

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE COMMISSION

FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

Thursday, August 13, 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=23537

President Andrea Evans called the meeting to order at 4:12 PM

1. ROLL CALL

Commission President	Andrea Evans	Excused
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	
Dan De Cossio	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Dale Carnes	Airport Division	
Shane Francisco	Homeland Security	
Raemonna Williams	Division of Training	
Assistant Chiefs		
Kevin Burke	Division 2	
Kirk Richardson	Division 3	
Staff		
Clement Yeh	EMS Medical Director	
Jesusa Bushong	Human Resources	

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Adrian Sims identified herself as one of the Directors of 798. She passed out a paper copy of a PowerPoint presentation entitled “SF Fire Department Fleet, where we are and where we need to be”. She stated that its purpose was to educate civilians on how the rigs maneuver and perform in the city. She was concerned that there is a lot of incorrect information floating about, and she felt there needs to be clarification and documentation for people to reference.

Gary Masatani, retired deputy chief, introduced two of his colleagues from the Fire Velo Cycling Team, Jim Berklite and Dave Buchanan. He gave a brief history of the Velo Cycling Team and their partnership with the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Foundation. They presented Chief Hayes-White with a framed plaque as a thank you for all the years she has committed to the Foundation.

Shon Bufford introduced himself as treasurer of Local 798. He thanked the Commission for their continued service and stated it was brought to their attention that the Commission would be addressing the Civil Grand Jury report. He added that he is hopeful that the dialogue continues with 798 and the United Employee groups and everyone else to continue to make sure that the citizens' needs are met, as well as the members of the Department.

3. RESOLUTION 2015-06 [Discussion and possible action]

Discussion and possible action regarding proposed Resolution 2015-06, Recommending That the Fire Commission Accept the Donation from Firemen's Fund and their Parent Corporation, Allianz Global Corporation, of the 1855 Worth-Built Hand Pumped Fire Engine ("Empire"/"Broderick").

Commissioner Cleaveland moved to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Hardeman seconded. Motion to approve Resolution 2015-06 was unanimous.

Commission Secretary Maureen Conefrey read the resolution into the record.

Vice President Covington added that she thought it was a wonderful gift and announced that there would be official ceremonies on October 22, 2015 at 10:00 am. at Civic Center Plaza so that the first fire engine built in California will be officially accepted and admired.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- a. Minutes from the Special Meeting of July 23, 2015
- b. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 25, 2015
- c. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of July 9, 2015

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

There was no public comment.

5. FURTHER DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING AVAILABLE OPTIONS FOR TELEVISING FIRE COMMISSION MEETINGS AT CITY HALL [Discussion and possible action]

Commission Secretary gave an update from information she received regarding availability of hearing rooms. Room 400 was available the 1st and 2nd Fridays of the month from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, 3rd Fridays 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, and 4th Fridays from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Commissioner Cleaveland stated that the Fire Commission should be a commission that is televised and should be held at City Hall where it is accessible to more of the public in San Francisco. He was disappointed that there were no more convenient options available but he is willing to make the sacrifice to a day and time that is not yet taken and formally move the meetings to City Hall. Commissioner Cleaveland also reminded everyone that they have already voted to move to City Hall, it is just a matter of when, what day and time. He suggested going to the Mayor's office and taking a less important commission or board's time slot. He added that he was willing to approach the Mayor.

Commissioner Hardeman stated that the available time slots are very inappropriate for people that do attend the meetings and he would vote against any of the mentioned times. He added that he is not against televising the meetings, but 90 percent of the people who come to the meetings would not be able to make an 8:00 a.m. meeting and he also thinks it's an inconvenience for staff to have to change their schedules to be at City Hall at 8:00 am on a Monday or Tuesday morning.

Commissioner Nakajo does not have a problem with televising the meetings, but he does have a problem with Fridays. His other job, which is a non-profit organization often, has events on Fridays. He would be willing to work out whatever might be available on Mondays. He added that wants everyone to understand clearly that the intention of the Commission has always been to be transparent with information to the public. He added that he's not sure if this item has been budgeted into the last budget cycle, but if something could be worked out besides a Friday, he's be open to it.

Chief Hayes-White gave a brief over view on how she remembered Commission meetings always being on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, but one was in the morning and one in the evening to give members of the public an option of at least being able to come to one meeting a month.

Vice President Covington stated she thinks it is important to move to City Hall. She added that parking is not the only issue, but the cost of parking, which is prohibitive during day games at A T & T Park, and she thinks that is a deterrent to a civil engagement and there should be no barriers to our fellow citizens being able to access these discussions. She continued that if the citizens do not have the background information regarding matters that come before the Commission, then they do not have the knowledge base to make a decision for our Department. She thinks once anyone finds out what the challenges are, we usually get quite a bit of support and this is a way of making sure that citizens are kept abreast and informed about what challenges fact the Department.

There was no public comment.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO MOVE THE OCTOBER 22, 2015 COMMISSION MEETING TO ANOTHER DATE [Discussion and possible action]

Commissioner Hardeman Moved to move the October 22, 2015 meeting to October 21, 2015 at 4:00 pm. Commissioner Cleaveland seconded. Motion to move the October 22, 2015 meeting to October 21, 2015 was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT "WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?" {Discussion and possible action}

Vice President Covington continued the item. She added that she is waiting for additional information.

8. CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT [Discussion]

REPORT FROM CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

Report on current issues, activities and events within the Department, including Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget.

Chief Hayes-White stated that she took some time off since the last meeting and had some recreational time and some personal time with her family.

Chief Hayes-White acknowledged the great job CFO Corso did in shepherding the Department through a difficult budget process and now that they have been approved for additional funding, they are in the planning process for some of the positions that will come on board in October.

Chief Hayes-White was pleased to officially welcome and congratulate Daniel DeCossio as the new Fire Marshal. She added that he did a phenomenal job as the interim Fire Marshal for a few months. She also announced that Richard Brown will be assisting him as the newly created position of Assistant Fire Marshal. They both gave brief histories on their time with the Department.

Chief Hayes-White gave an update on the H-2 academy and thanked Assistant Deputy Chief Raemona Williams and all her staff that have been working around the clock getting ready for the 118th academy. She also thanked Jesusa Bushong who has assisted her in the selection process. She went on to give an update on the EMS 6. They brought in 42 new H-3 Level 1 EMT's into the Department in May and she added that it has definitely improved the ability to have an ambulance get on scene within the time requirements. She touched briefly on the EMS Division and the new 42 hour work week. She stated that it's great for the Department and after speaking to some of the members over the last couple of weeks, they seem very excited about the new options and new schedule that will be forthcoming. She added that Chief Gonzalez would cover that in his report.

Chief Hayes-White stated that the H-33 paramedic captain exam is complete and they had 82 members participate in that process. They are waiting for the results from the Department of Human Resources and she expects those results in early fall. She added that they expect to administer the H-50 Assistant Chief exam late fall or early winter which will be open for permanently appointed battalion chiefs to participate in, and in early first quarter of 2016, they will be an H-30, Captains exam and that will be open for permanently appointed H-20 lieutenants to participate in.

Chief Hayes-White touched on the strike team deployments from the Department to help battle the busy wildland season. She added that the strike team leader for the Lake Berryessa area was Chief Tom Siragusa assisted by Captain Shayne Kaialoa and the team leader for the Rocky fire was Chief Siragusa assisted by Captain Pablo Siguenza. They also deployed an OES strike team that was led by Battalion Chief Rubenstein, and assisted by Battalion Chief Jose Velo. She reported that they were all back safe.

Chief Hayes-White talked about the 150th anniversary planning committee and acknowledged Vice President Covington for being front and center, and very helpful, not just in a supportive role but very much a hands on role. She also thanked Assistant Chief Dave Franklin who has agreed to co-chair the committee with Dave Ebarle from the Department of Emergency Management. She touched briefly on the first Strategic Planning Committee meeting and stated that those members were tasked with talking to four or five of their colleagues about what they would like to see in terms of what should be incorporated in a strategic plan. They have also reached out to the Employee Groups, to give them the opportunity to provide input in writing.

Chief Hayes-White talked about the \$769, 992 Port Security Grant program the Department was awarded, to purchase a dive boat. The Department would have to come up with an additional \$300,000. She added that Deputy Chief Guzman and Assistant Deputy Chief Francisco worked on putting that application together and they did a good job. She also mentioned they have refreshed their application for the SAFER Grant

(Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) and are currently waiting to hear if it was granted.

Chief Hayes-White announced that the lawsuit arising out of the Asiana crash against the City and members of the Department has been dismissed. She added that it provides great closure and she was very proud of the members' response on that tragic day and that they should never lose sight of the phenomenal response to a catastrophic event that they trained for but nobody really expects to respond to in their career.

Chief Hayes-White touched upon the partnership with the American Heart Association and the Unified School district wherein every 9th grader will be taught hands only CPR. She acknowledged Lieutenant Aisha Krieger who has really taken this task on. She stated the other benefit in providing this training and support, is that they also bring out recruitment fliers to remind students that this a career that they should consider and this is how you become a firefighter, EMT or a paramedic.

Chief Hayes-White mentioned that they continue to have their voice heard related to Vision Zero. She added that there have been challenges at times, and the Department's response is being perceived as a pushback, but she is committed to working together with Vision Zero but is being realistic as to ongoing street improvement projects.

REPORT FROM OPERATIONS

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

Chief Gonzalez presented his Operations report for the month of July. He stated there were two greater alarms during this period. Both were second alarms. The first was on July 20, 2015 at 3:13 am at 762-764 Union Street. A/Assistant Chief Taylor was the incident commander and he did a good job. There were no injuries and this cause of the fire is still under investigation. The second fire occurred on July 30, 2015 at 3:30 am. at 2306 Castro. A/Assistant Chief Richardson was the incident commander and he did a good job. There were no injuries and the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Chief Gonzales stated that the Medic to Follow has decreased significantly. He also touched on the new scheduled for members of Station 49. He added that the H-8's are currently going through their preceptor training and he projects them to be out in the field in late September or early October.

