

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
DRAFT MINUTES**

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**June 28, 2023, 5:00 p.m.**

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400, San Francisco California, 94102

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The meeting video can be reviewed by clicking the below link:  
[https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=180&clip\\_id=44011](https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=44011)

President Nakajo called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

Commission President	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Vice President	Armie Morgan	Present
Commissioner	Katherine Feinstein	Present
Commissioner	Marcy Fraser	Present
Commissioner	Paula Collins	Present
Chief of Department	Jeanine Nicholson	Present.
Bob Postel	Deputy Chief – Operations	
Tom O’Connor	Deputy Chief – Administration	
Sandra Tong	EMS	
Erica Arteseros-Brown	Homeland Security	
Ken Cofflin	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Mike Mullen	Support Services	
Shayne Kaialoa	Division of Training	
Pat D’Arcy	Airport Division	
Shon Buford	Equity, Diversity & Inclusion	
Darius Luttrupp	ESER Project Manager	
Simon Pang	Community Paramedicine	
Assistant Chiefs		
Michael Thompson	Division II	
Brook Baker	Division III	

**RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

President Nakajo read the Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement.

**2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

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

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on June 14, 2023.

Commissioner Feinstein Moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Fraser Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

**4. 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 June 14, 2023, 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 mentioned that they continued the Juneteenth and Pride event celebrations throughout the month. She mentioned that they presented the budget and came to an agreement. She attended a Labor management meeting and had interviews with the LA Times, KGO, NBC Bay Area, CNN, CBS LA, Market Watch, Washington Post, and KTVU pertaining to autonomous vehicles, and she is hoping to get the engineering and policy folks from the autonomous vehicle companies to work with the Department's operations teams to fix the issues and challenges they have been dealing with. She announced that the 132-academy class began on Monday. She added that they had a DEI recruitment meeting and a meeting with the Human Rights Commission on racial equity priorities. She noted that the Board of Supervisors honored members for their response to the shooting in the Mission several weeks back where nine people were shot. She thanked Chief Postel and Chief O'Connor who were attending their last meeting before retiring and acknowledged them for all the work they have done over the years for the Department, both as firefighters, as labor representatives, and as management.

President Nakajo congratulated her and the hard work of Director Corso and everybody else in terms of the involvement of the budget approval. He confirmed that the \$484,000 reduction in the budget was mainly from some attrition savings and a little bit on the equipment side on some sedan purchases and overall should not have any impact on operations. He confirmed the total allocation for the budget was \$511,768,691. He acknowledged the update on the driverless vehicles and suggested the Commission write a letter to the California PUC and stand in solidarity with the San Francisco Firefighters union and Chief of the Department, he also recognized the attendance of Local 798's President Floyd Rollins.

There was no public comment.

**REPORT FROM OPERATIONS, DEPUTY CHIEF ROBERT POSTEL**

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

Chief Postel reported on Operations during May 2023. He reported on a couple significant incidents. The first was on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 Locksley Avenue, which is a residential high-rise building which caught fire on the second floor with a couple of people trapped and three people were transported to the hospital. The second incident was a fire on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3535 California Street, in the Laurel Village shopping center. He acknowledged the quick actions by crews and the coordination between opening the wall and opening the attic and extinguishing the fire and keeping it contained that prevented this fire from being a much worse situation. He also described a water rescue that occurred on May 29<sup>th</sup> at Candlestick Point where three victims and one good Samaritan were rescued. He praised the men and women of the Department and those in the field who are on the front lines, routinely do the impossible and make it seem ordinary to everybody else and it's the firefighters, lieutenants, and the captains who make the difference and deliver these results every single day. He took time to acknowledge many individuals by name and described his role as Deputy Chief of Operations for the last 18 months and thanked Chief Nicholson for the opportunity. His report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/2792/download?inline>

Vice President Morgan thanked Chief Postel for his excellent report and commented that we are going to miss his expertise, knowledge, and leadership as well as his sense of humor and that it was nice working with him and to enjoy his retirement.

