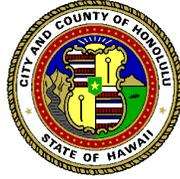


HONOLULU FIRE COMMISSION  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



CRAIG NAGAMINE  
CHAIR  
CHARLOTTE NEKOTA  
VICE CHAIR  
MAX HANNEMANN  
DENNIS MORTON  
WILLIAM HONG  
STEFANIE SAKAMOTO LEE  
NICHOLAS TEVES

Minutes of Regular Public Meeting  
Honolulu Fire Department Headquarters  
Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium  
Wednesday, September 30, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Nagamine called the regular meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Craig Nagamine, Charlotte Nekota, Max Hannemann, William Hong, Dennis Morton, Stefanie Sakamoto Lee and Nicholas Teves.

IN ATTENDANCE: Fire Chief Manuel Neves (HFD), Deputy Fire Chief Lionel Camara, Jr. (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Ron Rico (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Scott Lawton (HFD), Assistant Fire Chief Jason Samala (HFD), Acting Assistant Chief Reid Yoshida (HFD), Kathleen Kelly (Corporation Counsel), and Nadine Murata.

II. SELECTION 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 Nagamine asked the Commission for nominations for Chair. Commissioner Morton nominated Commissioner Nagamine, Commissioner Hong nominated Commissioner Nagamine. Commissioner Nagamine asked if there were any other nominations, there were none. By unanimous vote of the Commission, Commissioner Nagamine was re-elected Chair.

SELECTION 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 nominated Commissioner Nekota, and Commissioner Morton seconded, Chair Nagamine asked if there were any other nominations,

there were none. By unanimous vote of the Commission, Commissioner Nekota was re-elected Vice-Chair.

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON ALL AGENDA ITEMS. Chair Nagamine asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to give public testimony. There was none.

Commissioner Hong asked the Commission if they could have a moment of silence for Mike “Bull” Tomita who was a retired fire fighter stationed at the Hawaii Kai station who had recently succumbed to COVID19 and had passed away.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2020. Chair Nagamine called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of the regular public meeting of July 15, 2020. Vice-Chair Nekota moved and Commissioner Morton seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the minutes.

V. APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2020. Chair Nagamine called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of the executive session meeting of July 15, 2020. Vice-Chair Nekota moved and Commissioner Hannemann seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the executive session minutes.

VI. REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF. Fire Chief Neves passed out copies of his July 2020 monthly report and highlighted the following:

A. Major Incidents.

1. Fires. Fire Chief Neves went over major incidents with the Commission and highlighted a few. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there were 4 structural fires and 3 wildland fires during the month of August.
2. Hazardous Conditions. Fire Chief Neves went over major incidents with the Commission. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there were 34 weather related emergencies during the month of August. Details can be found in the monthly report.

B. Equipment Status.

Five frontline apparatuses were out of service. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that back up is ready should there be a need.

C. Vacancies.

Fire Chief Neves went over vacancies with the Commission. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that currently there are 99 but due to current recruit status there are 68 vacancies.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that in October a small class will commence with 24 new recruits leaving 44 vacancies at the end of the year.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that in February/March 2021 a new recruit class will begin with 21 new recruits.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there are 140 fire fighters who are currently eligible for retirement.

D. Injuries- Report of Industrial Injury or Illness (ISWC). Fire Chief Neves briefly went over injuries with the Commission. Details can be found in the monthly report.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there were 18 injuries reported for August and 10 were related to pain/stiffness, 4 infection.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the 4 infected were due to COVID-19 and were made apart of this report.

Vice-Chair Nekota asked for clarification regarding loss of time for COVID-19.

Fire Chief Neves explained to Vice-Chair Nekota that under D. Injuries, loss of time is reflected for COVID-19. However, under E. Exposure Reports, COVID-19 exposure did not necessarily result in loss of time. That number reflects the precautionary forms (Form 48) that were filed due to possible exposure.

E. Exposure Reports. Fire Chief Neves went over exposure reports with the Commission. Details can be found in the monthly report.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that there were 7 precautionary exposure reports that were submitted.

Commissioner Hannemann asked Fire Chief Neves for clarification regarding numbers reflected and asked if it was fire fighters or incident numbers.

Fire Chief Neves explained that it was number of occurrences.

Commissioner Hannemann asked if there were any confirmed cases of COVID-10 within the department.

Fire Chief Neves answered, one confirmed case and two in quarantine. Fire Chief Neves explained that the confirmed case is on military activation on the mainland.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that although the confirmed case is not on island, he is counted as he is a member of the department.

Commissioner Hannemann asked about the positivity rate within the department.

Fire Chief Neves answered that there are 1200 fire fighters within the department and 25 tested positive.

F. Grievances. Fire Chief Neves went over grievances with the Commission. Details can be found in the monthly report.

Fire Chief also reported on the following:

1. During the month of August, HFD received 2 complimentary communications and 2 complaints. Details are in the monthly report.

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.- Handouts were passed out to the Commission by Chief Camara.

Chief Camara mentioned at the request of Commissioner Hong, a list of HFD's accomplishments were published from 2013-2020.

