

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2006, 3:00 P.M.**

The Board of Fire Commissioners convened in regular session on Tuesday, September 19, 2006 at 3:10 p.m. in Room 1830, City Hall East, 200 North Main Street, Los Angeles.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: President Dalila Sotelo, Vice-President Jill Furillo, Commissioners Andrew Friedman, Genethia Hudley-Hayes, and Casimiro Tolentino, Fire Chief William Bamattre, Deputy City Attorney Janet Jackson

**FLAG SALUTE/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**PRESENTATIONS**

Chief Bamattre presented badges to employees who were recently promoted to the Chief rank, and recognized two employees who completed the Executive Fire Officer Program.

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Donna Dougherty addressed the Board regarding universal access and ingress/egress issues at the Griffith Observatory renovation project.

**2. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

A. Approval of Minutes of September 5, 2006

MOTION (Tolentino/Hudley-Hayes): That the Minutes of the September 5, 2006 board meeting be approved as submitted.

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

B. Continued discussion and consideration of the Board of Fire Commissioners' Action Plan relative to the Fire Department audits [BFC 06-041-S1]

Armando Hogan of the Stentorians presented the status of the Stakeholder Workgroup's progress. Mr. Hogan will initiate a discussion at the next workgroup meeting regarding possible policy revisions to the evaluation process in connection with disciplinary reporting procedures, and at the October 3 board meeting, will provide a list of the workgroup's consensus items.

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C. Board of Fire Commissioners Committee Reports:

1. Report from the Fire Commission EMS Committee [Furillo/Friedman]

Commissioner Furillo reported that the Committee reviewed the Five-Year EMS Plan; Captain Wells provided a brief overview of the plan.

MOTION [Friedman/Tolentino]: That the plan be reviewed by the Ad Hoc Budget Committee and if approved, forwarded to the Commission for review at the meeting of October 3.

AYES: 5      NAYS: 0

2. Report from the Fire Commission HRDC Committee [Sotelo/Hudley-Hayes]

None

3. Report from the Fire Commission Personnel/Employee Relations Committee [Tolentino/Hudley-Hayes]

None

4. Report from the Fire Commission Technology Committee [Hudley-Hayes/Tolentino]

None

5. Report from the Fire Commission Ad Hoc Budget Committee [Sotelo/Friedman]

Commissioner Sotelo reported that the Committee reviewed the budget requests and prioritized several packages in order to meet deadlines for the first round of the CAO review process. The second Committee meeting is scheduled for September 26, at which time the Committee will review recommendations by UFLAC and COA regarding operational issues, deployment, and staffing concerns as well as the EMS Five-Year Plan. Stakeholders were invited to attend.

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**3. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

**A. Significant Incidents/Activities**

Chief Bamattre provided information regarding deployment to the fire in Ventura County that started on Labor Day weekend, and highlights from the Incident Summary report and recent special events.

**B. Status report on assignments from the Board**

Most of the outstanding assignments were included on the September 19 agenda, with the exclusion of a report from the Planning Section regarding the March 25 protest. The report will be on the October 3 agenda.

**C. Status report on City Council/Committee issues relative to the LAFD**

Two motions are working their way through Council: HazMat staffing for Squad 95 at LAWA introduced at Council; item to be discussed at the Public Safety Committee on September 25, forwarded to Personnel Committee, then on to Budget and Finance Committee. Phase II of the Mayor's Homeland Security program was scheduled for the Public Safety Committee of September 11 and was forwarded to the Personnel Committee for its September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, and on to Budget and Finance Committee. This package took approximately 23 positions and moved them to the Unappropriated Balance to be funded with a target date of October 1; it is likely that the October 1<sup>st</sup> date will not be met but the Chief hopes to obtain approval and implement the hiring process in October or November.

**D. Status report on emergency preparedness activities; and**

**E. Status report on Homeland Security issues**

(Items D and E considered jointly) Chief Bamattre introduced Chief Warford, new Commander of the Homeland Security/Tactical Planning Section. Chief Warford stated there were no significant Homeland Security issues at present.