Commissioner Feinstein thanked Chief Postel not only for his fine report and excellent writing style and sense of humor but also for the experience out on Treasure Island during the live burn event that she will never forget. She described the experience in detail including his climb up the 100-foot ariel ladder. She thanked him for his service and wished him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

Commissioner Fraser thanked Chief Postel for his great report. She acknowledged his teacher's heart, and she thinks that's going to be part of his legacy, teaching by example, and that he has made the department better and wished him well.

Commissioner Collins was glad their time overlapped and thanked him for the tours of the firehouses and thanked him for everything he has done, and she will continue to advocate for the Department.

President Nakajo thanked Chief Postel from the bottom of his heart both personally and professionally and added that he has made him a better commissioner in terms of the oversight and taking care of business and that it has been a thrill for him to serve with Chief Postel and thanked him for his services. He invited Chief O'Connor to approach and give some parting words.

Chief O'Connor made one last ask for the employees of the San Francisco Fire Department and that is to get funding for the cancer screening for active and retired firefighters. He announced that he was the next San Francisco firefighter to be diagnosed with cancer and requested that the Fire Commission advocate for the firefighters and their health the way that they have stood up for everything in the city for years and years.

Floyd Rollins spoke in honor of Chief Postel and Chief O'Connor and mentioned that Chief Postel made this department better with his leadership and the work that he did in the office in the very short time he was there and that it has been a pleasure working with him and wished him well in his retirement. He thanked Chief O'Connor and acknowledged his leadership and friendship and told Chief O'Connor to enjoy his retirement. He asked that the Fire Commission pass a resolution on making sure the cancer foundation is supported in the way that it should be, and that the members are supported in the way they should be in the work that they continue to do.

There was no public comment.

#### **4. OVERVIEW AND UPDATE ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM *[Discussion]***

Captain Brandon Tom to provide an update and overview of NERT.

Captain Tom introduced himself and provided a brief history of his career. He also provided a brief history of NERT and how it started because of the Loma Prieta earthquake. He mentioned that they have trained close to 35,000 citizens and the goal of NERT training is to provide education on preparing for a disaster and the skills to help their neighborhood and the Fire Department in a disaster. Two NERT models they use is "do the most good for the most people" and "NERTs don't get hurt". He introduced Board president, Gary Pegeuros, Secretary Maxine Fasulis, Board members Lisa Dunmeyer, Cris Pendrgal Martin, Rebecca Lebersbach, Linda Ingram, Nathan Karkoski, NOPA neighborhood coordinator Karkoski and Stiger. Their Presentation is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/2793/download?inline>

Chief Nicholson thanked Brandon and his team and stated she appreciates them all so much and that NERT is extremely important, and they do good work. She added they have struggled with staffing and retention.

Vice President Morgan thanked them for their presentation and for the work they do. He confirmed that they have about 10,000 active members and their goal is to have 40,000.

Commissioner Collins stated it was an excellent report and confirmed that some parts of the city are better covered than others. Captain Tom added that he would love all the city to be equal in coverage but there are some parts that have better taken care of themselves than others. She also confirmed that a NERT should respond in the neighborhood they live in.

Commissioner Fraser thanked them for their presentation and stated it was wonderful to hear and she congratulated them on the whole program. She confirmed that their budget is very small and earmarked from the Fire Department's budget.

Commissioner Feinstein commended them and the people that volunteer and that they give of their time and expertise. She confirmed that they do have bilingual speakers, but that number is dwindling but all their written material is printed in different languages.

President Nakajo remarked about the importance of volunteers and how important and highly regarded it is to volunteer. He spoke on encouraging young folks to volunteer and added that he appreciates NERT, the advisory board, and all that they do and stated that what ever the Commission can do to try to recruit NERT volunteers, please let them know.

**5. COMMISSION PRESIDENT REPORT *[Discussion]***

Repost from Fire Commission President Stephen Nakajo.

President Nakajo provided an update on commission hearing officer duties during discipline matters, and the transition with city attorney's office. He also suggested coordination within the commission about attending various parades and events and that those should be coordinated through CD2's office with notification to the secretary and to CD-1. He provided the remaining schedule of meetings for the 2023 calendar year.

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Nakajo adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.