

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE COMMISSION

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Thursday, August 27, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.
698 Second Street, Room 102

The audio recording has been uploaded to the FC Website at:
http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=133&clip_id=23587

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	
Richard Brown	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Raemona Williams	Division of Training	
Assistant Chiefs		
Robert Postel	Division 2	
Tom Siragusa	Division 3	
Staff		
Mark Corso	CFO	

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. PRESENTATION FROM SFFD EMPLOYEE GROUP LOS BOMBEROS

[Discussion]

Presentation and update from SFFD Employee Group Los Bomberos including mission trips to Nicaragua.

Firefighter Elias, the President of Los Bomberos, presented before the Commission promoting their group and their mission. He introduced David Crespin, Robert Wilkins, Lester Lesavoy and Ramon Barreto, all members of Los Bomberos. Firefighter Elias stated that the group started about eight years ago, when three firefighters from San Francisco went to visit Nicaragua. While in Nicaragua, they visited a fire station and saw how poor their equipment was. It was

after that visit that they did a bit of brainstorming and realized that a lot of the SFFD equipment gets decommissioned after a certain amount of time. They started collecting those items, such as turnouts, helmets, boots, etc, and partnered up with a non-profit organization called ERSLA (Emergency Response Services for Latin America), to get these items to them. He added that they have also provided training on first aid and trauma assessment. He acknowledged Local 798 for the donations they have provided. Lester Lesavoy continued with the presentation by providing pictures from previous trips to Nicaragua. He described Nicaragua as the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and it is the largest country in Central America with the least population. He added that they also work with firefighters and other emergency personnel from other countries to create customized beginning, intermediate and advanced training programs that they can share with the firefighters of Nicaragua. Firefighter Elias concluded by thanking the Chief and the Command Staff for accommodating their schedules, so they are able to take time off to travel to Nicaragua.

President Nakajo thanked them for their presentation and stated how proud he was that they were representing the Department on this particular project. He added that he was grateful that they are showing the visibility of Los Bomberos and he definitely supports them in their endeavors.

Vice President Covington thanked them for their presentation and for their big hearts. She was amazed at how a small seed like this can grow into and is growing into a big Oak Tree. It has such a ripple effect throughout the whole of Nicaragua. Vice President Covington was happy to hear that Local 798 donated \$10,000.00. She also mentioned that it was good to know that the decommissioned ambulances may wind up in Nicaragua.

Commissioner Cleaveland stated that what they are doing speaks right to his heart. He added that as a former Peace Corps volunteer in India he can tell that what they are doing will reverberate through the generations down there and that is really the best face for America, because you are not just giving them something, you are teaching them how to use what you give to them. He thinks that is so important. He congratulated them for putting in time and heart into the effort. He added that they will always remember the experiences and they will come away with a feeling that they got more than what they have received.

Commissioner Hardeman stated he was proud of what Los Bomberos has been doing in Nicaragua and that they have remembered their roots. He thanked them for their wonderful presentation.

President Evans thanked them for what they are doing. She added that she realizes that they do this on their own time and she thinks it is wonderful. She would like to see them get more attention and would like to see it included in the annual report when we talk about things that the Fire Department does for the community. She added that the Commission believes that they can set up a meeting to brainstorm, regarding possible funding.

4. RESOLUTION 2015-07 [Discussion and possible action]

Resolution recommending that the Fire Commission accept the donation from Fireman's Fund Insurance Company and Allianz Global Risks US Insurance Company Marketed As Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty North America, of the 1855 Worth-Built Hand Pumped Fire Engine ("Empire"/"Broderick")

Commission Vice President Covington Moved to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Cleaveland Seconded. Motion to approve Resolution 2015-07 was unanimous.

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 July 23, 2015.

Commissioner Hardeman Moved to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Nakajo Seconded. Motion to approve above Minutes was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

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

Vice President Covington asked when the Chief anticipates sending the Department's responses to the Grand Jury. Chief Hayes-White stated her goal was to have it sometime next week.

Commissioner Nakajo stated he thought it was important that we have a timely response to the Civil Grand Jury report because it shows the public that we are responsive and thorough in answering the various recommendations. He asked Chief Hayes-White who the point of information on the administrative staff was, assigned to work on the Grand Jury Report response. Chief Hayes-White responded that it was a collective effort in terms of input, but the final preparer of the draft is Jesusa Bushong, with a lot of input from Mark Corso and Jesus Mora.

