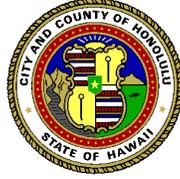


HONOLULU FIRE COMMISSION  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 9<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
Phone: (808) 723-7321 Fax: (808) 723-7397

KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



CRAIG NAGAMINE  
CHAIR  
CHARLOTTE NEKOTA  
VICE CHAIR  
MAX HANNEMANN  
DENNIS MORTON  
WILLIAM HONG  
STEFANIE SAKAMOTO LEE  
NICHOLAS TEVES

Minutes of Regular Public Meeting  
Honolulu Fire Department Headquarters  
Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium  
Wednesday, July 15, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Nagamine called the regular meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig Nagamine, Charlotte Nekota, Max Hannemann, William Hong, Stefanie Sakamoto Lee and Nicholas Teves.

MEMBER EXCUSED: Dennis Morton.

IN ATTENDANCE: Fire Chief Manuel Neves (HFD), Deputy Fire Chief Lionel Camara, Jr. (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Ron Rico (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Scott Lawton (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Jason Samala (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Bratakos (HFD), Brian Ancheta (Corporation Counsel), and Nadine Murata.

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY. Chair Nagamine asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to give public testimony. There was none.

Chair Nagamine mentioned that the Commission is in receipt of written testimonies from Rescue Captains, and Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), regarding preliminary discussion on Rescue 3.

Chair Nagamine mentioned Rescue 3 will be discussed with public input when the Commission is able to hold an open session. All Commissioners agreed.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2020. Chair Nagamine called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of the regular public meeting of June 17, 2020. Counsel Ancheta mentioned that the minutes did not reflect that the Commission voted to approve the evaluation of the Fire Chief. Chair Nagamine asked the Commission if there were any other concerns, there were none. Commissioner Lee moved and Commissioner Hong seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the minutes.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2020. Chair Nagamine called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of the executive session meeting of June 17, 2020. Commissioner Lee moved and Commissioner Morton seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the executive session minutes.

V. REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF. Fire Chief Neves passed out copies of his July 2020 monthly report and highlighted the following:

A. Major Incidents.

1. Fires. Fire Chief Neves went over major incidents with the Commission and highlighted a few. Details can be found in the monthly report.
2. Hazardous Conditions. Fire Chief Neves mentioned the department responded to 33 weather-related emergencies during the month of June.

B. Equipment Status.

Five frontline apparatuses were out of service. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that back up is ready should there be a need.

C. Vacancies.

Fire Chief Neves went over June's vacancies with the Commission.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that currently there are 89 vacancies with 31 fire fighter recruits and 24 are in a class and 7 have recently graduated. Current vacancies in the department is 58.

Fire Chief Neves informed the Commission that a new class will start in October with 24 recruits.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned by the end of December the department should have 34 vacancies with a new recruit class commencing in January/February 2021.

D. Injuries- Report of Industrial Injury or Illness (ISWC). Fire Chief Neves briefly went over injuries with the Commission. Details can be found in the monthly report.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there were 20 injuries reported for June and 17 were related to pain/stiffness, 2 strain/sprain and 1 burn.

E. Exposure Reports. Fire Chief Neves went over exposure reports with the Commission. Details can be found in the monthly report.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there were 2 precautionary exposure reports that were submitted.

F. Grievances. Fire Chief Neves went over grievance with the Commission. Details can be found in the monthly report.

Fire Chief also reported on the following:

1. During the month of June, HFD received no complimentary correspondence and 3 complaints. Details are in the monthly report.

Fire Chief Neves had each member of the executive staff give a brief description of their sections' recent activities.

Deputy Fire Chief Lionel Camara, Jr.- Chief Camara briefly went over Rapid Response Vehicles with the Commission.

Chief Camara mentioned that the department currently has 5 rapid response vehicles.

Chief Camara mentioned with COVID funds the department was able to secure 11 more vehicles and multi stations will be housing these vehicles.

Chief Camara mentioned total cost was \$917,000 for vehicle and equipment.

Chief Camara mentioned that the department still needs to communicate with the union on its handling.

Commission Hong asked what is the response time on the response vehicle compared to a larger truck.

Chief Camara mentioned time savings are in the congested areas but the savings are in the wear and tear of the vehicle.

Fire Chief Neves noted that 16 aerial ladders have a rapid response attached to it.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that it costs \$4.85/mile to run the larger truck and \$.20/mile to run the rapid response truck.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned the department needs to educate the public on its rapid response vehicles due to the public not getting out of the way in the event of an emergency.

Chief Camara asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Assistant Fire Chief Scott Lawton- Administrative Services. Chief Lawton went over planned purchases and installation of extractors with the Commission.

Chief Lawton explained extractors to the Commission and mentioned that they are used to decontaminate personal protective clothing such as turn-outs, medical jackets and uniforms.

Chief Lawton mentioned every time the department responds to a potential COVID medical call, protective gear used for the response is disposed of.

