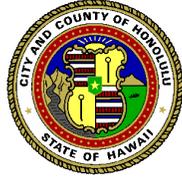


HONOLULU FIRE COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



JAMES S. WATARU
CHAIR

STEFANIE LEE
VICE CHAIR

MAX HANNEMANN

CHARLOTTE NEKOTA

WILLIAM HONG

DENNIS MORTON

CRAIG NAGAMINE

Minutes of Regular Public Meeting
Honolulu Fire Department Headquarters
Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium
Wednesday March 20, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Wataru called the regular meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

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

MEMBER EXCUSED: Charlotte Nekota

IN ATTENDANCE: Fire Chief Manuel Neves (HFD), Deputy Fire Chief Lionel Camara, Jr. (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Scott Lawton (HFD), Assistant Fire Ron Rico (HFD), Chief Nathan Ramos (HFD), Battalion Chief Damien Kahaulelio (HFD), Battalion Chief John Pacheco (HFD), Battalion Chief Keith Yasui (HFD), Battalion Chief Robert Thurston (HFD), Battalion Chief Paul Fukuda (HFD), Battalion Chief Jeff Hooker (HFD), Battalion Chief Paul Kato (HFD), Battalion Chief Alan Park (HFD), Battalion Chief Bryan Soares (HFD), Battalion Chief Jeff Sanchez (HFD), Battalion Chief Mark Nakagawa (HFD), Battalion Chief Alan Carvalho (HFD), Battalion Chief David Morgan, 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 JANUARY 15, 2019. Chair Wataru called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of the regular public meeting of January 15, 2019. There being no further comments or corrections the minutes were approved as adopted.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2019. Chair Wataru asked the Commission if the executive session minutes of January 15, 2019 could be deferred to April 17, 2019 meeting due to minor corrections. Commissioner Lee moved and Commissioner Nagamine seconded it. There being no further comments the executive session minutes has been deferred.

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

JANUARY 2019

1. Fires. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there were 17 structural fires and highlight a few. Details of the fire incidents can be found in the monthly report.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there were 2 - 3 spontaneous combustion incidents that occurred and the department is currently working on an education program to make the public aware of this risk and how to prevent it from happening

Fire Chief Neves indicated that a lot of fires have started with electrical arcing in power strips.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned to be careful not to put metal objects into microwave ovens.

Fire Chief Neves indicated unattended candles have contributed to home fires.

Fire Chief Neves went over a motor vehicle collision involving two pick-up trucks with multiple pedestrians that were injured.

Fire Chief Neves went over an incident that took place in Makakilo that was accidently caused by combustibles being stored inside an oven.

2. Hazardous Conditions. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the department responded to 40 weather-related emergencies.

5 Arcing wires

6 Blown roofs

7 Downed trees

11 Water evacuations

11 Downed power lines

3. Equipment Status. Fire Chief Neves informed the Commission that there are seven frontline apparatuses and two auxiliary apparatuses that are currently out of service and a backup is ready should there be a need.
4. Vacancies. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that a report will be given next month in regards to the 138 vacancies.
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.

Commissioner Morton asked Fire Chief Neves what procedures the department takes when a fire fighter is exposed to T.B.

Chief Rico mentioned that the department would refer the patient to the department's infectious disease officer who would advise on what course to take.

Chief Lawton mentioned that a baseline testing would also be conducted to see what kind of treatment would be given.

6. Grievances. Fire Chief Neves went over the grievance with the Commission and went over pending grievances, and Step 1 and 2 of the Bargaining Unit 11.

FEBRUARY 2019

1. Fires. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there were 5 structural fires. Details can be found in the monthly report.
2. Hazardous Conditions. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the department responded to 179 weather-related emergencies.

12 Water evacuations
16 Arching wires
30 Downed power lines
43 Downed trees
78 Blown roofs

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that trucks are now equipped with chainsaws to quickly respond to down trees.

3. Equipment Status. Fire Chief Neves informed the Commission that there are eleven frontline and three auxiliary apparatuses that are out of service and a backup is ready should there be a need.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the department is an apparatus replacement program getting apparatuses replaced on a regularly basis so trucks that are giving a lot of mechanical program the department can get rid.

4. Vacancies. Fire Chief Neves went over the vacancies in Fire Fighter (FF) I and explained why the count will differ in coming months.
5. Injuries- Report of Industrial Injury or Illness (ISWC). Fire Chief Neves went over the injury list with the Commissioners as well as the lost time of incidents.
6. Grievances. Fire Chief Neves went over the grievance with the Commission and mentioned that one grievance was opened and one was closed.

