

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE COMMISSION

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Thursday, July 9, 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=23295

President Andrea Evans called the meeting to order at 4:11 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	
Ken Lombardi	Support Services	
Raemona Williams	Division of Training	
Assistant Chiefs		
Lorrie Kalos	Division 2	
Victor Wyrsh	Division 3	
Staff		
Clement Yeh	EMS Medical Director	
Jesusa Bushong	Human Resources	
Mark Corso	CFO	

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

John Darmanin introduced himself as a member of the San Francisco Fire Department, part of the Arson Task Force, but was speaking as a private person. He stated he was happy to find out that the budget included an H-24 lieutenant and two fire investigators for the Arson Task Force. He continued with other concerns he has with the working conditions at the Arson Task Force. He asked for clarification on mixed messages he has been hearing.

3. PRESENTATION: SFFISE

Presentation by members of SFFISE (San Francisco Firefighters in Safety Education), a program providing important safety information to schoolchildren in San Francisco.

Chief Hayes-White invited the presenters up and thanked the Commission for putting this presentation on the agenda. She acknowledged that everyone involved with SFFISE has passion and enthusiasm for this cause and most of their devotion to SFFISE is purely on a

volunteer basis. Chief Hayes-White also acknowledged Chief Vic Wyrsh and Chief Lorrie Kalos, both permanent battalion chiefs but riding out as assistant chiefs and overseeing the Divisions in the city today.

The presentation started with Firefighter Dewayne Eckerdt introducing himself. He stated he has been with the Department since 2004, the last few years driving Engine 5. He also volunteers quite a bit of his time with the Alyssa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation. He added that with the help and support from the San Francisco Fire Department, they have made it the San Francisco Firefighters In Safety Education Program. Dan Chacon introduced himself and stated he's the regional manager for the Northern California Alyssa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation. David Ried introduced himself. He is the burn prevention intern and his duties are to coordinate between the fire department, the burn foundation and the school district to make sure that every student gets this presentation.

Following is the PowerPoint Presentation: <http://sf-fire.org/index.aspx?page=1342>

President Evans thanked all three for their Presentation. She thanked them for stepping up and taking on a leadership role for this cause.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked them very much for their presentation. He asked how they get funded in terms of this program. Mr. Eckerdt stated that currently the foundation takes on the cost of funding, that they are a non-profit and they raise money through private donors and grants as they can. Originally, it was a grant funded program and that is how it received funding. He added, unfortunately we haven't received that grant in quite some time so the foundation takes on the burden. This year the foundation took on a cost of \$12,000.

President Nakajo asked if the San Francisco Fire Department contributes anything in terms of support to SFFISE. Firefighter Eckerdt stated yes, they get a lot of support between personnel details, engine details and the Department provides space in terms of doing their training programs. He added that the Department has done a lot in supporting the program. Chief Hayes-White confirmed they have 43 volunteers on the roster.

President Nakajo asked if their program addresses the dangers of fireworks in the material that they hand out. Mr. Chacon stated in terms of this presentation it does not. Their primary target audience is for children regarding burn prevention safety. He added that yesterday he attended the Northern California Public Educators meeting for fire departments and the subject of fireworks and fire safety during the 4th of July was a big discussion. He stated that one of the things they talked about is the best way to approach the subject is doing promotional PSAs and really talking about the safety and dangers of fireworks.

Commissioner Hardeman thanked them for their presentation. He mentioned it's nice to see volunteers and it's a great program. He hopes the funding continues.

Commissioner Cleaveland added his voice of thanks to Dewayne, David and Daniel and to the 43 other volunteers firefighters who give their time to be instructors. He added it is an incredibly important program and should be a model for the country. Again, he thanked them for educating our youth in this city on the dangers of fire and how to protect themselves.

Vice President Covington thanked Messrs. Eckerdt, Chacon, and Ried for their presentation. She added the materials were fabulous. She thinks it is wonderful that they begin at Pre-k as that is a time when they are learning so much information. She added that she appreciated that the materials are bilingual. Vice President Covington asked about fund raising events and Mr. Chacon stated they have an upcoming gala that will be

held in partnership with the Masons of California. The gala will take place at the Oakland Scottish Rite Building on August 28, 2015. Vice President Covington also inquired as to whether the Department has given any money to this effort out of the Department's budget. Chief Hayes-White answered that the Department has not, but they encourage members to personally donate and she knows there are many members in the room that have made personal contributions.