Chief Gonzales touched on the high points of upcoming events, which included Outside Lands and Phantom of the Opera and their big pyrotechnics stunt that Lieutenant Hsieh is taking the lead on. Concerning community outreach, they have given away 27 smoke alarms at the Francis Episcopal Church and Plan Check is working on major projects now under review, including Candlestick Park, Moscone expansion project, Schlage Lock, Alice Griffith/Hunter's Point Residential Development and the Central Subway and Chinatown Station. He acknowledged the good work of Chief Shane Francisco and Chief Guzman regarding the upcoming NFL Superbowl and putting together the incident management team.

Commissioner Cleaveland congratulated Dan DeCossio and Richard Brown on their promotions. He also asked the Chief Hayes-White that when she is adding additional EMT's and paramedics, will she also be adding Advanced Life Support to the various fire stations. Chief Hayes-White answered that it absolutely will equate to expansion of the ALS capable engine. Commissioner Cleaveland touched briefly on the recommendations from the City Attorney regarding speeding up the discipline process and would like to see if they can come to some agreement with Local 798. He also inquired if there has been any movement on the cultural competency and awareness

training. Chief Hayes-White explained that they have revised and modified the curriculum and Jesusa Bushong explained those revisions. Commissioner Cleaveland thought it would be a good idea to run those revisions by the Human Rights Commission.

Commissioner Cleaveland asked if there was an update on Station 16. Chief Lombardi stated they have preliminary drawings for the modifications and it was in the hands of the architects and once that is complete, they will have a better handle on what the cost will be, but the project is moving forward. Commissioner Cleaveland recommended that the Department should consider running PSA on the history of the Department to gear up for next year's 150th Anniversary. Chief Hayes-White thought that is a great idea.

Commissioner Hardeman commented that if you turn the clock back 11 months ago and you could envision what was going to happen over the next 11 months is beyond remarkable. He is proud of the developments and progress the Department has made and added that it keeps getting better. He was also encouraged to see that there were no juvenile fire setters all summer. He also welcomed the new Fire Marshal and Assistant Fire Marshal.

Commissioner Nakajo acknowledged the Chief and all those involved in the successful accomplishment of the grants. He also welcomed both fire marshals. Commissioner Nakajo asked Fire Marshal DeCossio if he anticipated hiring more personal for Plan Check and Fire Marshal DeCossio answered, "Absolutely". They discussed the facility layout at Plan Check, and what their long-term options are, as there is limited space at the Mission Street site.

Commissioner Nakajo asked if there were 27 personnel hired as H-8. Chief Gonzales confirmed there were 27 H-8 hired and they are currently in the Academy. Chief Hayes-White added that they are considered miscellaneous employees, not sworn personnel. There was brief discussion on the 42 hour work week for Station 49.

Vice President Covington congratulated Fire Marshal DeCossio and Assistant Fire Marshal Brown as well as the Chief Hayes-White for the gorgeous certificate presented by the Fire Velo Cycling Club and Chiefs Guzman and Francisco for the good work on bringing home the dollars. She acknowledged Senator Boxer and Congresswomen Pelosi and Speier for constantly advocating for us and advocating for dollars.

Vice President Covington asked when the final version of the Civil Grand Jury response would be available. Chief Hayes-White stated her goal was to have it by the end of the month.

Vice President Covington described a fire she responded to that was started by a grill on a roof deck. She asked if there were guidelines for fire safety regarding roof decks. Fire Marshal DeCossio responded that a permit is required and it's reviewed through both Department of Building Inspection and the Fire Department. The biggest hurdle is that there needs to be a minimum of two exits off the roof. He said that most buildings that are 4 stories or more are required to have roof access by code and that a lot of people take advantage of that and go on the roof to barbecue or use it as a livable space. Vice President Covington suggested that the senior members of the Department should look into requiring a firewall between the existing roof and a new deck as she feels there is a proliferation of roof decks.

Public Comment: Member of the public spoke about the SAFER grant and wanted to point out that for veterans', it is funded for three years.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Communications to Commission received between 7/24/15 and 8/7/15.

- Email from Michael Petrelis

Commissioner Cleaveland asked if there was written policy on the use of firehouse bathrooms by the public. Chief Gonzales confirmed that he was directed to write the policy and it states that the general public has always been welcome to use the restroom, and the policy was basically giving the company officers in the stations more direction as to the procedures we would like to use when directing the public into the restrooms.

Chief Hayes-White confirmed that they have always allowed the public to use the restrooms in the common area in the ground floor. She added that we have put a lot of faith into our officers, and again to use their judgment, and she described a situation that arose where there was a member of the public that came in and used the restroom and was in there for an extensive period of time. When the person left, the bathroom was in complete disarray and there was what she would call, hazardous material that needed to be cleaned up. It is not a pleasant job for the person who has to clean up. Most of the other public facilities the City owns typically have a custodian.

There was no public comment.

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

Discussion regarding agenda for the August 27, 2015 regular meeting.

- Los Bomberos
- Firehouse bathroom policy for members of the public
- Update on SFGOV TV
- Discussion regarding Civil Grand Jury Report

There was no public comment.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Covington adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:23 PM in memory of Cal Firefighters that lost their lives last week.