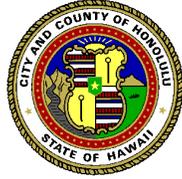


HONOLULU FIRE COMMISSION  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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CHARLOTTE NEKOTA  
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JAMES S. WATARU  
STEFANIE LEE  
MAX HANNEMANN  
WILLIAM HONG  
DENNIS MORTON

Minutes of Regular Public Meeting  
Honolulu Fire Department Headquarters  
Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium  
Wednesday August 28, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Nagamine called the regular meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig Nagamine, Charlotte Nekota, William Hong, and Dennis Morton.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: James Wataru, Stefanie Lee, and Max Hannemann.

IN ATTENDANCE: Fire Chief Manuel Neves (HFD), Deputy Fire Chief Lionel Camara (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Scott Lawton, Assistant Fire Chief Ron Rico (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Socrates Bratakos (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Nathan Ramos (HFD), Battalion Chief Keith Yasui (HFD), Battalion Chief Wayne Masuda (HFD), Battalion Chief Isaac Raphael (HFD), Battalion Chief Joseph Kostiha (HFD), Battalion Chief Carlton Yamada (HFD), Battalion Chief Mark Nakagawa (HFD), Andrew Yim (HFD), Daisy Canite-Miyashiro (HFFA), Randy Ishikawa (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.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 28, 2019. Chair Nagamine called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of the regular public meeting of August 28, 2019. Fire Chief Neves mentioned there were minor corrections. Fire Chief Neves mentioned under

Assistant Chief Nathan Ramos, 4<sup>th</sup> page the sentence, the department has 3 primary departments ..... it should reflect the department has 3 primary “working groups” and the word standard should be “standards”.

Chief Bratakos mentioned that Assistant Fire Chief Scott Lawton should be “Administrative Services” and not “Support Services”.

Chair Nagamine asked if there were any other corrections.

Deputy Corporation Counsel Ishikawa highlighted item 8, executive session, and mentioned that there should be a phrase “unanimous vote in favor.....” inserted as well as on page 9 last sentence.

Deputy Corporation Counsel Ishikawa also noted minor grammatical errors.

Chair Nagamine asked if there were any other concerns. There were none.

There being no further comments or corrections Commissioner Nekota moved and Commissioner Hong seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF AUGUST 28, 2019. Chair Nagamine called for any comments or corrections to the executive session minutes of August 28, 2019. Counsel Ishikawa mentioned that Counsel Ancheta had made corrections to the minutes. There being no further comments Commissioner Nekota and Commissioner Morton seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected.

V. ANNUAL EVALUATION OF THE FIRE CHIEF. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that he has reviewed and does not have any questions for the Commission. Fire Chief Neves thanked the Commission for their hard work.

VI. REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF. Fire Chief Neves passed out copies of his monthly report for July 2019 and highlighted the following:

1. Fires. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there were 3 fatalities due to structural fires and highlighted a few. Details of the fire incidents can be found in the monthly report.

Fire Chief Neves went over an incident that took place at Punchbowl on July 13, 2019, regarding a two-alarm building fire in which HFD personnel found an unresponsive female. The female was removed and cardiopulmonary resuscitation was performed and it was later learned that the patient did not survive. Currently the fire is still under investigation and the cause has yet to be determined.

Fire Chief Neves went over an incident that took place on Kalakaua Avenue on July 25, 2019 and mentioned personnel had conducted a primary and secondary search in which they found a 61-year-old male victim.

Fire Chief Neves went over an incident that took place in Palolo on July 29, 2019, and mentioned personnel had conducted a search and located a male victim in his 60's. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the cause has not yet been determined.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the department is currently pushing for sprinklers in brand-new single-family homes.

Commissioner Nekota asked what the cost is for installation of sprinklers in a single-family home.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned a task force is currently being put together by the legislature and cost for installation will be forthcoming at the end of the year for all counties.

2. Hazardous Conditions. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the department responded to 33 weather-related emergencies.
  - 2 Arcing wires
  - 7 Downed trees
  - 7 Downed power lines
  - 17 Water evacuations
3. Equipment Status. Fire Chief Neves informed the Commission that there were 6 frontline apparatuses that were out of service.
4. Vacancies. Fire Chief Neves went over vacancies with the Commission and indicated currently there are 38 vacancies within the department.
5. Injuries- Report of Industrial Injury or Illness (ISWC). Fire Chief Neves went over the injury list with the Commission as well as the loss of time incidents.
6. Grievances. Details are in the monthly report.

