefighters with paramedic licenses that will become H-3 Level 3 paramedics. She went on to acknowledge the Division of Training as well as Chief Myers and Chief Molloy for their help in bolstering the staffing, particularly in the EMS Division. She also acknowledged Chief Lombardi, because from a logistic standpoint, he has done a phenomenal job in making sure that Station 49 is prepared for the new members that are going to be stationed there. She touched on the modifications and adjustments that the DOT is continuing to work on, for the anticipated August

academy class for H-2 firefighters. She also touched on the planning stages for the upcoming activities which include the Pride Parade and 4th of July. She announced that they will be administering the first part of the H-3, 33 Rescue Captain exam prior to the next Commission meeting and she believes 117 members have signed up to take that exam and part two will be held the week of July 12, 2015.

She touched briefly on a meeting she, Chief Lombardi and Chief Gonzales had with PG&E. She added that they meet quarterly with PG & E and the relationship has strengthened between them and they look forward to the day when they have a 24/7 crew, not just supervisors, but a crew that can come out in the off hours in a more expedient timeframe to assist the Department.

Chief Hayes-White announced that the Department has collaborated with the San Francisco Unified School District who has unanimously approved to add a section of their curriculum for ninth graders, to incorporate CPR Training. She stated that she has been a proponent of it, as well as Lieutenant Aisha Krieger. She acknowledged that Dr. Yeh has been very helpful in this process as well as Chief Myers, Chief Williams and Chief Brandon from the Training Division. She added that she is very proud that it came to fruition because it is something they have been asking for about five years. She expressed her appreciation of School Superintendent Richard Carranza. She touched on the recent workshop for reducing San Francisco's post-earthquake fire risk that she attended along with Acting Fire Marshal De Cossio, Chief Lombardi and Chief Gonzales. She added that an engineer by the name of Charles Scawthorn has done studies, which point to the direction that additional resources should be allocated for the Fire Department, in terms of equipment and personnel to be able to respond to an earthquake.

Chief Hayes-White described the following events she attended which included the Pride flag raising at City Hall, a meeting to discuss the importance of continued communications and collaboration around the events for Superbowl 50 and the Juneteenth festival.

Chief Hayes-White invited Mark Corso to highlight and review some of the work and enhancements that have been incorporated in the recent budget negotiations. Mr. Corso went on to describe various enhancements that were funded, which included additional academy classes, EMS logistical support, restoration of EMS 6 Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program, Deputy Director of Policy and Planning, a number of positions for Fire Prevention and Investigation, IT support positions, two additional arson investigators, materials, supplies and funding for additional overtime to help with uniformed recruitment. He also touched on equipment that has been identified and funded over the next couple of years. He concluded by saying that the budget was submitted by the Mayor's office on June 1, 2015 and is being currently reviewed by the Budget Analyst.

Commissioner Cleaveland expressed how delighted he was with the collaborative effort on working with the budget enhancement piece in particular and bringing senior staff of the Department into the conversation, he thinks it really helped solidify, in Kate Howard's mind and others in the administration that this budget was important. He added that he applauds the Chief for her efforts and the others who pulled together to make it happen. He asked how the Commission can assist in making sure this budget gets passed. Chief Hayes-White stated she would welcome their involvement in the process.

Commissioner Cleaveland inquired about the CPR training for all 9th graders in the City and if it will part of the curriculum starting in September. Chief Hayes-White confirmed that it will start in September with all 9th graders in the SFUSD, and she is going to reach

out to the private and parochial schools as well. Commissioner Cleaveland thought that was great. Commissioner Cleaveland also asked about the progress on the planning for the Department's 150th anniversary events. Chief Hayes-White explained that she has met with retired Captain James Lee and Dave Eberle from Guardians of the City and there is a kick-off meeting scheduled for Monday, June 29, 2015 at 10:00 am. Commissioner Cleaveland stated he thought all of the Commissioners should be involved in some way in supporting this effort. Chief Hayes-White also mentioned that she was working closely with President Evans, Vice President Covington, Tom O'Connor from Local 798 on formation of a Strategic Planning Committee.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Mr. Corso for his report and recognized that the budget that was funded was unprecedented and that we are in a situation where the Department has been amply funded in their particular requests. He stated he was very impressed with Mr. Corso's efforts in presenting the budget to the Mayor's office. Commissioner Nakajo asked for confirmation on the final figure that was submitted to the Mayor's office. Mr. Corso answered approximately 358 million dollars for one year. He also acknowledged how pleased he was with the results of the budget workgroup.

