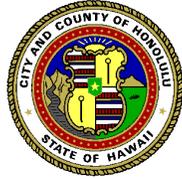


HONOLULU FIRE COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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DENNIS MORTON

Minutes of Regular Public Meeting
Honolulu Fire Department Headquarters
Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium
Wednesday, October 23, 2019

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Nagamine called the regular meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dennis Morton and William Hong.

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), Assistant Fire Chief Jason Samala (HFD), Battalion Chief Joseph Kostiha (HFD), Battalion Chief Keith Yasui (HFD), Battalion Chief Stan Kimura (HFD), Battalion Chief Wayne Masuda (HFD), Captain Charles Griep (HFD), Captain Michael Jones (HFD), Daisy Canite-Miyashiro (HFFA), Brian Ancheta (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 SEPTEMBER 18, 2019. Chair Nagamine called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of the regular public meeting of September 18, 2019.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned a minor correction. Fire Chief Neves mentioned under equipment status, the word “incident” should be replaced with “fire station”.

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

There being no further comments or corrections Commissioner Nekota moved and Commissioner Wataru seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected. With a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the corrected minutes.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2019.

Chair Nagamine called for any comments or corrections to the executive session minutes of September 18, 2019. There being no comments or corrections, Commissioner Nekota moved and Commissioner Wataru seconded that the minutes be approved. With a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the executive session minutes.

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

Fire Chief Neves informed the Commission that Assistant Chief Rico is currently on personal leave and introduced Chief Jason Salama as the new Assistant Chief. Chief Salama’s new position will be in charge of Support Services and Chief Bratakos will now oversee the Planning and Development.

1. Fires. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there were 11 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 in Waikiki on September 2, 2019 regarding the annual Waikiki Roughwater Swim, where several hundred swimmers were in need of assistance in returning to shore. Fire Chief Neves mentioned currently the City is looking at alternative ways to make future races safer.

Chair Nagamine asked Fire Chief Neves what was the issue. Fire Chief Neves mentioned several issues of people being pulled by currents, people swimming over people and people who are not trained to swim in rough waters. He noted that participant enrollment in the event is unlimited.

Chair Nagamine asked about resources and where are they coming from. Fire Chief Neves mentioned HFD and Ocean Safety as well as the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DNLN).

Commissioner Hannemann asked if the first responders are at the race. Fire Chief mentioned that the department will respond to incidents.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned an increase in recent brush and cooking fires.

Fire Chief Neves indicated that through public service announcements and public

education, the department tries to educate the public to be more attentive while cooking and to turn off the stove when it's not being attended.

Fire Chief Neves went over an incident that took place in Mililani on September 19, 2019, regarding a fire that started at a storage yard. Fire Chief Neves indicated that the fire required assistance from the State and Federal Fire Fighters.

2. Hazardous Conditions. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the department responded to 37 weather-related emergencies.
 - 8 Water evacuations
 - 6 Arcing wires
 - 6 Downed power lines
 - 17 Downed trees
3. Equipment Status. Fire Chief Neves informed the Commission that there were 8 frontline apparatuses that were out of service.
4. Vacancies. Fire Chief Neves went over vacancies with the Commission and said that Total Vacancies will soon go down into the 90s, and the vacancy rate will become a manageable 3%. Details can be found in the monthly report.
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 during the fire outbreak in Mililani a foam was used to put out the chemical fire which could affect the respiratory system.

Fire Chief Neves asked personnel to fill out a form as a precaution for exposure.

Commissioner Hannemann asked about the foam and whether the department was still planning to use it in the future, and what protection did the fire fighters have.

Fire Chief Neves said that the foam is still necessary for tanker fires and the like (every 2-3 years on average), but it's not the first choice. He mentioned that use of the foam, which is not kept at HFD needs approval, and fire fighters are in their protective equipment (SCBAs) and wash themselves down afterwards.

