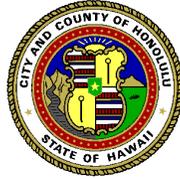


HONOLULU FIRE COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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CHAIR
CHARLOTTE NEKOTA
VICE CHAIR
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 July 17, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Wataru called the regular meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Fire Chief Manuel Neves (HFD), Deputy Fire Chief Lionel Camara (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Scott Lawton (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Ron Rico (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Nathan Ramos (HFD), Battalion Chief Daryl Evangelista (HFD), Battalion Chief Craig Uchimura (HFD), Battalion Chief Damien Kahalelio (HFD), Battalion Chief Sheldon Hao (HFD), Battalion Chief Alan Park (HFD), Battalion Chief John Bowers (HFD), Battalion Chief David Morgan (HFD), Battalion Chief Jeff Sanchez (HFD), Battalion Chief Mark Nakagawa (HFD), Battalion Chief Paul Fukuda (HFD), Battalion Chief Keith Yasui (HFD), Battalion Chief Joseph Kostiha (HFD), Battalion Chief Robert Thurston (HFD), Battalion Chief Jason Samana (HFD), Battalion Chief Carlton Yamada (HFD), Daisy Canite-Miyashiro (HFFA), 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. ELECTION OF CHAIR. The members of the Commission shall “elect annually.... a Chair to serve for the ensuing year, or until a successor shall be elected” [Rules of the Honolulu Fire Commission, Rule 3.3]. Chair Wataru asked the Commission for nominations for Chair. Commissioner Morton nominated Chair Wataru, Commissioner Nekota nominated Commissioner Nagamine. Chair Wataru declined his nomination. By unanimous vote of the Commission, Commissioner Nagamine was elected Chair.

IV. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR. The members of the Commission shall “elect annually a Vice-Chair to serve for the ensuing year, or until a successor shall be elected [Rules of the Honolulu Fire Commission, Rule 3.3]. Chair Nagamine asked the Commission for nominations for Vice-Chair. Commissioner Nekota nominated Commissioner Lee, and Commissioner Morton seconded, Commissioner Lee declined and nominated Commissioner Nekota. By unanimous vote of the Commission, Commissioner Nekota was elected Vice-Chair.

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2019. Chair Nagamine called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of the regular public meeting of June 26, 2019. Corporation Counsel Brian Ancheta mentioned after items 8 and 9 under the Annual Evaluation of the Fire Chief there should be a sentence added indicating that the evaluation was approved by the Commission. Chair Nagamine asked if there were any other corrections, Fire Chief Neves mentioned there were minor corrections. Fire Chief Neves mentioned under Chief Bratakos the word “sandpipes” should reflect “standpipes” and “Handling Hose” should reflect “Hose Handling”. Chair Nagamine asked if there were any other corrections.

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

VI. APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2019. Counsel Ancheta asked Chair Nagamine if this item could be moved to the end of the meeting as he would like to discuss certain items with the Commission.

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

1. Fires. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there were 14 fires and highlighted a few. Details of the fire incidents can be found in the monthly report.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that 6 out of the 14 were brush/wildland fires.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that 7 out of the 14 were structural fires.

Fire Chief Neves went over an incident that took place at Dillingham Airfield in Mokuleia and mentioned that the department was the first to arrive at the scene. Fire

Chief Neves explained that the fire was not an ordinary fire as it was a magnesium fire which is difficult to extinguish.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the department secured the area until the National Transportation Board arrived and the incident command was turned over to the airport fire fighters upon their arrival.

Fire Chief Neves commended the staff who were at the scene as they did an outstanding job.

Chief Camara indicated that the department had to condemn equipment's due to unknown chemicals.

2. Hazardous Conditions. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the department responded to 44 weather-related emergencies.

- 1 Blown roof
- 4 Arcing wires
- 9 Downed power lines
- 10 Downed trees
- 20 Water evacuations

3. Equipment Status. Fire Chief Neves informed the Commission that there were 4 frontline apparatus that were out of service.
4. Vacancies. Fire Chief Neves mentioned current vacancies are down to 34 due to promotions of 17 recruits that are currently in the field and 47 new recruits in class.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that interviews were conducted for Fire Fighter III's and their effective date will be in a few days/months which will bring vacancies down to 2.

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.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the majority of injury is due to lifting/carrying equipment and the department will educate on proper lifting.

6. Grievances. Fire Chief Neves went over the grievance with the Commission and went over pending grievances. Details are in the monthly report.

Fire Chief Neves asked if any of the Chiefs would like to make any comments.

Chief Lawton went over 34 pending grievances with the Commission and mentioned that 12 out of the 34 were filed prior to 2018 with the oldest being from 2009 which is currently in arbitration.

Chief Lawton mentioned that 22 grievances were filed since 2018. Chief Lawton mentioned that 7 out of the 22 are at Step 3 and 12 are pending class action at Step 2. Chief Lawton added that 3 are currently are at Step 1.

Chief Lawton went over resolved grievances with the Commission and explained that there were 2 arbitrations that were settled, 4 settlement agreements at Step 2, and 1 settlement agreement at Step 1.

Chief Lawton mentioned that there were 2 modified decisions at Step 1 and 5 were withdrawn by the union.

Commissioner Hannemann asked if it was this past quarter or is it still at Step 1.

Chief Lawton answered, Step 1.

Fire Chief Neves explained the steps to the Commission and indicated that the department is making an effort to resolve issues at Step 1.

Fire Chief Neves explained Inter Department Competitive Exam (IDCE) and mentioned that the department is working with the union and employer on getting this issue resolved.

