

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

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**June 14, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 416, 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=43913](https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=43913)

President Nakajo called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.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
Tom O'Connor	Deputy Chief – Administration	
Sandy Tong	Deputy Chief – EMS and Community Paramedicine	
Shayne Kaialoa	Division of Training	
Niels Tangherlini	EMS	
Simon Pang	Community Paramedicine	
Patrick D'Arcy	Airport Division	
Shon Buford	Equity, Diversity & Inclusion	
Darius Luttrupp	ESER Project Manager	
Assistant Chiefs		
Ken Yee	Division II	
John Rocco	Division III	
Jennifer Brokaw, M.D.	Employee Health Physician	
Stephanie Phelps	Employee Health Nurse Practitioner	

**RAMAYTUSH OHLONE LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

President Nakajo read the Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement.

**2. 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 May 24, 2023.

Vice President Morgan Moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Fraser Seconded. The motion passed. (Commissioner Feinstein abstained)

**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 April 26, 2023, including budget, academies, special events, communications, and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Nicholson stated that the United Fire Service Women put on a women's health summit for their members. She mentioned that she and her command staff attended the Presidio Memorial Day observance. She announced that she participated in a safety video with SFMTA to provide safety information to MTAs operators to not drive over hose lines. She also attended the City EMT graduation, where 9 graduates will be working on the Department's ambulances to get their required 500 hours before they can be considered for hire as well as the 131<sup>st</sup> academy graduation; the Juneteenth inaugural parade, a photo shoot at City Hall for Pride, and a function hosted for First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden. She touched on the budget and stated Directory Corso would be giving a thorough update on the Budget.

Commissioner Feinstein expressed her concerns about self-driving cars and gave a summary of an article she read on how they interfered during a shooting incident and requested that the commission get a report on how many incidents the Department has had with these self-driving cars. Chef Nicholson responded that she would get that information to the commission and added that they are having high-level meetings with involved agencies.

Commissioner Collins stated her agreement with Commissioner Feinstein's concerns and added that there are national organizations that deal directly with the auto manufacturers on behalf of the public that point out issues that need to be addressed and she thinks the data collection is the most persuasive measure and she would be happy to help with that.

Commissioner Fraser thanked the Chief for her report and agreed with what Commissioners Feinstein and Collins stated about the autonomous vehicle situation. She acknowledged the wonderful work of the members who responded to a fire on her block and she and her neighbors were impressed and super grateful with the way it was handled and that she is proud to be a small, tiny part of this amazing department.

Vice President Morgan thanked Chief Nicholson for her report and stated he is glad that the Department is working with SFMTA on training operators not to run over fire line hoses. He mentioned that he had a good time at the party honoring the retirement of

Chiefs' Postel, O'Connor, and Serrano. He acknowledged the great job of recruiting the department is doing as he noticed in the last academy graduation.

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 provided her May report. She mentioned that they had 11,344 calls for EMS for the month. She added that their market share was at 79 percent which increased about two percent from last month. She announced that on May 24<sup>th</sup>, they officially unveiled their new public art installation, the fencing, and the gates at Station 49 during EMS Week and honored artist Michael Bartalos. She added that on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 16 EMTs graduated, six of them are from the City EMT program and the 9910 internship program. She stated that EMS week was May 21<sup>st</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup> and the theme this year was "Where Emergency Care Begins". Chief Tong acknowledged Paramedic Nicholas Koo; Scott Wagness, Paramedic Captain Chris Couch, and Paramedic Michael Mason, who all received awards at the annual San Francisco Emergency Medical Services event. Chief Tong read brief descriptions of the highlights of the awards. She touched on highlights from the Community Paramedicine Division. Her report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/2780/download?inline>

Commissioner Feinstein described in detail an incident she came upon where a man was halfway in the street and where the Fire Department responded, and the man refused transport. She asked for clarification on when an ambulance responds, or an engine responds to medical calls. Chief Tong explained that for all medical calls, an ambulance will be responding as part of the response pattern that happens in dispatch based on a triaging of the call and if it's a medical issue, then an ambulance is typically dispatched and depending on the severity of the incident, then an engine will respond. She continued to explain the different scenarios.

