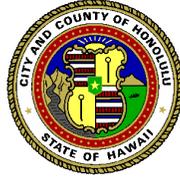


HONOLULU FIRE COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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CRAIG NAGAMINE

Minutes of Regular Public Meeting
Honolulu Fire Department Headquarters
Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium
Wednesday, October 17, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Wataru called the regular meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Wataru, Stefanie Lee, Charlotte Nekota, William Hong, and Craig Nagamine.

MEMBER EXCUSED: Max Hannemann and Dennis Morton.

IN ATTENDANCE: Fire Chief Manuel Neves (HFD), Deputy Fire Chief Lionel Camara Jr. (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Scott Lawton (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Socrates Bratakos (HFD), Battalion Chief Andrew Yim (HFD), Battalion Chief Howard Naone (HFD), Battalion Chief Stan Kimura (HFD), Battalion Chief Craig Uchimura (HFD), Battalion Chief Keith Yasui (HFD), Battalion Chief John Pacheco (HFD), Battalion Chief Damien Kahalelio (HFD), Battalion Chief Jason Samara (HFD), Battalion Chief John Bowers (HFD), Battalion Chief Sheldon Hao (HFD), Battalion Chief Lance Gaspar (HFD), Battalion Chief Daryl Evangelista (HFD), Battalion Chief Robert Thurston (HFD), Battalion Chief Debbi Eleneki (HFD), Battalion Chief Chris Cabasa (HFD), Battalion Chief Bryan Soares (HFD), Battalion Chief Paul Miguel (HFD), Battalion Chief Mark Nakagawa (HFD), Battalion Chief Paul Kato (HFD), Battalion Chief David Morgan (HFD), Battalion Chief Paul Fukuda (HFD), Battalion Chief Jeff Sanchez (HFD), Brian Ancheta (Corporation Counsel) and Nadine Murata.

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

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2018. Chair Wataru called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of the regular public meeting of September 19, 2018. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there was a small correction on page 10, second paragraph under Assistant Fire Chief Socrates Bratakos, where it mentions the 104th class. Fire Chief Neves indicated that it should read 43 recruits in the 104th class and not 27 and 27 recruits in the 105th class. Fire Chief Neves also mentioned that the 104th class will be graduating on November 8, 2018. Commissioner Nekota moved and Commissioner Nagamine seconded, there being no further comments or corrections the minutes were approved as adopted.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2018. Chair Wataru called for any comments or corrections to the executive session minutes of September 19, 2018. Commissioner Nekota moved and Commissioner Nagamine seconded, there being no further comments or corrections the minutes were approved.

V. REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF. Fire Chief Neves passed out copies of his monthly report for September 2018 and highlighted the following:

1. Fires. Fire Chief Neves went over several fire incidents. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the first incident took place in Ewa Beach with 27 personnel in attendance and the cause of the fire was a compressed extension cord. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the second incident took place at Keola La'i and because there were automatic sprinklers installed there were minimal damages, which is why HFD still pushes for sprinkler retrofits. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the third incident was due to charging a 12-volt automotive battery in the garage.

Fire Chief Neves indicated that the department goes through 125 – 150 alarms a day and informed the Commission that an expanded report can be given if they wish.

2. Hazardous Conditions. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that HFD does a weather-related count on how many times the department goes out. Fire Chief Neves said there were 27 weather related emergencies from September 12 (12 a.m.) to 13 (12 noon), which included 8 blown roofs, 13 downed trees, 3 water evacuations, 2 downed power lines, and 1 arcing wire.
3. Equipment Status. Fire Chief Neves explained to the Commission that status means a certain day of the week that the department collects information on out-of-service apparatuses and mentioned that, at that point in time, there were seven frontline and three auxiliary apparatuses that are out of service on a particular day.

Fire Chief Neves informed the Commission even though the frontline apparatuses maybe out of service there is still a backup.

Vacancies. Fire Chief Neves indicated that there are 116 vacancies within the department. Fire Chief Neves gave the breakdown for the following: 35 for Fire

Fighter I, 1 vacancy for Fire Fighter II, 75 vacancies for Fire Fighter III, and 5 vacancies for Fire Captains.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the department is working on Fire Fighter III's and the 75 will be zeroed out shortly.

Chair Wataru asked about the high vacancies for Fire Fighter III's. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the high vacancies are due to the retirements of last year.

Chair Wataru asked about anticipated vacancies for this year. Fire Chief Neves indicated 30 – 50 a year but is hopeful that there will be none this year.