The Fire Chief also reported on the following:

1. During the month of June, HFD one complimentary correspondences and no complaint.
2. Fire Chief Neves went over station visitations.

June 2019 (3/1,184)

2. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the Hauula Fire Station dedication ceremony will be held on July 30, 2019, at 11 a.m.
3. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that promotion ceremony will be held at the Mission Memorial auditorium on August 14, 2019, at 5:30 p.m.
4. 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 reported on the FireOPS 101 to the Commission.

Chief Camara mentioned that local politicians and Mayors from the nation were in attendance and the department showcased fire ground survival and CPR. The main event was live burn which included the Emergency Services Division (ESD). Chief Camara mentioned that participants got a firsthand look at what fire fighters are exposed to and the department received positive feedbacks.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that this conference was in partnership with the fire fighter's union as well as international.

Assistant Fire Chief Scott Lawton- Support Services. Chief Lawton explained the planning and design of the new Hauula Fire Station with the Commission and mentioned June 21st as the move in date.

Commissioner Hannemann asked about increasing staff.

Chief Lawton mentioned that staff has remained the same and the new facility will enable the department to train at site.

Chief Camara explained areas for hot, cold and warm spot's for decontainment with the Commission.

Chief Camara mentioned that the new facility is somewhat similar to a dormitory as fire fighters will now have their own space/privacy.

Commissioner Wataru asked about spare turnouts.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that everyone has 2 sets and, in the event, the 2nd set is in use a spare will be provided for pick up at a depot site.

Commissioner Morton asked if turnouts are cleaned after every structural fire.

Chief Camara answered after every fire the men are still on duty until gears are cleaned.

Chief Lawton mentioned that turnouts are bagged before heading back to the station for precautionary purposes.

Assistant Fire Chief Nathan Ramos- Chief Ramos updated the Commission on the accreditation process. Chief Ramos mentioned that the department just submitted its annual compliance report on July 15th and the department has 3 primary departments that will support the accreditation program for 2020.

Chief Ramos mentioned that the strategic planning group has completed its strategic plan.

Chief Ramos explained how the self-assessment manual working group will be developing the self-assessment manual that will also be submitted as an additional component for its reaccreditation.

Chief Ramos explained how the standard of cover working group will be analyzing the department's response and deployment as they will be creating a standard of cover working document which will be added to the accreditation package.

Chief Ramos mentioned that the site visit for the department is scheduled for the 2nd week of April 2020.

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

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Annual Evaluation of the Fire Chief. Commissioner Wataru moved and Commissioner Morton 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 1:33 p.m. and the regular public meeting reconvened at 1:43 p.m.

Chair Nagamine called for a motion to accept the evaluation of the Fire Chief. Commissioner Nekota moved and Commissioner Morton seconded that the evaluation be approved. The evaluation was approved.

Chair Nagamine called Fire Chief Neves and asked him to return to the auditorium. Fire Chief Neves returned to the auditorium at 1:49 p.m.

Chair Nagamine turned the discussion of the annual evaluation of the Fire Chief over to Commissioner Wataru.

Commissioner Wataru went over the evaluation with Fire Chief Neves and asked him to review it and mentioned if there's a subject that he would like to discuss it can be brought up in executive session.

Commissioner Wataru handed the evaluation to Fire Chief Neves.

Counsel Ancheta asked Fire Chief Neves if he would like to make his evaluation public. Fire Chief Neves answered no.

Chair Nagamine asked Fire Chief Neves if he would like to address any concerns he may have.

Fire Chief Neves answered no and thanked the Commission for their hard work.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Counsel Resolution No. 18-298, CD1 re: Fire Recruit Training and Testing Programs. Commissioner Lee 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)]. The Commission went into Executive Session at 1:52 p.m. and the regular public meeting reconvened at 1:53 p.m.

COUNSEL RESOLUTION NO. 18-298, CD1 re: Recruit Training and Testing Programs.

Counsel Ancheta updated the Commission that Counsel Resolution No. 18-298 was approved by City Council as of July 1st with \$50,000 being funded and mentioned that this amount is attached to HFD’s budget.

Counsel Ancheta informed the Commission that he has consulted with the purchasing department and mentioned that nobody does RFP’s and that the Commission would have to rely on HFD’s staff.

Counsel Ancheta mentioned that he has spoken with HFD’s attorney Ernest Nomura.

Counsel Ancheta mentioned that he was referred to HFD’s administrative director Andrew Yim. Mr. Yim mentioned that he would speak with Chief Lawton.

Commissioner Wataru mentioned that he recently found out that because it’s a City Council add-on the funds are not attached to the HFD’s budget and it needs to be released by the Managing Director or the Mayor.

Commissioner Wataru mentioned they are the ones who will be signing off on the funds and if they don’t sign off then there will be no funds available for the Commission.

Counsel Ancheta mentioned that he will inquire with the Budget and Fiscal attorney on this matter.

Commissioner Wataru mentioned that he would follow up with the City.

Chair Nagamine indicated he would like more factual information on this matter.

Chair Nagamine asked the Commission if there was anything more they would like to add to this discussion. There was none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Counsel Resolution No. 18-298, CD1 re: Fire Recruit Training and Testing Programs. Commissioner Nekota moved and Commissioner Wataru 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)]. The Commission went into Executive Session at 1:54 p.m. and the regular public meeting reconvened at 2:04 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business the Commission ended its meeting. It was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

X. ANNOUNCEMENT: The next Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 21, at 2 p.m. in the Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium.

Respectfully submitted by: Nadine Murata, Secretary.

APPROVED:

CRAIG NAGAMINE, Chair