The Fire Chief also reported on the following:

1. During the month of January, HFD received 2 complimentary correspondences, and 1 complaint that was responded to. Details are in the monthly report.
2. During the month of February, HFD received 2 complimentary correspondences, and no complaint. Details are in the monthly report.
3. Fire Chief Neves mentioned a promotion ceremony will be held on April 3, 2019, at 5 p.m. at the Neil S. Blaisdell Center's Pikake Room. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that it will be Battalion Chiefs and some Captains.
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 updated the Commission on the budget and mentioned that Rescue 3 has moved to City Council and the department is hopeful that it will implement Rescue 3 to the Aikihi fire station come next year.

Chief Camara mentioned the department has updated its radio at the cost \$3.25 million dollars and the replaced radios will be bumped down to other city agencies.

Chief Camara mentioned the department received \$6.3 million dollars for 2 tiller ladder trucks, 4 engines, and 3 crew club trucks.

Chief Camara mentioned that the department received \$3 million from bulk fund to repair its stations.

Chief Camara mentioned that the mechanic shop will be installing a decontamination extract with the \$2.85 million that the department received.

Chief Camara mentioned that the department received \$900,000 for the renovation of the Kahaluu fire station.

Fire Chief Neves went over Rescue 3 and mentioned that if it survives City Council the department will have 6 months to prepare and to promote and get gear ready for incoming recruits come January 2020.

Fire Chief Neves went over the bulk fund with the Commission and indicated that the department is one of the biggest facilities in the City having 50 stations and mentioned that the department has received \$2 million dollars to up keep those facilities in the past. Fire Chief Neves added with the help of Chief Camara and Chief Lawton the department was successful in receiving an increase from the City to \$3 million.

Assistant Fire Chief Scott Lawton- Administrative Services. Chief Lawton introduced a new program to the Commission called “My I.D” which mirror’s the Malama Makai I.D. program that the Honolulu Police Department’s (HPD) is currently using.

Chief Lawton mentioned that this new program was introduced by Battalion Chief Jeffrey Hooker from the Occupational Safety Department in March and it’s called “Malama Ohana Kinai Ahi” which translates to taking care of HFD’s family.

Chief Lawton briefly described the bracelet and mentioned that by creating an online account you can upload your medical and emergency information and in an event of an emergency, EMS can easily extract your information by scanning the back of the bracelet.

Chief Lawton mentioned that it’s currently offered to uniform and civilian members of the department.

Fire Chief Neves extended the invitation to the Commission.

Chair Wataru asked if it’s only for the department or can state employee obtain one of these bracelets.

Fire Chief Neves answered, “It’s free, and you just have to purchase it”.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that EMS and ER’s at hospitals have been notified about this new program that HFD is using.

Chief Lawton mentioned that if the bracelet should ever get lost or stolen all you have to do is go to your online account and unlink it.

Assistant Fire Chief Nathan Ramos- Planning and Development. The Commission was handed a booklet on the strategic planning by Chief Ramos.

Chief Ramos went over what strategic planning is and informed the Commission that the department has completed its strategic plan under the guidance of the department’s accreditation manager, Chief Damien Kahaulelio and Captain Ethan Aea.

Chief Ramos mentioned that this booklet will help provide guidance to the department over the next 5 years.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that this is one of the three documents that the department needs to provide as part of the accreditation process.

Fire Chief Neves explained that the department has reached out to stake holders and asked for input regarding the department.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that this plan will be for the next 5 years and in 2020 is when the department will seek its accreditation.

Fire Chief Neves explained that this booklet was done in house and that the department also has a committee which is embracing the Hawaiian language.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that apparatuses will be receiving Hawaiian names based on the community that it serves.

Commissioner Hong expressed gratitude from Governor Ige mentioning that he was very appreciative for the department's inspections of state property/buildings.

Fire Chief Neves thanked Commissioner Hong and mentioned that it's an opportunity for the department to familiarize with those buildings in an event of an emergency.

V. COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 18-298 re: Fire Recruit Terminations. Commissioner Lee moved and Commissioner Nekota 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 2:37 p.m. and the regular public meeting reconvened at 3:40 p.m.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Annual Evaluation of the Fire Chief. Commissioner Nekota moved and Commissioner Nagamine 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 3:41 p.m. and the regular public meeting reconvened at 3:48 p.m.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENT: The next Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 16, at 2 p.m. in the Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business the Commission ended its meeting. It was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Nadine Murata, Secretary.

APPROVED:

JAMES WATARU, Chair