Commissioner Fraser thanked Chief Tong for her report and commented that 11,344 calls are a lot of calls in a month. She also commented on the art installation event and stated it was fantastic and well done. She confirmed that Suboxone has Narcan in it and that's what the Department uses. She also confirmed that the Post Overdose Engagement Team is part of the Department of Public Health.

Vice President Morgan thanked Chief Tong for her report and congratulated all the paramedics that received awards.

President Nakajo stated his appreciation of Chief Tong's narration on the EMS Week awardees. He confirmed what time on task means, such as getting patients off the ambulance and onto a hospital bed, getting to calls, getting to a hospital because of traffic, and doing assessments all add up, and the current average time on task for ambulances was approximately 92 minutes during the reporting period and has increased over the last couple of years. He also confirmed that the goal of the Department's market share of ambulance response is 80 to 85 percent and the estimate of people that will die from overdose is 800 for the current year based on the data that has been provided. He confirmed that the 9910 is the classification that allows the City EMS interns to work on the ambulances until they get their 500 hours. There was discussion and questions and answers about the emphasis on targeting the Tenderloin, homelessness, and mental health issues.

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 May report. He stated that Homeland Security had a very busy month with drills, Golden Eagle Exercise, and the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation planning. He mentioned that the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office has had a busy month as well. He touched on the Health, Safety, and Wellness Division; NERT, the Office of Employee Health, Investigative Services, and Support Services. He played a video in honor of AAPI month where Firefighter Eric Shingo Tanaka tells his life story. Chief O'Connor's report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/2781/download?inline>

Commissioner Collins stated the importance of the intersection of art and construction at Station 49 and suggested that we keep in mind ways to use that place in addition to the work that the members do to remind everybody of what's possible.

Commissioner Fraser thanked Chief O'Connor for all he's done for the San Francisco Fire Department. She stated it's a great opportunity to collaborate with USF, particularly around people who are data scientists, and that she thinks the career-long cancer study is amazing.

Vice President Morgan thanked him for this report.

President Nakajo thanked Chief O'Connor for his report which is always informational but also very creative. He was also very happy to hear that the hose tenders were now in the Department's possession. He rehashed the history he has had with Chief O'Connor

and himself as a commissioner and thanked him for his work and devotion to the Department, as well as the commissioners.

There was no public comment.

**5. SFFD OVERVIEW OF BUDGET [Discussion]**

Mark Corso, Deputy Director of Finance and Planning, to give an update on the Mayor's Fiscal Years 2023-24 and 2024-25 proposed budget for the Fire Department for Commission review and discussion.

Mark Corso provided a brief overview of the mayor's proposed budget. He went over the timelines, instructions, and the department's budget Summary which is \$511.8 million for FY23-24 and 526.7 million for FY 24-25. He mentioned that there were no new funded positions or initiatives. He stated that given all the budget instructions and metrics they were prepared for the worst but overall, they have done very well, and that's maintaining what they had. His report is attached: <https://sf-fire.org/media/2782/download?inline>

Commissioner Collins confirmed that other sources of funding are from grants which mainly go to non-personnel costs such as equipment, and training, and for capital items, they have the ESER Bond program.

Commissioner Feinstein thanked Director Corso. She confirmed that the line item that says "charges for services "is generally fees received for services such as ambulance transport fees, permit, plan review, and inspection fees.

Commissioner Fraser thanked Director Corso for his great presentation and stated it looks like they have some challenges ahead especially as the call volume keeps going up.

President Nakajo thanked Director Corso and Chief Nicholson for all their hard work on the budget. He acknowledged the excellent comprehensive presentation that Mr. Corso presented. He also acknowledged the mayor's office and their team. He offered his support and the support of the commission in terms of any work that they can do to help advocate for the budget.

**6. ADJOURNMENT** President Nakajo adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.