Chiefs Bamattre and Rueda responded to inquiries from the Board regarding deployment of resources during large emergency incidents and pooling of remaining resources to cover all areas of the city. It was requested that an overview of the deployment system be placed as an item on a future agenda, along with an explanation of deployment strategies depending upon the type of incident – emergency (unanticipated), or pre-planned (as in funeral services). The question arose whether there was a difference in deployment for funeral services for

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employees who die in the line of duty versus an illness. Chief Bamattre mentioned a Funeral Manual, which provides guidelines.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Continued discussion and consideration of the City Controller's review of the LAFD Dispatch Staffing and Special Duty Assignments [BFC 06-044]**

Commissioner Furillo reported that the Committee heard testimony from members of OCD and Chief Bamattre at this morning's EMS Committee meeting. The Committee recommends a public process to examine the discrepancy between the Department and the Controller's Office regarding the dollar amount to implement the audit recommendation to civilianize the OCD positions. She requested a public hearing, and recommends that Controller's staff attend to address questions. Commissioner Friedman stated that based on the conflicting cost estimates from the Department and the Controller, the Committee is currently unable to make a specific recommendation and there is not sufficient information for the Commission to make a determination at this time. He added that in addition to the discrepancy in the dollar amounts, the issue of public safety should be addressed at the public hearing. The Committee recommended that Department staff meet with Controller's Office staff prior to the public hearing to resolve the discrepancy.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Chief Brennan of OCD addressed the Board with his concerns, including the lack of equipment and capacity to train the 84 to 106 personnel as recommended in the audit.

**MOTION (Furillo/Tolentino):** That the Commission set a date for a public hearing regarding the audit and encourage the Department to meet with the Controller's staff or any appropriate auditor in order to reconcile the aforementioned issues prior to the public hearing.

**AYES: 5            NAYS: 0**

**B. LAFD Emergency Vehicle Operating Procedure**

1. Employee Response to the LAFD Emergency Vehicle Operating Procedure [BFC 06-081]; and
2. "Pull to the Right" Public Education Campaign information [BFC 06-088]

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(Items 1 and 2 considered jointly) Chief Thompson provided a verbal overview of the report submitted to the Commission, following up on their previous inquiries regarding the vehicle operating procedure.

Commissioner Furillo stated that the EMS Committee reviewed Chief Thompson's report earlier in the day and Committee members posed numerous questions. The Committee cannot make a recommendation based on the current information, but requested that additional information be submitted at the next, or a subsequent, meeting. Chief Thompson was directed to check with the Planning Section staff that attended the EMS Committee meeting to obtain the Committee members' questions and provide a follow-up report prior to the meeting of October 3rd. Ms. Jackson stated that a report from the City Attorney regarding liability issues would be submitted prior to the October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Commissioner Sotelo recommended that a decision be made at the meeting of October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- C. Quarterly Fire Fatality Report [BFC 06-090] - Received and Filed
- D. Continued discussion and consideration of the Citywide election of March 6, 2007 – Proposed Charter Changes [BFC 06-073]

Commissioner Sotelo stated that the Commissioners received in their board packages the letter from Chief Bamattre to the Mayor and CAO withdrawing the Department's recommended Charter changes. She added that if the Commissioners had comments or questions they may speak directly with Chief Bamattre.

- E. Fire Department transmittal dated August 8, 2006, submitting the written policies for Three Whole Scores Interviews [BFC 06-075] – Tabled
- F. Fire Department transmittal dated August 8, 2006, submitting the results of Three Whole Scores process [BFC 06-076] – Tabled
- G. Transfers and Vacancies process [BFC 06-085] – Tabled
- H. Strategic Training Plan update

Commissioner Sotelo forwarded item to HRDC for disposition.

- 5. ITEMS CALLED SPECIAL - None**
- 6. ACTIVITIES/EVENTS/MEETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS - None**

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**7. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS - None**

**8. CLOSED SESSION – Postponed until October 3, 2006:**

The Board will convene in Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a) to confer with Legal Counsel on the following pending litigation cases:

Bressler, Lee, et al. vs. City of LA et al., BC 336783

Bernal vs. City of LA, BC 340489

Pierce vs. City of LA, BC 342845

Lima vs. City of LA, BC 353261

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. (Hudley-Hayes/Tolentino)

ATTEST:

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DALILA T. SOTELO  
President

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LISA SHINSATO  
Commission Executive Assistant I

Date: October 17, 2006

Note: Actions of the Board shall become final at the expiration of the next five meeting days of the City Council during which the Council has convened in regular session, unless the Council acts within that time by two-thirds vote to bring the action before it or to waive review of the action.