Commissioner Hannemann asked whether the "Lifting Patient" injuries all came from the same incident. Chief Lawton said probably not.

6. Grievances. Details are in the monthly report.

The Fire Chief also reported on the following:

1. During the month of September, HFD received 3 complimentary correspondences and

3 complaints. Details are in the monthly report.

2. Fire Chief Neves went over station visitations.

September 2019 (13/1,210)

Chair Nagamine asked Fire Chief Neves if he could give a more detailed report. Fire Chief Neves explained to the Commission how visitations are conducted during station visits. He noted that about 97% of all visits are done by Fire Chief Neves and Chief Camara, and that the visits usually take 1 – 1.5 hours, with information from the fire fighters brought back to the executive staff.

3. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there will be a Commendation Ceremony on November 13, 2019, at 10 a.m. at the Charles H. Thurston Fire Training Center.
4. Fire Chief Neves had each member of the executive staff give a brief description of their sections recent activities.

Deputy Fire Chief Lionel Camara, Jr.- Chief Camara went over Honolulu Community College's (HCC) certifications for Fire Fighter I, Fire Fighter II, HAZMAT Awareness, Operations, and EMT.

Chief Camara mentioned that it's a 2-year degree to be accredited at HCC and HFD is hoping potential candidates get their degree and its 5 certifications before joining the department.

Assistant Fire Chief Scott Lawton- Administrative Services. Chief Lawton shared a program from its occupational and safety department. Chief Lawton mentioned that it's a respiratory protection program which is accessed online and complies with state and federal laws.

Chief Lawton indicated that it applies to all its civilian and uniformed staff.

Chief Lawton explained what Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) is and explained how low oxygen, smoke, gases, vapors, and airborne infectious disease can affect the respiratory system.

Chief Lawton went over 2 types of respirators that are used within the department. One is the air purifying respirator, which filters contaminants and the other is the atmosphere supplying respirator (ASR), which is the self-containment breathing apparatuses (SCBA) that provides atmosphere air.

Chief Lawton mentioned that HFD is one of the few departments that has a dedicated section to take care of its SCBA equipment. Chief Lawton indicated it's a civilian-based department which is located in the Waipahu maintenance facility where they are responsible for maintaining, inspecting, and testing the equipment as well as its compressors.

Assistant Fire Chief Jason Samala- Support Services. Chief Samala informed the Commission that the department has completed Fire Prevention Week.

Chief Samala mentioned that on October 6th the department will air its first 30-minute documentary on KHON regarding fire fighters' experiences as well as sending out fire prevention messages.

Chief Samala mentioned that there are 4 episodes in the documentary with the last airing on the 27th of October on KHII, former K5.

Chief Samala mentioned that the department has been actively posting on social media and making public service announcements to get messages out regarding fire safety.

Chief Samala mentioned that there's a segment called Tuesdays with the Fire Chief where Fire Chief Neves explains fire safety in your home.

Commissioner Nekota mentioned a jingle her friend, Ms. Gravelle (retired Iolani School teacher), composed regarding fire safety and wondered if the department could use it in getting messages out to children.

Chief Lawton mentioned that he knows of the jingle and indicated that it was provided to the Fire Prevention Bureau years ago but does not know what happened from there.

Assistant Fire Chief Socrates Bratakos- Planning and Development. Chief Bratakos spoke on future fire stations.

Chief Bratakos mentioned a replacement and relocation of the Pearl City fire station up Waimano Home Road.

Chief Bratakos mentioned that the department has been in communication with the State library and is currently working with the Department of Education (DOE) and the Department of Land Management (DLM).

Chief Bratakos spoke on a new Waialua station site and indicated that the offer for the property (5+ acres on Goodale Avenue) has been accepted and the City is currently going through the purchasing process.

Chief Bratakos spoke on the relocation of the Wailupe fire station (which is currently right on the highway and dangerous to exit from) and explained that there is a location behind the Aina Haina Elementary School which is owned by the Parks and Recreation that the department is interested in.