The Fire Chief also reported on the following:

1. During the month of July, HFD received 4 complimentary correspondences and 3 complaints.
2. Fire Chief Neves went over station visitations.

July 2019 (11/1,195)

3. Fire 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 informed the Commission that the department is currently looking to relocate the Waialua Fire Station near the old Waialua Sugar Mill.

Chief Camara mentioned that Dole is willing to sell 16.92 acres to the department. Chief Camara informed Dole that the department didn't need a large parcel and Dole counter-offered with 5.375 acres.

Chief Camara mentioned that the department is working with Sandy Pfund, Director of the Department of Land Management and she has hired a third party to appraise the property. The property is currently worth \$1.4 million dollars.

Chief Camara mentioned that she will be handling all the negotiations and purchase of the property.

Chief Camara went over other costs involved for the design and construction of the new station.

Commissioner Hong asked about the property.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned the property is on flat land with 2 dirt access roads in different areas and it is located next to the gym.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the property is large enough to accommodate both EMS and HFD.

Assistant Fire Chief Scott Lawton- Administrative Services. Chief Lawton went over Incident Safety Officer Program with the Commission.

Chief Lawton mentioned that the program was established by the incident commander at large/multi company scenes to get out of the task mode and to look at it in a larger picture to see that operations are safe.

Chief Lawton mentioned back in October the department had worked with the Department's Safety Officer Association to get certification.

Chief Lawton mentioned that over 30 personnel attended a 3 day train the trainer class to allow the Department to sustain the program and teach the program at various levels.

Assistant Fire Chief Socrates Bratakos- Support Services. Chief Bratakos spoke on the Department's bi-annual training for Emergency Medical Technician/First Responder Training with the Commission.

Chief Bratakos mentioned that it's a 1 day class plus computer training and all uniform personnel up to the Fire Chief participates in the training to keep them up to date on its standards.

Chief Bratakos mentioned half of the department has gone through the training.

Assistant Fire Chief Nathan Ramos- Planning and Development. Chief Ramos mentioned that the Department and the Oahu District Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Unit are working to update their mutual aid fire fighting unit.

Chief Ramos mentioned by having shared resources outside of HFD's jurisdiction it'll help improve HFD's response to emergencies.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned Chief Camara and Chief Ramos installed radios to improve their communication.

Chief Camara mentioned that the airport also has a special phone in case of an emergency.

Fire Chief Neves introduced Captain Raphael to the Commission to discuss fire investigation.

Captain Raphael informed the Commission that the department currently has 4 investigators and trainees are sent to Public Agency for Training Counsel which brings them up to par on the latest technologies.

Captain Raphael mentioned that Reid Technique interview and interrogation are important when interviewing witness.

Captain Raphael mentioned that they attended the international association of arson investigators for the Hawaii Chapter.

Captain Raphael mentioned that personnel will be attending a vehicle fire investigation in Kentucky through the National Association of Fire Investigators.

Captain Raphael mentioned that later this year personnel will also be attending the National Fire Academy for physical training and training for next year will be substance.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that due to recent numerous structural fires, other agencies have shadowed the Department's investigators to learn scientific methods and techniques on how to apply it to their own investigation.

Fire Chief Neves asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Hong asked what is the increase in fire fatalities and turnover of investigators within the department and if it has impacted the department.

Captain Raphael mentioned the department has not felt the impact as the minimum requirement is 3 years.

Commissioner Hong asked what is the percentage of successful investigations as to locating the cause and origin.

Captain Raphael went over the causes with the Commission (accidental, natural, determine, and undetermined) and mentioned the department is 100% when it comes to causes.

Fire Chief Neves explained undetermined fire to the Commission.

Commissioner Hong asked if the department receives technological support from the insurance investigators.

Fire Chief Neves answered yes.

Chair Nagamine asked the Commission if there were any other questions. There were none.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Counsel Resolution No. 18-298, CD1 re: Fire Recruit Training and Testing Programs. Commissioner Nekota moved and Commissioner Morton seconded that the Commission go into executive session regarding the discussion of Counsel Resolution No. 18-298 “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)]. By unanimous consent, the Commission went into Executive Session at 2:59 p.m. and the regular public meeting reconvened at 3:01 p.m.

X. ANNOUNCEMENT: The next Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18, at 2 p.m. in the Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business the Commission ended its meeting. It was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Nadine Murata, Secretary.

APPROVED:

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CRAIG NAGAMINE, Chair