

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2008**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners convened at 1:40 p.m. in the Fire Commission Meeting Room, City Hall East, 200 N. Main Street, Los Angeles.

Present: President Genethia Hudley-Hayes, Vice President Casimiro Tolentino, Commissioners Diana Bontá, Jill Furillo and Andrew Friedman. Fire Chief Douglas Barry and Deputy City Attorney Janet Jackson.

The flag salute was followed by a moment of silence in honor of past and present members of the Los Angeles Fire Department who devote their lives to the protection of the community.

I. PUBLIC HEARING

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

2. [BFC 07-114] - Fire Chief's transmittal dated October 25, 2007, submitting approval of a reduction of the Brush Administrative Cost Fee.

Recommendation: Approve the Department's report and recommendations.

Discussion: Commissioner Friedman discussed the permit service fee and cost recovery process, which requires various newspaper publications and City Council approval. It was noted that the annual fee review is generally conducted in April or May and that a subsequent report on the administrative fee is forthcoming. Commissioner Friedman said that given the City's budgetary constraints, it seemed sensible to return the report so that the reduction could be incorporated into the annual report thereby reducing the cost of publication and staff time, the Board concurred. Commissioner Friedman made a **MOTION** (Friedman/Tolentino): That the proposed reduction schedule be incorporated into the annual review and that staff forwards one comprehensive fee schedule next month for the Board's consideration. **ADOPTED:** AYES - 5 NAYS - 0.

II. REGULAR AGENDA

1. PUBLIC COMMENT- Non-agenda items within jurisdiction of the Board.

Robert McMaster provided comments relative a personnel disciplinary matter.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Minutes - Regular Meeting of December 18, 2007.

MOTION (Furillo/Friedman): The Board adopted the minutes as corrected.

ADOPTED: AYES - 4 (No vote registered for Commissioner Bontá, she was appointed to the Board on December 19th)

B. Board of Fire Commissioners Committee Reports:

1. Verbal status report from the Emergency Medical Services Committee (Furillo/Friedman).

(Considered jointly with Item 4.D. Emergency Medical Services Plan)

Commissioner Furillo reported on the business considered by the Committee at their last meeting. She said that the Board's letter to the County Board of Supervisors regarding the hospital closures is being prepared and will be forwarded this week.

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Battalion Chief Ernst, Emergency Medical Services Section, provided a status report on the hospital closure impacts to LAFD resources and budget. He provided a summary of the objectives and up-to-date implementation resources outlined in the five-year EMS Plan. He discussed the fiscal constrain impacts on current EMS resources and the anticipated affect on the implementation of additional resources. The matter was opened for discussion and questions from the Board. Commissioner Furillo requested that the EMS workgroup analyze the budget cuts to the EMS Plan and determine what fiscal impact it would have on efficiency and resources.

2. Verbal status report from the Personnel/Employee Relations Committee. (Tolentino/Hudley-Hayes).

Commissioner Tolentino reported that the Personnel Department met with the Committee relative to the recruitment and selection process questions carried over from the last Board meeting; the Committee continued the matter for further discussion. He said that the Committee continues its review of the disciplinary guidelines and training, and that they would also be discussing the impacts that the budget deficit would have on recruitment and other programs outlined in the audit implementation plan.

President Hudley-Hayes introduced Commissioner Diana Bontá who was recently appointed to serve on the Fire Commission. Commissioner Bontá provided a summary of her qualifications and objectives for serving her tenure as a Board member.

3. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Events/Meetings/Announcements:

1. [BFC 08-009] – Calendar of Events.

Fire Chief Barry reported on the events that he attended since the last meeting and referenced the LAFD calendar of events.

- B. Significant Incidents/Activities:

1. Verbal report - Significant Incidents/Activities for the period of February 1, 2008 through February 5, 2008.

Deputy Chief Rueda, Bureau of Emergency Services, provided information on the increased call load that resulted from the rain and the deployment activities that were put in place to handle the weather changes. The Department's public educational program relative to flooding and preparedness were briefly discussed.

2. Significant Incident/Activities Summary reports:
 - a. [BFC 08-002] - December 17, 2007 through January 7, 2008.
 - b. [BFC 08-003] - January 7 through January 14, 2008.
 - c. [BFC 08-010] - January 14 through January 21, 2008.
 - d. [BFC 08-012] - January 22 through January 28, 2008.

Recommendation: Receive and File

The reports were received and filed.