President Evans asked if they knew when this item would be scheduled to go before the Board of Supervisors. Mark Corso answered that he thought it would be scheduled for mid to late September, to be heard before the Government Audit and Oversight Committee.

There was brief discussion on maintaining the training facility on Treasure Island. President Evans stated that we need to be very active in trying to come up with an alternative sooner rather than later, if Treasure Island is not going to be a permanent home for the training facility.

Vice President Covington Moved to submit the Commissions portion of the response to the Grand Jury. Commissioner Cleaveland seconded. The motion to submit response was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

7. DISCUSSION ON POLICY FOR FIRE STATION RESTROOMS AND USE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC [Discussion]

Vice President Covington stated that she wanted it to be part of the record that this policy was in place long before someone decided to run for Mayor brought it up. She stated that this is not a result of public comment here in these Chambers.

Vice President Covington stated that the Fire Department has made a long-standing commitment to the citizens of the City and County of San Francisco. Vice President Covington mentioned that according to the information presented by the Deputy Chief of Operations, the hours stated for restroom use are from 0900 hours to 1800 hours, but according to Article 3950 gives different hours. Deputy Chief Gonzalez agreed that there were two different times. He mentioned that there is a distinction between the differences and that the first hours refer to visitors of the Firefighters and scheduled schools that visit the firehouse whereas Article 3950 refers to the

general public who come to the firehouse with the sole purpose of using the restroom. Vice President Covington also wanted to clarify her support for the policy to give SFFD discretion as to whom they let into their home. Deputy Chief Gonzalez clarified that the public has always been welcome to use the restroom but the policy gives SFFD more discretion and emphasizes safety to the citizens and the firefighters.

Chief Hayes-White added that they are monitoring it very closely. She stated that she appreciates Vice President Covington's concern for discretion. Vice President Covington stated that she would like to revisit this issue in six months.

President Evans agreed with Vice President Covington that it is an issue that can be revisited in six months. She also agreed that signage is not necessary stating public restroom hours. Commissioner Cleaveland stated that it might be useful to have a statement on the Fire Department's website stating the policy regarding public restroom access.

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 budgets.

Chief Hayes-White's report covered the period following the meeting on August 13, 2015.

Budget:

Chief Hayes-White stated that she has tasked Mark Corso with developing a matrix for the new positions that are coming out and where the Department is in terms of funding and hiring.

Chief Hayes-White stated that the 118th Academy Class started on Monday with 40 members. She stated that there was a large range of candidates in terms of age, background, and work experience. She added that the class of 40 will be joined by 16 members from Station 49 making it a class of 56. She added that they are planning for a class in January as well. Chief Hayes-White thanked the Division of Training for their flexibility and for all of their hard work. Chief Hayes-White mentioned that the SAFER Grant gives the Department the opportunity to insert another class at the end of the January class and before the August class.

Chief Hayes-White stated in regards to the EMS Division, she and the Deputies met the raters. She stated that there are about 15 raters who came to rate the H-33 exam that was held in June and July. 82 members took the H-33 Exam.

Chief Hayes- White believes that the H-8 process is working well. There were initially 28 candidates and it is now down to 22. Chief Hayes- White acknowledged the Division of Training, Chief Myers and Chief Gonzalez for working out the details with DHR and local 798.

With regards to Station 49, there have been improvements to the facility making the environment as comfortable as can be until SFFD has their own dedicated EMS Division, hopefully through a health bond. Chief Hayes- White clarified that Chief Lombardi is the Project Manager. Chief Lombardi confirmed that he was the Project Manager and that the health bond is still scheduled for June of 2016. The target is \$40,000,000 for the facility. Chief Hayes-White opened up the possibility for one of the Commissioner to assist and participate in any ongoing discussion related to the project.

Chief Hayes-White stated that she will be meeting with Kate Howard regarding the number of improvements throughout the year relating to the ambulance working group, along with mapping the course for the future, and providing data that shows that the investment was worthwhile.

Chief Hayes-White mentioned that Dr. Yeh has been working with the DPH with the restoration of EMS-6, formally known as Home Team. By using creative solutions, for example, by placing a nurse at the Next Door Shelter the department was able to reduce calls to one location by 50%.

Chief Hayes- White stated that they were receiving roughly 80 calls per month to a homeless shelter, the Next Door Shelter. She added that by placing a nurse at this location, who could decipher between 9-1-1 medical emergencies and all other issues, ultimately reduced the emergency response time by 50%, freeing SFFD for more critical emergencies.

