

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

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**Wednesday, September 28, 2022 – 5:00 p.m.**

**This meeting was held remotely on WebEx and in person at City Hall, Room 400.**

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The Video can be viewed by clicking this link:

[https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=180&clip\\_id=42129](https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=42129)

President Feinstein called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Commission President	Katherine Feinstein	Present
Vice President	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Armie Morgan	Excused
Commissioner	Marcy Fraser	Present
Chief of Department	Jeanine Nicholson	Present.
Robert Postel	Deputy Chief – Operations	
Thomas O’Connor	Deputy Chief –Administration	
Sandy Tong	Deputy Chief – EMS and Community Paramedicine	
Niels Tangherlini	EMS	
Simon Pang	Community Paramedicine	
Ramon Serrano	Support Services	
Ken Cofflin	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Patrick D’Arcy	Airport Division	
Shayne Kaialoa	Division of Training	
Ken Cofflin	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Erica Arteseros	Homeland Security	
Assistant Chiefs		
Michael Thompson	Division II	
Staff		
Mark Corso	Deputy Director of Finance	
Olivia Scanlon	Communications and Outreach	

**2. RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

President Feinstein read the Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement.

**3. RESOLUTION 2022-13 [Discussion and possible action]**

Adoption of resolution setting forth findings to allow teleconferenced meetings under California Government Code Section 54953(e).

Vice President Nakajo Moved to adopt the Resolution. Commissioner Fraser Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

**4. RESOLUTION 2022-14 [Discussion and possible action]**

Resolution Adopting that the H-9 Community Paramedic Position of the San Francisco Fire Department be Created

President Feinstein Moved to adopt the Resolution. Commissioner Fraser Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from regular Meeting on August 24, 2022.

Vice President Nakajo Moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Fraser Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

There was no public comment.

**6. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**7. CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT [Discussion]**

REPORT FROM CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT, JEANINE NICHOLSON

Report on current issues, activities, and events within the Department since the Fire Commission meeting on May 11, 2022, including budget, academies, special events, communications, and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Nicholson reported on activities since the last meeting. She noted that eight members are on COVID quarantine, two members have tested positive, and six members have been out longer than 30 days. She announced the appointment of Niels Tangherlini, the new Assistant Deputy Chief of EMS. She mentioned that she has been meeting with prospective candidates for the 131<sup>st</sup> academy and thanked all the Department members that have been a part of the process in which candidates go through interview panels and are recommended to her office for a meet and greet interview. She touched on several events she attended, including the Black Firefighters Association's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala.

There was no public comment.

REPORT FROM OPERATIONS, DEPUTY CHIEF ROBERT POSTEL

Report on overall field operations, including greater alarm fires, Emergency Medical Services, Bureau of Fire Prevention & Investigation, Training within the Department., and Airport Division.

Chief Postel reported on Operations during August. He mentioned that there were 15 working fires, 21 water rescues, and two cliff rescues. There were three greater alarm fires during the reporting period, the first at McAllister and Divisadero, the second was a second

alarm fire at 1215 Fitzgerald Avenue and the third was a third alarm at 244 Divisadero. He described them all in detail. He touched on the Bureau of Fire Prevention and Investigation, the Airport Division, the Division of Training, and NERT which will be conducting their semiannual drill on October 15, 2022.

Vice President Nakajo thanked Chief Postel for his descriptive report and his overview of the greater alarm fires. He acknowledged all the members who responded to those greater alarm fires. He confirmed that the Airport Drill that was held during the reporting period included transporting “patients” off the plane to hospitals to have them triaged.

Commissioner Fraser mentioned that she was at both of the three-alarm fires and was impressed and humbled by the work of the SFFD. She thanked Chief Postel for his perfectly delivered and detailed report.

There was no public comment.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION, DEPUTY CHIEF TOM O’CONNOR  
Report on the Administrative Divisions, Fleet and Facility status and updates, Finance, Support Services, and Homeland Security.