Commissioner Hong thanked Chief Camara.

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

Assistant Fire Chief Scott Lawton- Administrative Services.

Chief Lawton explained the importance of personal protective equipment (PPE) to the Commission and mentioned that N95 masks are hard to come by as healthcare systems have the first priority.

Chief Lawton mentioned the department recently purchased Clean Slate machines, which are UV sanitizers that sanitize porous and non-porous items and also help to extend the life of the N95.

Chief Lawton mentioned that the department has purchased 51 units at \$5,000 each with CARES Act funds and a unit can be found at each work site.

Commissioner Hong asked if there any parts that needs to be changed.

Chief Lawton answered, only the light bulbs.

Commissioner Teves asked if putting one's mask in the microwave will help to disinfect.

Chief Lawton mentioned that there's no validation.

Assistant Fire Chief Jason Samala- Support Service. Chief Samala informed the Commission on the department's ongoing recruit class.

Chief Samala mentioned that its 108 class is due to graduate in January and a new class will start on October 19<sup>th</sup> so there will be a brief overlap.

Chief Samala mentioned that the department is in the process of purchasing modular classrooms and lockers to accommodate physical spacing for its 109<sup>th</sup> class in February.

Chief Samala mentioned that there is an upcoming physical agility test for Fire Fighter Recruit 2 category in October. This category can cut the time required for certification in half.

Chief Samala mentioned that they are working with Fire Operations on slowly bringing back incumbent training.

Commissioner Hong extended his appreciation to the department on keeping up with staffing.

Fire Chief Neves briefly went over recruit classes with the Commission.

Commissioner Hong asked Fire Chief Neves if the department foresees any budget cuts in the near future.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the department has not heard of any budget cuts and is confident that the department can continue its training and recruit programs.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that classes are on a smaller scale of 24 and it's done in-house.

Acting Assistant Chief Reid Yoshida- Planning and Development. Chief Yoshida introduced himself as a Battalion Chief from the Fire Communications Center.

Chief Yoshida gave the Commission an update on the department's P25 Radio System. Chief Yoshida mentioned that it's currently in a transitional phase with transition being completed in December 2020.

Chief Yoshida mentioned that the department's frontlines are all equipped with portable and mobile P25 radio system devices.

Chief Yoshida mentioned cost for the P25 was \$25 million dollars. All first responders are using P25 radio. Ocean Safety and EMS preceded HFD, and DEM and HPD will follow.

Fire Chief Neves asked the Commission if they had any concerns they would like to address.

Commissioner Hong expressed his concerns with the brush fires in California. Commissioner Hong commended the department on their hard work on the Wilhelmina Rise/St. Louis Heights fire.

Commissioner Hong asked if the department sends staff to after action fires cases.

Deputy Fire Chief Camara explained to the Commission how the department has increased its efforts on aerial resources to control brush fires.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned it's about the department's ability to manage its events and incidents.

Commissioner Hong asked if the department brings in off-duty fire fighters.

Fire Chief Neves answered the department has partners such as the Federal Fire Fighters and State Crash Fire Fighters.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned the department has a system in place as the department has 700 off and 350 on duty for call back. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that this option has not been used in a while.

Chair Nagamine asked Fire Chief Neves for a background on the Waialua fire.

Chief Rico explained to the Commission on how the department fought the fire to save lives and property.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned there were 17 trucks and 70 fire fighters at the scene. Fire Chief Neves mentioned that a concern the department had was to protect the infrastructure of Hawaiian Electric (line and poles) as it ran through the fire.

Commissioner Hong asked what kind of helicopter does DOFAW have.

Chief Camara answered, Hughes 500, a version of what HFD uses, and they use HFD former pilots.

Fire Chief Neves mentioned that the department uses NOTAR no tail rotor.

VII. PRELIMINARY FIRE COMMISSION DISCUSSION REGARDING RESCUE 3 (New Emergency Rescue Company).

Chair Nagamine mentioned discussion will be held in executive session should there be a need.

Commissioner Morton moved and Vice-Chair Nekota seconded that the Commission go into executive session to further discuss Rescue 3 pursuant to HRS Sec. 92-5(a)(4). By unanimous vote, the Commission went into executive session at 11:03 a.m. and the regular public meeting reconvened at 11:04 a.m.

VIII. PRELIMINARY FIRE COMMISSION DISCUSSION REGARDING COMPLAINTS FROM CONCERNED FIRE FIGHTERS.

Chair Nagamine mentioned discussion will be held in executive session should there be a need.

Vice-Chair Nekota moved and Commissioner Lee seconded that the Commission go into executive session to further discuss complaints pursuant to HRS Sec. 92-5(a)(4). By unanimous vote, the Commission went into executive session at 11:04 a.m. and the regular public meeting reconvened at 11:18 a.m.

Chair Nagamine asked if there were any questions. There were none.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENT: The next Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 10 a.m. in the Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium.

X. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, Commissioner Morton moved and Commissioner Lee seconded that the meeting be adjourned. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Nadine Murata, Secretary.

APPROVED:

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CRAIG NAGAMINE, Chair