

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

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2006, 3:00 P.M.**

The Board of Fire Commissioners convened in regular session on Tuesday, October 17, 2006 at 3:09 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 and Casimiro Tolentino, Fire Chief William Bamattre, Deputy City Attorney Janet Jackson. Commissioner Hudley-Hayes arrived at 3:13 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

PRESENTATIONS:

Paul Waters, Executive Director of L.A. Valley Pride, addressed the Board regarding their recent event and thanked the Department for its support.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT– None

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Minutes of September 18, 2006

MOTION ADOPTED (Hudley-Hayes/Tolentino): That the Minutes of the September 19, 2006 board meeting be approved as submitted.

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

B. [BFC 06-041-S] – Continued discussion and consideration of the Board of Fire Commissioners' Action Plan relative to the Fire Department audits. Stakeholder Workgroup policy recommendations relative to:

1. Proposed Charter Changes

No action taken

2. Leadership and Communication

No action taken

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3. Complaint and Disciplinary Process

Armando Hogan, representing the Stakeholders' Group, provided an update regarding the Stakeholder Meetings, specifically in regard to their progress in formulating a new disciplinary tracking system.

The following three items were presented for approval:

- As an interim measure, request the Personnel Department to loan four of its EEO professionals to serve as investigation resources for the LAFD, to advise and assist the Department in adequately addressing EEO issues that are investigated by the Bureau of Operations.
- As part of the interim measure described previously, direct the Department to develop of a cadre of Fire Captains to be trained and assigned to investigate EEO matters, working in conjunction with the four Personnel Department professionals.
- As part of long-term plan, direct the Department to hire four EEO civilian personnel, selected by a panel consisting of one stakeholder, the Department Personnel Director, the Commission's EEO Director, and one Department representative.

Ms. Jackson cautioned the Commission and staff that any changes must be reviewed by the City Attorney's office for legality.

A document has been drafted that describes the progress of the Group to date, and will be distributed throughout the Department once it is finalized.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Pat McOske of UFLAC addressed the Board to concur with Ms. Jackson's statement, and stated that it would be an unfair labor practice to implement changes in employee working conditions without a meet and confer process.

MOTION ADOPTED (Sotelo/Tolentino): To request that the Personnel Department loan the Fire Department EEO investigators as a resource to conduct investigations.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

MOTION ADOPTED (Hudley-Hayes/Tolentino): To direct the Department to develop a cadre of Captains to be trained and assigned to investigate EEO matters.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

MOTION POSTPONED (pending further discussion by the Stakeholders' Group, legal review, and resolution of meet and confer issues): Direct the Department to hire four EEO civilian personnel selected by a panel of one stakeholder, the Department

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Personnel Director, the Commission's EEO Director, and one Department representative.

4. Human Relations Issues

No action taken

5. Drill Tower Recruit Training Academy

No action taken

C. Board of Fire Commissioners Committee Reports:

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

- A. Informational report on emergency room and/or hospital closures; and, Fire Chief's correspondence dated October 10, 2006 to Department of Health Services, County of Los Angeles, regarding a Measure B Allocation Request [BFC 06-098].

Commissioner Furillo provided an update regarding the closures and its impact on the Department's EMS system. She will make a recommendation to the Board regarding the emergency room closures at a subsequent meeting when Dr. Eckstein is available to provide a brief summary and respond to inquiries. Chief Bamattre provided a summary of the Measure B Allocation Request. Commissioner Furillo stated that the EMS Five-Year Plan takes into account the probability of future ER closures.

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

- A. [BFC 06-096] HRDC Funding for Human Relations Training Section (HRTS)

Commissioner Sotelo referred to a report regarding the Committee's request for HRDC funding in the amount of \$209,000 and provided an update regarding Human Relations training. The Human Relations Commission (HRC) is moving forward with a recommendation that prior to adopting the \$209,000 budget for full-time personnel, an assessment of the previous 18 months' training take place and that the findings be incorporated into a strategic training plan to be reviewed by HRDC and forwarded to the Fire Commission. The HRC is requesting \$25,000 in HRDC funds to provide for a full-time assessment coordinator. Rabbi Frehling of the Human Relations addressed the Board and stated that the Human Relations Commission (HRC) will hire an independent assessor and attempt to report back to the Commission as soon as feasibly possible, but no later than four months from the hiring of the assessment coordinator.