President Evans noted that there are over 12,000 students this year that received the presentation, which is fantastic. She was wondering what additional measures the Commission can take to reach even more students. Firefighter Eckerdt stated that there are 20,000 students within the public sector of the San Francisco Unified School district, which means that they are doing public, private, and anything in between right now, and he thinks they are missing around 10,000 kids that are not being reached. He added that they've made efforts toward the SFUSD to set up meetings to see if they can make this program a mandate but are having little headway. He stated any efforts in support that the Fire Commission can offer in that degree would be greatly appreciated. President Evans stated she would be happy to work with those at the school level on this.

Public Comment: Andrew Calvin spoke and stated that he is a volunteer with the Alyssa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation and he really commends the work that Daniel, Dewayne, David and the members of the San Francisco Fire Department do with the FISE program. He added that one of the things that makes the Burn Foundation so successful is its strong volunteer base and if anybody is looking to help out in the community, he's at these meetings regularly and they can come and check in with him and he can put them in contact with Daniel at the Burn Foundation.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- a. Minutes from the Special Meeting of June 25, 2015

Vice President Covington moved to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Cleaveland seconded. Motion to Adopt Minutes was unanimous.

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 and 2015-2016 budgets.

Chief Hayes-White gave an update since the last meeting which was on June 25th. She stated that the Department was more successful this year than in the previous eight budget cycles. She added that she is looking forward to being able to rebuild and restore some of the positions that have been reduced and adding some new positions. She stated that Mark Corso is in the process of closing out fiscal year 14-15, and we're awaiting approval from the Mayor's office and Board of Supervisors, with their official stamp on the budget and that still needs to be loaded into the system for 15-16. She stated they are working with HR on some preliminary recruitment and hiring of both the uniformed and civilian positions, most of those taking effect at the second quarter of this fiscal year. She added that once again, she appreciates all of the support that each of the Commissioners contributed related to the budget process. It was very helpful, including the members of the Budget Committee. Chief Hayes-White stated she sent an overview to all the

members of the Department related to the efforts surrounding the budget and she has heard a lot of positive feedback regarding the information that was shared.

Chief Hayes-White confirmed that they graduated 42 H-3 Level 1 EMTs in May and already it's making a big difference in terms of response times. She is hoping to continue that trend.

Chief Hayes-White stated she believes they selected 28 candidates to take part in the per diem process. The H-8 is to assist in peak periods, if there seems to be a large amount of sick calls, that kind of thing, so they can cover those shifts. Most of them are working at other agencies as paramedics. In addition, the selections that they made, the H-8 could be either an EMT or paramedic. She added that the H-33 exam, the paramedic captain exam, Part 1, was administered last month and Part 2 is scheduled for next week, on July 15, 2015. She confirmed that 82 members are taking that test. She added that they will be able to make some permanent promotions off that list. Chief Hayes-White acknowledged that they are preparing for the H-2 academy, which will be beginning on August 24th for the 40 members that are off the list and will be joined two weeks later by 14 members from Station 49. Concerning the 40 off the eligible list, we are in the process of contacting roughly 200 people to put through backgrounds for the August class as well as for the January class. Everyone has their hands full between processing the backgrounds and interviewing for the medicals. She added, things are moving forward with the process for our Fire Marshal. Interviews were conducted, and she is continuing to work with the Mayor's office on that selection process. She acknowledged Acting Assistant Deputy Chief Dan De Cossio for doing a very good job on an interim basis and keeping the Division well run. Chief Hayes-White touched on the meeting that took place in North Beach concerning bulb outs and traffic calming.

Chief Hayes-White stated that there was a very nice contingent who joined them at the Pride Parade on June 28th. She was proud to say that they were number 14th this year versus 214 from previous years. She continued that on the Monday the 29th they had the first meeting with the 150th Anniversary steering committee. Vice President Covington was at the meeting as well. She stated that she has designated Assistant Chief Dave Franklin along with Guardians of the City, Dave Eberle, who works for the DEM, to spearhead that effort. She added that some great ideas were exchanged. The idea is throughout the year, remind people the importance of our Department and celebrating our 150th anniversary, and then to be culminated on December 3rd, 2016 with a firefighters ball which would actually be on the 150th anniversary which happens to be a Saturday. She acknowledged that Vice President Covington has graciously taken the ball and is running with it and has gotten some great venues to have that event on December 3rd.

Chief Hayes-White acknowledged everyone for a good job in the field related to a safe July 4th. Overall, they were busy but she thinks things ran very smoothly. She added that the Mayor was very pleased with how safe and enjoyable a night it was here in the city. Chief Hayes-White added that President Evans will be assisting the Department with the first Strategic Planning meeting which will be held on July 21, 2015 at Headquarters. She stated they are also planning in the fall to have a meritorious award ceremony, but a date has not been finalized. Chief Hayes-White asked if the Commission would consider adjourning the meeting in honor and memory of Captain Ray O'Leary. He retired in 1985.