Chief Lawton mentioned due to cost of waste the department is purchasing reusable gowns and a second medical jacket.

Chief Lawton mentioned that the department currently has 12 extractors and will be using CARES Act funding to purchase 13 more extractors to achieve an average of 5 extractors at each Battalion Station.

Chief Lawton mentioned total cost for equipment and installation is \$575,000.00.

Fire Chief Neves informed that Commission that the department continues to respond to 50 – 75 possible COVID cases.

Fire Chief Neves explained how a possible COVID call comes to the department.

Fire Chief Neves explained that manufacturers are not sending a lot of supplies to Hawaii but rather to states in need.

Assistant Fire Chief Jason Samala- Chief Samala informed the Commission that the department has completed its Rescue Plan and its now known as the Road to Rescue.

Chief Samala mentioned that it's a combination of organizational existing training plans and enhanced consistency for programs that are already in existence.

Chief Samala mentioned that this plan is able to shift forward or backward depending on the program.

Chief Samala mentioned that this plan has been transitioned back to Fire Operations for execution.

Chair Nagamine asked about funding.

Chief Camara mentioned that it's in the budget and funded by the City.

Commissioner Lee asked about the Captains who worked on the plan.

Chief Samala mentioned that communications were through Captain Takahashi with brief meetings with all 6 Captains.

Chief Samala mentioned that the last review of revision of plan was held on June 22, 2020.

Chief Samala mentioned that the Captains were in an agreement with the components but felt that it should be 2 separate plans, training and staffing a third company.

Chief Samala mentioned that the current plan is 2 plans molded into one.

Chair Nagamine mentioned that the Commission will review and proceed based on logic and protection of HFD personnel, and the protection of the public.

Commissioner Hannemann agreed and asked if the timeline is being adjusted due to concerns.

Chief Samala explained that his concern is to sustain and grow this program and adjustments will take time.

Chief Camara mentioned that there might be goals that are attainable and not attainable due to COVID restrictions.

Chair Nagamine reminded everyone that this is a preliminary report with future discussions.

Commissioner Lee asked about the plan transfer within the department.

Chief Samala explained that his role was to put together each Captain's idea of what their plan/qualifications should be into one plan and not to execute.

Chief Samala mentioned that it will be Fire Operations to execute the plan.

Fire Chief Neves went over the plan with the Commission and mentioned that this plan is actually a training program.

Commissioner Lee asked for clarification on training.

Fire Chief Neves explained HFD's and other counties qualification standards with the Commission. HFD personnel get onto Rescue with certain baseline knowledge, then get more training. Other counties have excellent rescue programs and give their people one year to build up to HFD's baseline level.

Vice Chair Nekota asked about drones.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the department is currently working on its drone program.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the department needs Corporation Counsel's review of its drone program due to privacy issues.

Chief Camara informed the Commission that the department is looking at attaching a drone to its helicopter in the near future.

Commissioner Lee hopes that Captains who were involved in the planning will attend future meetings to voice their concerns.

Assistant Fire Chief Socrates Bratakos- Planning and Development. Chief Bratakos gave the Commission an update on the department's public education and information programs.

Chief Bratakos went over recent changes with public education with the Commission such as station visitation.

Chief Bratakos mentioned that the department recently got its contract approved to produce its annual Fire Fighter Safety Guide.

Chief Bratakos mentioned that the department is working on a video conferencing studio at its Young Street property with lesson plans.

Chief Bratakos mentioned that the department is reaching out to the public with press releases, media, television, radio and social media.

Commissioner Hong asked Fire Chief Neves if the department has seen an increase in arson on commercial properties due to the pandemic.

Fire Chief Neves answered no but due to an increase on homelessness the number of fires have grown due to cooking fires in empty structures.

VI. PRELIMINARY FIRE COMMISSION DISCUSSION REGARDING RESCUE 3 (New Emergency Rescue Company).

Chair Nagamine mentioned discussion will be held in executive session should there be a need.

Commissioner Nekota moved and Commissioner Lee seconded that the Commission go into executive session to further discuss Rescue 3 pursuant to HRS Sec. 92-5(a)(4). By unanimous vote, the Commission went into executive session at 10:43 a.m. and the regular public meeting reconvened at 11:02 a.m.

VII. ANNUAL EVALUATION OF THE FIRE CHIEF.

Vice Chair Nekota moved and Commissioner Lee seconded that the Commission go into executive session to discuss the annual evaluation of the Fire Chief pursuant to HRS Sec. 92-5(a)(2) and Sec. 92-5(a)(4). By unanimous vote, the Commission went into executive session at 11:10 a.m. and the regular public meeting reconvened at 11:54 a.m.

Chair Nagamine asked if there were any questions. There were none.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENT: The next Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 at 10 a.m. in the Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, Commissioner Morton moved and Commissioner Lee seconded that the meeting be adjourned. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Nadine Murata, Secretary.

APPROVED:

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CRAIG NAGAMINE, Chair