MOTION ADOPTED (Sotelo/Tolentino): That the Board approve the allocation of \$25,000 in HRDC funds to the Human Relations Commission for the purpose of hiring an independent assessment coordinator, with a report back to the Commission within four months.

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0

B. [BFC 06-097] Ethnic Identification Report

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The report was distributed to the Commission and Commissioner Sotelo provided an overview of the report's statistics.

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

Commissioner Tolentino provided an update and stated that Committee is reviewing the Three Whole Score process, concerns raised by UFLAC, and the substance abuse policy.

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

Commissioner Hudley-Hayes provided an update and requested that the November 7th board meeting include a presentation by Dennis Bloemhof regarding a system to track and store data as part of a citywide effort to store non-confidential data. The MIS Section is also putting together the technological component for the disciplinary tracking system. Commissioner Sotelo stated that she requested assistance from the Department of Public Works to share the workings of their complaint tracking system with Department staff.

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

Commissioner Sotelo stated that the Committee developed a priority list consisting of \$11.2 million in additional funding requests. Discussion ensued regarding funding for training – budget vs. HRDC funds.

3. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Significant Incidents/Activities
Chief Bamattre provided an update regarding recent incidents.

B. Status report on assignments from the Board
A spreadsheet outlining current assignments was distributed. Chief Bamattre requested that the discussion of the Funeral Manual be taken at the Committee level. Chief Bercik was instructed by the Board to obtain dates of when the pending items on the assignment list will be presented to the Commission.

C. Status report on City Council/Committee issues relative to the LAFD
Chief Bercik provided a summary of Council and Committee items relating to the Department.

D. Status report on emergency preparedness activities

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Chief Bamattre and Commissioner Sotelo attended a conference to evaluate the City's response to a large scale incident.

E. Status report on Homeland Security issues

An Israeli delegation visited LAWA to examine security issues and procedures and a group of Israeli firefighters will visit the city in the next month or two to discuss and receive training in brushfire tactics.

(Out of order) – Commissioner Sotelo requested a closed session for the meeting of November 7th regarding pending EEO and disciplinary items.

4. OLD BUSINESS

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

Commissioner Sotelo requested that Commissioner Furillo collaborate with Chiefs Bamattre and Bercik regarding the drafting and distribution of a letter to the Controller's Office requesting a meeting between LAFD and Controller's staff to reconcile discrepancies in the estimated cost of civilianizing certain positions in OCD, as outlined in the audit.

B. Continued discussion and consideration of the LAFD Emergency Vehicle Operating Procedure.

Chief Bamattre provided an overview of the most recent revisions.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Pat McOsker of UFLAC stated that he questioned the need for a policy change. UFLAC does not support the new proposed policy and called for a collaborative process in developing the revised policy.

Janet Jackson stated that the Liability Section reviewed the policy and approved the recommended revisions.

MOTION NOT PASSED (Tolentino/Friedman): That the Board adopt the proposed Emergency Vehicle Operating Procedure for a six-month pilot program.

AYES: 2 NAYS: 3

A motion by Commissioner Friedman that the previous motion be adopted with the added language that the Procedure "receive City Attorney review and approval" failed to receive a second.

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5. ACTIVITIES/EVENTS/MEETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pertinent documents distributed.

6. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Technology presentation; closed session; pending assignments; EMS presentation re: ER closures.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

5:15 p.m. (Hudley-Hayes/Sotelo)

ATTEST:

DALILA T. SOTELO
President

LISA SHINSATO
Commission Executive Assistant I

Date:

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.