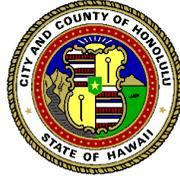


HONOLULU FIRE COMMISSION

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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ARNOLD WONG
VICE CHAIR

MARY JEAN L. CASTILLO

DR. JOSEPH W.C. YOUNG

MAX HANNEMANN

Minutes of Regular Public Meeting
Honolulu Fire Department Headquarters
Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium
Wednesday, January 11, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Wataru called the regular meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Wataru, Arnold Wong, Dr. Joseph Young, Mary Jean Castillo, and Max Hannemann.

IN ATTENDANCE: Fire Chief Manuel Neves (HFD), Deputy Fire Chief Lionel Camara Jr. (HFD), Battalion Chief Anthony Lee (HFD), Battalion Chief Daren Higa (HFD), Battalion Chief Howard Naone (HFD), Battalion Chief Paul Miguel (HFD), Battalion Chief Shawn Kunetani (HFD), Battalion Chief Keith Yasui (HFD), Battalion Chief Paul Kato (HFD), Amanda Furman (Corporation Counsel), Randall Ishikawa (Corporation Counsel), and Nadine Murata.

Chair Wataru asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to make a public testimony. There were no public testimony.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2016: Chair Wataru called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of the regular public meeting of November 16, 2016. Chief Neves passed out a partial transcript from the last minutes to the Commission and indicated that he would like the highlighted part “it seemed that there was probably a violation” added to the minutes. Chief Neves also noted that on the report of the Fire Chief, number four it should have read, “The Fire Commission did not participate” and not the department, and second to the last page regarding trucks, number 3, Chief Neves did a follow up 12 apparatuses and 10 engines and 2 ladders. Number 6 Chief Neves went over workers compensation and indicated that it should read you are covered, rules are a bit different. There being no further comments or corrections the minutes were approved as amended.

APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2016: Chair Wataru call for any comments or corrections to the minutes of the executive session meeting of December 14, 2016. There being no further comments or corrections the minutes were approved as circulated.

SURVEY OF FIREFIGHTERS AND DEPARTMENTAL EMPLOYEES:

Chair Wataru indicated that this survey was for informational purposes and Jordan informed the Fire Commission that the surveys have been completed and the department will provide the results at the next Fire Commission meeting.

REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF: Chief Neves reported on the following:

1. Collective Bargaining Agreement Arbitration. Chief Neves noted that the department continues to meet with HFFA and is hopeful that to wrap things up at the end of January. Chief Neves indicated if things go beyond the expected date he will inform the Commission of its status.
2. Hawaii Labor Relations Board Hearings. Chair Wataru asked Chief Neves if he is able to discuss it. Chief Neves indicated that it was a combination of two complaints.
3. HFD Staff Meeting.
4. HFD Station Visitations (6/847). Chief Neves explained for the low visitations due to a new process called, "exit interviews". He indicated that these interviews were shifted to personnel who are retiring and made it an a point to visit them. There were over 20 personnel who are retiring this year.
5. Mayor's Annual Retirement Award Ceremony.
6. Meeting with the Chief of Staff.
7. Meeting with the Department of Budget and Fiscal Services.
8. Meeting with the Department of Human Resources
9. Meeting with the Deputies.

10. Closing Conference with the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Division. Vice Chair Wong asked what this was about. Chief Neves noted that it involves legal issues and it would need to go into executive session for discussion.
11. Meeting with the Honolulu Firefighters Foundation.
12. Meeting with the Managing Director.
13. State Fire Council Second Quarter Meeting. Chief Neves noted that the department is working on legislative issues in the upcoming legislative session.

The Fire Chief also reported on the following:

1. During the month of December, HFD received 4 complimentary correspondences, and no complaints.
2. Chief Neves noted that a promotion ceremony will be held on January 19, 2017, at 10 a.m. in the HFD Hale Kinai Ahi Auditorium.
3. Chief Neves had each member of the executive staff give a brief description of their section's recent activities.

Deputy Fire Chief Lionel Camara Jr.- Chief Camara gave an update on the airport lease and indicated that they are currently in discussion with the State and are seeing if the City will conduct a hazardous material assessment of the land and building to find if any hazardous material does exist. Vice Chair Wong asked about money involved in the construction. Chief Camara noted that money will be coming from the asset forfeiture fund.

Assistant Fire Chief Scott Lawton- Administrative Services. Chief Lawton updated the Commission on the department's retirements and mentioned that 39 employees have retired this year compared to 16 of last year with an average of 30 retirements a year. Currently vacancies are being covered by the 102nd recruit class and the 103rd class will cover the 48 leaving the department, with 11 vacancies remaining open. Chief Lawton indicated that the department is trying to maintain its staffing and are using overtime programs by rank for rank to maintain its staffing. Vice Chair Wong asked if it was Captains, Battalion Chiefs, or fire fighters. Chief Lawton answered Captains. Chief Neves mentioned with the upcoming graduation and the next class starting up in August, the department will be looking ahead in evaluating their data on upcoming retirements.