As reported in the last meeting the SAFER Grant, \$8.2 million, is being used to fund 36 additional firefighters as well as the new Marine vessel of about three quarters of a million dollars.

Chief Hayes- White announced the Department of Homeland Security 2014 Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of another roughly three quarter of a million dollars for another five ambulances. Chief Hayes-White reported that it has been a good year for SFFD. Chief Hayes-White would broach the subject of getting better funding for fleet and street design at her meeting with the budget director next week.

The DHR is planning to administer an H-50 Assistant Chiefs Exam followed by an H-30 Captain's Exam. Chief Hayes-White stated that both of those eligibility lists have expired. Chief Hayes-White pointed out that for the Assistant Chief's Exam, all candidates need to have the minimum qualification of incumbency or permanency in the battalion chief's rank. The captain's exam requires that candidates hold a rank of an H-20 Lieutenant.

The 150th Anniversary of the Department will be next year. Chief Hayes-White stated that they have had a couple of committee meetings.

Regarding the Strategic Planning Committee, Chief Hayes-White has asked those members to canvass four or five of their colleagues to gain interest in what the strategic plan should entail.

The department is continuing to meet with MTA regarding street design issues. The City Attorney's office has been involved regarding the streets width. There are a lot of ongoing discussions regarding the reconfiguration of streets and how emergency vehicles can maneuver around the new street configurations. Internally we are looking into options for making our rigs smaller.

Chief Hayes-White stated that she forgot to mention that there has been a lot of work with DHR and Local 798 regarding a new schedule for the members working at Station 49. The schedule which will be a 42 hour work week, is to take effect on September 26th. She stated that 80% will be three days on and three days off. 10% will be three days on and four days off. The remaining 10% will have a 10 hour schedule.

Chief Hayes- White asked Chief Siragusa to talk about the busy fire season. Chief Siragusa stated that they have had 5 strike team deployments so far this fire season. Chief Siragusa stated that SFFD is prepared with equipment and training and have the personnel to be able to deploy. Chief Hayes-White concluded her report.

Commissioner Cleaveland asked Chief Hayes-White to speak about current language training for candidates in the Academy. Chief Hayes- White responded that the department does not currently teach or provide lessons in foreign languages, but stated that there are many foreign language speakers in the class. Chief Hayes-White also mentioned that at the end of the Academy, all employee groups have the chance to talk to the class about their group.

Commissioner Cleaveland also wanted to point out his interest in the 40 million dollar bond for the new EMS Headquarters, and wanted to inquire about a final report. Chief Hayes-White responded that there was a report issued in January 2015 from the workgroup, but there would be an update from what came in January. Commissioner Cleaveland pointed out that the Commission and the Mayor's Office need to be aware and working together regarding this issue.

Vice President Covington asked Chief Hayes-White to reiterate who is on the grant writing team.

Chief Hayes-White responded that the grants are under the Administration Division Deputy Chief Guzman, Homeland Security Chief Shane Francisco and Mark Corso.

Vice President Covington asked Chief Hayes-White how many times a year she anticipates that the fleet committee would get together. Chief Hayes-White responded that she would have further details after her meeting with the Mayor's Budget Office, but she expects to come up with a long-term plan so meetings do not need to happen frequently during a given year.

Vice President Covington suggested that there be a Home Team Presentation during the second meeting in September.

Vice President Covington asked Chief Hayes-White how the conversations with MTA were going regarding the reconfiguration of 2nd Street. Chief Hayes-White responded that she believes that plans were being finalized.

Vice President Covington asked Chief Siragusa how many strike team leaders there were and if SFFD was in danger of running out of leaders. Chief Siragusa responded stating that there are three leaders, but they also train new leaders when they go out on deployments. Chief Siragusa explained that he does not believe that they are in danger of running out of Strike Team Leaders.

Commissioner Hardeman pointed out how wonderful it was to get notice of the five new ambulances the day after the last meeting. Commissioner Hardeman also recognized Chief Franklin in his good work for putting out the Riptide Fire on 47th and Taraval. He wanted to point out how many people were commenting about the fleet and the engines at that fire, he noted how this is a good year to be putting together the fleet committee.