Chief Bratakos mentioned that parties involved are interested and currently it's in the process of being surveyed and re-subdivided.

Commissioner Nekota asked the location of the Pearl City fire station.

Chief Bratakos mentioned that its current location is on Lehua Avenue at the Pearl City Peninsula.

Chair Nagamine mentioned that this is the kind of detailed report that the Commission is looking for, what the department is doing and its steps on getting there.

Fire Chief Neves noted that the fire stations mentioned by Chief Bratakos were the "Top 3" and that there are 8-10 properties total under discussion.

Fire Chief Neves asked Captain Griep and Captain Jones from the Training and Research Bureau- Medical Section, to speak on their areas of duty.

Captain Griep introduced himself to the Commission and mentioned that he oversees the automated external defibrillator (AED) program and CPR.

Captain Jones introduced himself to the Commission and mentioned that he oversees the emergency medical technician (EMT) first responder programs and continuing medical education program.

Captain Griep went over purchasing and placement of AEDs with the Commission and mentioned that new AEDs have been purchased and they should be good until 2023.

Captain Griep mentioned that in 2019 the department has received 429 AED downloads, of which 30 belongs to the Honolulu Police Department (HPD).

Chair Nagamine asked what's a download.

Captain Griep explained that it's when the AED is used and information is captured and sent to HFD for review and every 4 – 6 weeks and the department reviews the AED/CPR activity with EMS.

Captain Griep explained to the Commission what Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) is. It lets the department know if the patient has survived or not.

Captain Griep mentioned that fire fighters are trained through the American Heart Association and were recently recertified in April 2019.

Captain Griep mentioned that the department has 32 uniformed licensed instructors who conduct the teaching and recertifying.

Captain Griep added to increase the survival rate the department is reviving community CPR through the American Heart Association.

Captain Griep mentioned that the department gives free CPR training which is part of its initiative for community risk reduction. Currently 6,400 have already been trained with a goal of 5,000 for this year.

Commissioner Wataru asked about the changeout of the AEDs

Captain Griep mentioned it based on the operational lifespan and the warranty from the contract. The current line of AEDs has an operational lifespan of 5 years.

Captain Griep mentioned that the old AEDs are currently being stored and are still fully functional.

Fire Chief Neves briefly went over downloads with the Commission. Fire Chief Neves explained that the AED contains a computerize chip which records activity which is sent to HFD for review. Fire Chief Neves noted that HPD also sends their chip to HFD.

Captain Jones mentioned that currently he's working with educating the fire fighters with initial training or ongoing training.

Captain Jones mentioned that the department averages 55,000 calls a year and 39,000 are medical.

Captain Jones mentioned that in 2001 the department trained its fire fighters to become nationally registry EMT certified (versus licensure).

Captain Jones mentioned through continuous training the department currently has 770–780 national registry certified EMTs.

Captain Jones also mentioned that an additional 100 fire fighters are state licensed to higher levels.

Captain Jones mentioned a national program called Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) and the department participated with Kapiolani Community College to create instructors who train the entire department in TECC.

Fire Chief Neves asked if there were any questions. There were none.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Review Pursuant to Council 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 Council Resolution No. 18-298, CD1, 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 vote, the Commission went into executive session at 2:53 p.m. and the regular public meeting reconvened at 3:02 p.m.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Discussion of potential changes of rules, policies and procedures of the Fire Commission. Commissioner Hannemann moved and Commissioner Morton seconded that the Commission go into executive session regarding potential changes of rules, policies and procedures of the Fire Commission, 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 vote, the Commission went into executive session at 3:02 p.m. and the regular public meeting reconvened at 3:07 p.m.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENT: The next Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 2 p.m. in the Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business the Commission ended its meeting. It was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Nadine Murata, Secretary.

APPROVED:

CRAIG NAGAMINE, Chair