REPORT FROM OPERATIONS

Report on overall field operations, the Bureau of Fire Prevention & Investigation, Airport Division.

Chief Gonzales stated that his Operations Report is from June 3rd to June 30th:

There were three greater alarms during this period. There was a second alarm on 625 Bayshore. Temporary Assistant Chief Taylor was the incident commander. This was a warehouse. They did a good job putting the fire out. They had a little bit of a challenge. A hill nearby also caught fire and there were some other structures that were threatened.

The second was a second alarm on 812 Bay Street. The incident commander was Assistant Chief Burke. This was another challenging fire where it was not readily evident which building was on fire. They eventually got to it. It was challenging but they put it out.

The third was a third alarm at 1141 Plymouth. Assistant Chief Siragusa was the incident commander. This was a challenging fire because there were a lot of belongings inside the house, in the garage, and on the top floor. There was a time when we thought that one of the relatives was still in the building. They were trying to do an aggressive interior attack as much as they could in trying to get access to where they thought the person was. Fortunately, the relative was down the street or around the corner. They found him later. The members did a good job.

Chief Gonzales went on to detail Emergency Medical Services and the progress of the H-8's. He stated that he's been working with President O'Connor of 798 going over a list of candidates for the H-3 Level 3 positions for the 118th firefighter academy. It's based on their fire department seniority. He continued with summarizing the recent events of BFP, Plan Check, and the Port.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Chief Gonzales for his report and asked, in terms of the 14 members from Station 49, how is Local 798 involved in the selection process. Chief Hayes-White answered that she wanted to make sure the criteria by which they were selecting is collaborative with Local 798 and they are, and that they are looking at it strictly by seniority and where they are on the list and that's the order they will be made an offer.

Commissioner Nakajo also asked if the next H-2 academy that is to begin in August, and there are members left over from that pool, will they be given consideration for the January academy class. Chief Hayes-White answered that anyone that was given a medical evaluation, by law, they would be considered for the next class. They will be put into an alternate position.

Vice President Covington asked if departmental seniority means that it does not matter if you had the same position anywhere else, it is the time you have with the SFFD that counts towards seniority. Chief Hayes-White confirmed that statement, and added that we are giving the benefit to the employee that had the longer tenure with the Department.

President Evans asked about the meetings that have been taking place pertaining to traffic calming and safety measures and if the Commission could get the dates of these meetings. She thinks it would be helpful to have a presence at these meetings as well as to get the information more widely disseminated.

Chief Hayes-White acknowledged that we have signed on to the Vision Zero goals, but she thinks it was good that there were some modifications to that resolution because it does say we are doing our due diligence and we want to get to the same goals as everyone else. She added, most importantly, we need to make sure that we can get our apparatus' to the scene of emergency calls. President Evans thinks that it is important getting information to people around some of these meetings so that they can be more informed,

perhaps they will make their voices heard at City Hall. She added they we need to get more people engaged around the issue.

President Evans thought it was great news that the response times have moved up so dramatically and she hopes we keep tipping up in that direction.

President Evans asked if there was an agreement with Local 98 on the terms and conditions for the H-8's or is it still being negotiated. Chief Hayes-White answered that she believes negotiations are in the final stages, although they've been told by DHR that they can move forward in providing the training absent a signature because it's something that was conceptually agreed to. She added that she personally would like to have the signatures so she was the one putting the brakes on the starting the class on the 13th just for harmony.

Public Comment: Captain Darmanin introduced himself as member of the fire department, Captain of Arson but stated he was speaking as a private citizen. He voiced his concerns with the lack of staffing at Arson as well as the lack of communication. He stated that the information he's getting is conflicting and unreliable.

6. AGENDA FOR NEXT FIRE COMMISSION MEETING [Discussion]

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

- Presentation from Homeland Security/Disaster Committee

Public comment: John Darmanin introduced himself as a member of the San Francisco Fire Department and Captain of the Arson Unit but speaking as a private citizen. He stated that he made some comments earlier and was called out by a Deputy Chief. He would like to ask that the Commission place something on the agenda for the next meeting, to clarify and discuss the rights of employees to speak during public comment, not just at the Fire Commission, but any public employee speaking at their respective commission or board meetings. He added that he was speaking as a private citizen and should be treated like one, not as a member of the department. He went on to explain his dissatisfaction of the events that led up to his making this public comment and thanked the Commission for listening.

Deon Mark stated he's an eligible candidate on the H-2 list with a score of 735 and asked the Commission what he should do in order to become a more popular candidate.

7. ADJOURNMENT

President Evans adjourned the meeting in memory of Captain Ray O'Leary at approximately 5:54 PM.