Chief O’Connor presented his August 2022 Administration report. He touched on Homeland Security, which is preparing for Fleet Week, and had an opportunity for the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Army, and the Coast Guard units to train together along with first responders from San Francisco where they focused on the management of an aviation response at McLaren Park. He reported on NERT, the Health, Safety and Wellness Division where they are looking to branch out and expand the chaplaincy program committee and to reach across different faiths and denominations. He touched on the Physician's Office, the Investigative Services Bureau, and Support Services. He described the slides in his attached report: [https://sf-fire.org/files/2022-09/August%20Commission%20Report\\_0.pdf](https://sf-fire.org/files/2022-09/August%20Commission%20Report_0.pdf)

Commissioner Fraser confirmed that the Department is looking for both committee members and actual chaplains for the chaplaincy program. She also confirmed that they are hoping to get 1,700 bags to provide to members to store their turnouts in.

Vice President Nakajo confirmed that the 1,700 turnout storage bags will be a cooperative process between the Cancer Foundations, the Fire Credit Union, and Fire Union Local 798. He also confirmed that the chaplaincy program will be part of the overall wellness program, both spiritual and physical wellness.

There was no public comment

REPORT FROM EMS AND COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE, DEPUTY CHIEF SANDRA TONG

## Report on the EMS and Community Paramedicine Divisions

Chief Tong thanked Chief Nicholson for the opportunity to fill the position of Deputy Chief of EMS and Community Paramedicine. She also thanked Chief Postel and Chief Tangherlini. She touched on her primary goals, including continuing the work of EMS and moving it forward in the way they provide services to the community as well as supporting the members who are doing the work, and looking out for their health. She added that they also want to integrate EMS and community paramedicine, both culturally and operationally. She explained the attached report in detail: [https://sf-fire.org/files/2022-09/EMS%20and%20CP%20FIRE%20COMMISSION%20REPORT%20-%20August%202022%20092222\\_0.pdf](https://sf-fire.org/files/2022-09/EMS%20and%20CP%20FIRE%20COMMISSION%20REPORT%20-%20August%202022%20092222_0.pdf)

She touched on the bump-up academies, the three new ambulances that were delivered in August and are still waiting on 11 more to be delivered in the next 12 to 18 months, and the increase in call volume and the Community Paramedicine Divisions where they are switching over to the Emergency Medical Dispatching where the calls will now go to specific members with SORT, the Street Overdose Team, and the Street Wellness Teams. She added that August was the first time that they were able to place a 51/50 hold and the program is finally operational.

Vice President Nakajo thanked Chief Tong for her detailed report. He acknowledged the great training sessions offered to the members and the RFP for new ambulances and that he is impressed with the format of how Chief Tong presents her information.

Commissioner Fraser congratulated Chief Tong on her promotion and stated what a great report it was. She added that she went on a ride along with CT5 and described some of the encounters she witnessed and acknowledged how frustrating it is when you try and help someone in need and they refuse the help and the teams have to walk away.

President Feinstein acknowledged that Chief Tong's reports have always provided great detail about what is going on with community paramedicine. President Feinstein asked if the Fire Department can do anything to combat hoarding in buildings. Chief Tong responded that often they go into people's residences where there is hoarding, and they will bring it to the attention of the Fire Marshal and Fire Prevention in terms of trying to address some of those situations. Chief Pang added that if the person who is hoarding is a 9-1-1- utilizer they could call Adult Protective Services and attempt to contact whatever care provider that individual already had to try to get them connected to a mental health provider. President Feinstein also noted her concern with barriers on Slow Streets.

There was no public comment.

## **8. AMENDMENTS TO THE FIRE CODE *[Discussion and possible action]***

Discussion and possible action to recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve a proposed ordinance enacting 2019 amendments to the San Francisco Fire Code. Consistent with prior Fire Code amendments, occurring on a 3-year cycle, as required by State law, the proposed ordinance would repeal the existing 2019 San Francisco Fire Code and adopt the 2022 California Fire Code and 2021 International Fire Code, together with San Francisco-specific amendments.

- Accompanying materials:
  - o Proposed ordinance
  - o Draft legislative digest
  - o Chart of findings supporting San Francisco-specific amendments to California Fire Code and International Fire Code

Fire Marshal Ken Cofflin explained that the Amendments to the Fire Code is a tri-annual, which means every three years they come up with a new one. He provided a brief history of the Fire Codes and how they were developed. He presented the attached PowerPoint:

<https://sf-fire.org/files/2022-10/2022%20SFFC%20Fire%20Commission%20Presentation.pdf>

Vice President Nakajo Moved to approve the Amendments to the Fire Code as presented and to recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve the proposed ordinance. Commissioner Fraser Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

**9. ADJOURNMENT** President Feinstein adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.