Vice President Covington echoed fellow Commissioner Nakajo's comments in that it really is a time for celebration that collaboratively we were able to manage to get close to the Department's goals. She added that we now have a budget that we can actually work with to accomplish the things that we need to accomplish. She suggested that a thank you note signed by all Commissioners, should be sent to the supervisors once the budget process is over. Vice President Covington also commented that having the Budget Committee, with members of the Department be active in the budget process, was a very good idea. It was a way to educate the entire Department about the details of putting a budget together.

Vice President Covington mentioned that she thought CPR training for 9th graders was an excellent idea and she would advocate for infant/child CPR be a part of the training.

Commissioner Hardeman asked for some feedback at Headquarters as far as the construction that is taking place. Chief Hayes-White explained that for the next 9 to 12 months, the construction crew will be working on upgrades to the pumps and ventilation systems which are funded through part of the ESER bond.

President Evans thanked Mr. Corso for his work with the budget. She asked about getting funding for PPE replacement and added that it is part of the cost of running the Fire Department and it should be treated as a necessity. Mr. Corso agreed, but said that funding for replacements has been difficult, because it's considered separate, but it is something he would be in favor of. President Evans also inquired as to the IT, Capital Planning and equipment portions of the budget. In particular, does Capital Planning have their own budget. Mr. Corso explained that it's part of the Mayor's process. In theory, everything is fair game. In general, at least in the past from his experience, they haven't necessarily focused on the capital and IT projects, the things that have been approved and submitted by the Mayor, have pretty much gone untouched through the process. Equipment, however, has been and continues to be, heavily scrutinized. You need to provide quotes and equipment spending plans and there has been a reduction of that in the past. He added that equipment requests are definitely more scrutinized than the IT and capital projects.

Public Comment: Captain Darmanin stated that this was the first time that he had heard that the H-24 Lieutenant position was not approved and that not getting that position is a major problem. He went on to describe the current layout of the Arson Task Force and stated this is a crisis, and he expected at the very least to get the H-24 and hopefully two additional permanent investigators. He added that he can only do so much, he has been

carrying the role of lieutenant and captain for the last year and he needs that lieutenant's position filled. He stated that there are people that potentially could be affected as far as their health and safety is concerned.

REPORT FROM OPERATIONS

Report on overall field operations, the Bureau of Fire Prevention & Investigation, Airport Division in addition to update on EMS-6 and DEM/DOC.

Chief Gonzales reported from May 6th to June 2nd 2015. He described the 2nd Alarm fire that occurred at 2418-2420 Fulton Street on May 23, 2015. Three Civilians were injured, one was burned and two succumbed to smoke inhalation. That fire is still under investigation but it appears to be accidental. Assistant Chief Burke was in command of that fire and the Units did a great job fighting the fire.

Chief Gonzales acknowledged and commended Assistant Chief Siragusa for working with the engine officers regarding standard operating procedures. Chief Gonzales went on to say they are in the final stages of issuing Station 49 members SCBA masks. He stated that EMS is also working on the bariatric policy and technical reference guide. He touched on the status between the Department, DHR and the Union, pertaining to the H-8 negotiations.

Chief Gonzales described the work being done at Bureau of Fire Prevention and he anticipates all annual inspections to be completed by the end of the fiscal year. He added that 45 smoke alarms were distributed to the NERT graduates. He announced the upcoming events, including the Union Street Fair, the Juneteenth Street Fair and the Pride Parade. Chief Gonzales mentioned that the Bureau of Fire Investigations made a great arrest recently of the suspect of the portable toilet fires. He also acknowledged the fabulous job Acting Chief Storti is doing at the Bureau of Communications, adjusting box station orders with feedback from the field.

Commissioner Nakajo asked about the process of replacing the Fire Marshal. Chief Hayes-White stated that the interim Fire Marshal is Dan DeCossio. She is in the process of conducting interviews and there are 16 potential candidates and she hopes to have an announcement by the next commission meeting.

Vice President Covington asked where the funding for the 45 smoke alarms came from. It was announced that that they were donated. The Department has a stock of alarms that were donated and they are allocated for distribution as they see fit for public education.

There was no public comment.

7. AGENDA FOR NEXT FIRE COMMISSION MEETING [Discussion]

Discussion regarding agenda for the June 25, 2015 regular meeting.

- Presentation from PUC
- SF FISE
- Discussion on Discipline Procedures

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURNMENT

President Evans adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:24 PM.