Commissioner Hannemann asked what normal vacancies are. Chief Lawton noted the average is between 40 – 50. Chief Neves went over other vacancies and true vacancies within the department.

Commissioner Young asked how long the training program is. Chief Neves answered 33 weeks, (7 ½ months). Chair Wataru asked if the department is allowed to rehire retirees. Chief Neves indicated that the department currently has 10 – 12 people who have retired that are back on the job, but that these are not fire fighters.

Assistant Fire Chief Socrates Bratakos- Support Services. Chief Bratakos indicated that the legislative session will begin and the bills they will be following will be the cancer presumption, automatic residential sprinklers, and fireworks. Chief Bratakos mentioned a task force was formed and led by Senator Rosalyn Baker and other participants include the fire department as well as state and county agencies. Chief Bratakos went over Act 83 which prohibit counties from mandating automatic residential sprinkler in new 1- 2 family dwelling. HFD is anticipating on other bills being proposed and is offering a tax incentive to install fire sprinklers as well as a bill requiring contractors to give an option of installing sprinklers. Chief Bratakos noted that this bill will have an impact on the state building codes. Chief Bratakos mentioned that Senator Espero will be introducing a bill on importation control of illegal fireworks at docks. Other bills that the department will be monitoring are tort liability for lifeguards and support of funding for the state building code council and building codes.

Chair Wataru asked if a firefighter is diagnosed with any type of cancer will this be presumed that he got that from the job. Chief Bratakos answered yes, and stated that Hawaii's law provides for worker's compensation, but the intent is to provide 100% coverage from the beginning for our firefighters.

Chief Neves mentioned that there is a list of presumed cancer and this coverage also extends to retirees.

Chief Bratakos mentioned that this came out of a recommendation from the State Fire Council and noticed that other states had presumption laws.

Commissioner Castillo asked about the limit and payment. Chief Bratakos mentioned that it's within the scope of Hawaii's law and other agencies have come on board to support it.

Commissioner Young asked about the violation for aerial fireworks. Chief Bratakos noted that the police needs to catch the person in the act before giving out a citation.

Chief Bratakos indicated that there were over 17,000 permits sold; an increase of 13,000 from last year.

Commissioner Hannemann asked where the money goes. Chief Bratakos noted the general fund.

Commissioner Young if anyone is monitoring the big boom aerals. Chief Bratakos stated that he doesn't know of anyone monitoring improvised explosive devices.

Commissioner Castillo asked about the control of the importation. Chief Bratakos mentioned that Senator Espero would like to revisit and see what agencies can help at the docks as from aerial fireworks appear to be coming from domestic sources.

Chief Neves mentioned that there was a report on enforcement done in 2013 regarding the problem but doesn't know of the outcome.

Assistant Fire Chief Nathan Ramos- Planning and Development. Chief Ramos mentioned that the City is in the process of replacing its public safety radio system and the Department of Information and Technology is the lead agency in coordinating the process. The contractor they selected was Motorola and the first equipment arrived this past Monday. A test system will be set up and a go date is scheduled for August 2018.

Commissioner Castillo asked about the prior brand. Chief Ramos indicated currently the department is using a Harris hand held system and the system that Motorola is setting up will be compatible with the current one.

Commissioner Castillo asked if the system would be compatible with other agencies or just HFD. Chief Ramos mentioned that the City is managing it and HPD, HFD, EMS, and Ocean Safety are the primary stakeholders. Chief Neves noted that once the system is in place everyone within the City agencies will have one and will be able to support one another.

Commissioner Castillo asked if it's similar to what the sheriffs are using. Chief Lawton noted that if the department had a digital radio they would be able to link up to that. Chief Neves indicated because of technology, radio systems have changed.

Commissioner Hannemann inquired about the fire fighter who recently got attacked. Chief Neves indicated that the fire fighter was not injured. Chief Bratakos gave a brief summary of the situation and indicated that it's under investigation.

Chair Wataru asked the Commission if anyone had any closing questions regarding the closing conference of HOSH for Chief Neves. If so, the Commission will be going into executive session for discussion.

Commissioner Young and Commissioner Castillo had several concerns regarding certain investigations.

Counsel Ishikawa suggested that the Commission could consider going into executive session.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The next regular meeting will be held on February 8, 2017, at 2:00 p.m., at the HFD auditorium.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Young moved and Commissioner Wong seconded that the Commission go into executive session to consider matters affecting privacy [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)] with respect to 1) Closing Conference with the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Division, and 2) Criteria to be used in the Annual Evaluation of the Fire Chief. By unanimous vote, the Commission resolved into executive session on both items. The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 2:49 p.m. and the regular public meeting reconvened at 3:13 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Nadine Murata, Secretary.

APPROVED:

JAMES WATARU, Chair