- C. Verbal report on the disposition of LAFD matters considered by or referred to City Council/Committees during the period of December 18, 2007 through January 15, 2008.

(Items 3.C., 4.B., 4.C. and 5.A. were considered jointly.) Fire Chief Barry provided a summary of the Public Safety and Audits and Governmental Efficiency Joint meeting of January 14th were various audit related recommendations were discussed. He said that follow up discussion on the Professional Standards Division status and response to the Personnel Department report

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would be scheduled before the joint committee on February 25th. Chief Barry reported that the Audit Implementation Plan status report would be concise, addressing the 21 recommendations of the Controller and Personnel Department's audits. The report will be forwarded to the Stakeholders for review at their February 11th meeting then forwarded to the Board. In relation to the Controller's Office follow up audit, Chief Barry reported that the Department has responded and provided relevant documentation. The Controller's follow up review will take approximately two to three months.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chris Mattson provided verbal comments on measures of success.

- D. Verbal update on the transition from the California Community Foundation to the LAFD Foundation for donations to the Fire Department.

Battalion Chief Villanueva reported that the commencement target date for the new process is March and that additional information would be available at a subsequent Board meeting.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Continued discussion of the Fire Chief's report dated December 10, 2007 on the Playa Vista-Phase I Residential Development Project/City's oversight responsibilities and requirements [BFC 07-146].

PUBLIC COMMENT: Correspondence dated December 27, 2007 from the Grassroots Coalition relative to the Playa Vista-Phase I Residential Development Project.

Fire Chief Barry reported that Department staff had to request clarification from the Grassroots Coalition representative on several issues and that the Department is in the process of drafting a response to the organization. Deputy City Attorney Jackson indicated that no further Board oversight is necessary on this matter because it is now under the jurisdiction of the City Council and City Attorney. The Board concurred with Ms. Jackson's assessment and directed for the report to be received and filed.

- B. Verbal status report on the Fire Department Audit Strategic Implementation Plan.

(Taken out of order.) Considered jointly with Item 3.C . City Council/Committees.

- C. Verbal status report on the Professional Standards Division.

(Taken out of order) Considered jointly with Item 3.C . City Council/Committees.

- D. Verbal status report on the Five Year (2007-2012) Emergency Medical Services Plan [BFC 06-092/08-016].

(Taken out of order) Considered jointly with Item 2.B.1. Emergency Medical Services Committee.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Communication from City Controller dated December 10, 2007 requesting an Audit Entrance Conference [BFC 08-013].

(Taken out of order.) Considered jointly with Item 3.C . City Council/Committees.

- B. Status report on the LAFD Information Portal Evaluation Program [BFC 08-014].

Battalion Chief Thompson provided a summary on the audit recommendation component (leadership and communication) that initiated the development of the program application. He outlined what information would be accessible through the LAFD Information Portal. Dennis Bloemhof, Director of Systems, clarified the differences between the portal and the community notification system.

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- C. Informational report relative to unregulated housing such as garages and substandard buildings [BFC 08-015].

Deputy Chief Hill provided an overview of the enforcement and educational programs that are in place to help mitigate illegal housing. He explained the residential enforcement responsibility, which is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Building and Safety. The matter was opened for discussion and questions from the Board.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

MOTION (Furillo/Tolentino): That the Board adopts the consent items as recommended.

ADOPTED: AYES - 5 NAYS – 0

- A. [BFC 08-008] - Fire Chief's transmittal dated January 15, 2008, submitting the Monthly Financial Status Report for November/December 2007.
Recommendation: Receive and File
- B. [BFC 08-011] - Fire Chief's transmittal dated January 29, 2008, requesting acceptance of a donation (gift cards to Ralph's Grocery Store) in the amount of \$5000.00 from Mr. Steven Spielberg
Recommendation: Approve the Department's report and recommendations.

7. ITEMS CALLED SPECIAL

None.

8. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

President Hudley-Hayes requested that a progress report on the LAFD Information Portal Evaluation Program be provided at a subsequent meeting. She suggested that the Technology Committee meet in March to review the data collection system progress and that they forward an update on the status of IT projects to the Board.

Vice President Tolentino requested that a Stakeholders' update be provided at the March 4th meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. (Tolentino/Bontá)

ATTEST BY:

GENETHIA HUDLEY-HAYES
President

BLANCA GOMEZ-REVELLES
Commission Executive Assistant II

Date: February 19, 2008

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.