4. Injuries- Report of Industrial Injury or Illness (ISWC). Fire Chief Neves went over the injury list with the Commission and went over the loss-of-time incidents.
5. Grievances. Fire Chief Neves went over the September grievances with the Commission and explained that the department deals with six different unions and mentioned that number 11 is the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA) and they had filed a Step 1 grievance in September.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there are still 16 pending grievances from Bargaining Unit 11.

The Fire Chief also reported on the following:

1. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there was an early fire this morning that involved a police officer's family and asked the Commission for a moment of silence. Fire Chief Neves gave a brief overview of what had happened.
2. During the month of September, HFD received 4 complimentary correspondences, and 1 complaint that was responded to. Details are in the monthly report.
3. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the 104th Fire Fighter Recruit Class graduation ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. on November 8, 2018, at the Hawaii Okinawa's Legacy Ballroom.
4. Fire Chief Neves mentioned an upcoming promotion ceremony for Fire Fighter IIIs at 5 p.m. on November 14, 2018, at the Charles H. Thurston Fire Training Center.
5. Fire Chief Neves mentioned a Commendation Ceremony at 10 a.m. on November 29, 2018, at the Charles H. Thurston Fire Training Center.
6. Fire Chief Neves had each member of the executive staff give a brief description of their section's recent activities.

Both Commissioner Nekota and Commissioner Hong commended Fire Chief Neves for a well written report.

Deputy Fire Chief Lionel Camara Jr.- Chief Camara highlighted on the Airport South Ramp Master Plan. Chief Camara mentioned that the State is redesigning the international airport and a major issue is that the fixed-wing aircraft and motor-wing aircraft operate in the same location.

Chief Camara mentioned that UPS, FedEx, and cargo planes going out along with helicopters causes a lot of problems, so the State is proposing to move all the rotor-wing aircraft, including those of HFD and HPD, to the reef runway.

Chief Camara explained how Air I operates during a dispatch and indicated with this move it will be much easier for Air I to take off.

Chief Camara mentioned that this master plan should be completed sometime during the Summer of 2019.

Chief Camara mentioned that through this move and rebuilding, the department will be saving some money.

Assistant Fire Chief Scott Lawton- Administrative Services. Chief Lawton discussed the Community Development Block Grant Awards for new apparatuses with the Commission.

Chief Lawton explained that the department obtains apparatuses through its CIP budget, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides these grants to qualified communities called Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Chief Lawton mentioned that Chief Gaspar applies for these grants and for FY19 the department has received funding for one engine but was then notified that there were monies available and now 3 apparatuses will be purchased through CDBG.

Chief Lawton mentioned that Engine 4 (Kuakini), Engine 16 (Wahiawa), and Engine 1 (Central) will be receiving these new apparatuses.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that 46 apparatuses were purchased over the years and on November 13, 2018 the department will be blessing the last 12 trucks that came in.

Fire Chief Neves said they will be thanking the people who helped with the purchasing. The people and agencies that HFD will be thanking are the City's Federal Grants Unit and Purchasing Division, City Council, and vendors. The blessing will take place at the Training Center.

Fire Chief mentioned that the department is still catching up with its vehicle replacement plan.

Fire Chief Neves extended the invitation to the Commission.

Assistant Fire Chief Socrates Bratakos- Support Services. Chief Bratakos mentioned that the national theme for Fire Prevention Week is “Look Listen Learn Be Aware. Fire Can Happen Anywhere.”

Chief Bratakos mentioned that the department kicked off Fire Prevention Week at the Honolulu Zoo with 500 members in attendance.

Chief Bratakos indicated that Fire Prevention Week murals were done by artists and schools around the island.

Chief Bratakos mentioned that there were over 40 murals, and half were done at an event held at the Contemporary Museum.

Chief Bratakos mentioned that murals are on display at fire stations and City Hall and over 120,000 fire fighter safety guides were distributed to schools around the island.

Chief Bratakos mentioned that schools are also visiting stations during Fire Prevention Week.

Chair Wataru asked the Commission if they had any questions for the Fire Chief. There were none.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Annual Evaluation of the Fire Chief. Commissioner Nekota moved and Commissioner Hong seconded that the Commission go into executive session regarding the evaluation of the Fire Chief “to consider the hire, evaluation, dismissal, or discipline of an officer or employer or employee where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved” [HRS Sec. 92-5(a)(2)], and to “consult with the board’s attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the board’s powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities” with regard to these matters [HRS Sec. 92-5(a)(4)]. The Commission went into Executive Session at 2:34 p.m. and the regular public meeting reconvened at 3:03 p.m.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENT: The next Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, at 2 p.m. in the Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business Commissioner Hong moved and Commissioner Nekota seconded that the Commission end its meeting. It was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Nadine Murata, Secretary.

APPROVED:

JAMES WATARU, Chair