President Evans suggested that a presentation regarding the EMS-6 Committee should be postponed until the EMS-6 is up and running. President Evans mentioned that she was hoping that former Commissioner Paul Conroy would come back to help Chief Lombardi work on the fleet replacement plan. President Evans stated that if Paul Conroy was not available, she would be willing to sit on that committee. She also noted how important it is to work with the Mayor's Office to open opportunity for success.

President Evans asked Chief Hayes-White if there would be a role for members in regards to hiring outside consultants for the upcoming Assistant Chief's exam. Chief Hayes-White responded that DHR is in charge of contracting consultants. President Evans suggested that there be as much transparency as possible when it comes to the promotion process.

President Evans asked Chief Hayes-White about the timetable of the upcoming Academy Classes. Chief Hayes-White responded that they will probably get the list for the January class in October. She explained that some of the candidates who did not make the most recent class, will be front loaded into the January class. The rest of the spots will be open to the most recent applicant pool. Chief Hayes- White confirmed that Chief Williams is going to chair the recruitment committee. President Evans suggested putting the testing dates and other useful recruitment information onto the Fire Departments Website, in an attempt to be as transparent and fair as possible.

President Evans asked Chief Gonzalez to elaborate on ideas to reduce drive times to Station 49. Chief Gonzalez explained that they have cache houses available where there is stock available for the ambulances to go to. He explained that he has delegated the project to Assistant Deputy Chief Myers and acting Section Chief Molloy. President Evans suggested that it would be helpful if the ambulances did not have to go back to Station 49 each time they needed to restock.

President Evans mentioned if SFFD accounts for the hours that the strike team members spend out on strike teams, or is the data only what is done within city limits. Chief Hayes-White responded that they have that information, but as of right now, it is not incorporated into the

stats. President Evans suggested that they track these statistics to demonstrate the continuing importance of suppression, even though residential fires are decreasing.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Report on the Administrative Divisions, Fleet and Facility status, Finance and Support Services within the Department.

Chief Guzman stated the Support Services continues to manage many of the ESER projects, some of which are Focus Scope, roof, window, mechanical, and exterior envelope projects. Chief Guzman stated that all of those projects are complete.

Chief Guzman stated that shower construction is in progress at Station 13, 26, 38, 40, and 41. The emergency generator project at Station 17 is expected to be completed by the end of next month. The plans for Station 16 are moving forward, and they are anticipating the start of that project to be late spring 2016. Station 5's design is complete and they are starting on the construction documents.

Chief Guzman reiterated that the 118th Academy Class started and mentioned that Chief Williams and her staff did a good job getting ready for the 17-week academy. He stated that 40 members off of the NTN list were taken. He mentioned that the first two weeks of the Academy are EMS curriculum, week three starts the fire suppression curriculum for the remainder of the 17 weeks.

Chief Guzman stated that H-8 training started on July 20th. Chief Guzman mentioned all of the components needed to complete the course. He mentioned that they started with 28 candidates and are now down to 22. Four of the members were hired by other agencies and two did not meet the minimum standards of the department.

Chief Guzman mentioned that live fire training continues out on Treasure Island every Wednesday.

Chief Guzman also mentioned that the Division of Homeland Security, run by Chief Francisco, is very busy preparing for Superbowl 50 and preparing for Fleet Week in early October.

Chief Guzman noted that there was an Urban Shield exercise on September 12th and 13th.

Investigative Services Bureau conducted 28 random drug and alcohol tests this reporting period, 10 of which were conducted on either nights or weekends. All results were negative.

Chief Guzman gave an update on the Fire Boat, which is being painted. He stated that once the project is complete it will be a huge milestone.

Chief Guzman concluded his report by giving recognition to Chief Siragusa who was working up at the Rocky Fire.

Commissioner Nakajo acknowledged Chief Siragusa and the strike team. Commissioner Nakajo also acknowledged Mr. Corso and Chief Francisco with their hard work on the Grants. Commissioner Nakajo stated that it is important to clearly get out the information regarding how candidates are evaluated so everyone has a fair chance.

There was no public comment

9. AGENDA FOR NEXT FIRE COMMISSION MEETING [Discussion]

Discussion regarding agenda for the September 10, 2015 regular meeting.

- Presentation from Michael McDowell on History of Meritorious Awards

- Cultural Awareness Training
- Approval of FEMA Grant

10. ADJOURNMENT

President Evans adjourned the meeting in memory of Cal Fire members Michael Hallenbeck, David Ruhl and President Evans' mother, Cecilia Evans at 6:25.