

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners convened at 9:10 a.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.

PRESENTATION – Firefighter/Paramedic John Keyes was acknowledged for his service and presented with the first LAFD Bagpiper Badge.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Mattson provided commented on a personnel disciplinary matter.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Minutes - Regular Meeting of February 19, 2008.

MOTION (Tolentino/Friedman): That the Board adopts the minutes as submitted.

ADOPTED: AYES - 5 NAYS – 0

3. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Events/Meetings/Announcements:

1. [BFC 08-028] – Calendar of Events.

Fire Chief Barry reported having attended several Department events and referenced the LAFD calendar of events. Commissioner Friedman reported that the Fire Chief and other public safety officials were honored at the Hatzloah Award Ceremony. In response to Commissioner Tolentino's inquiries, Commissioner Friedman requested that an overview of the Hatzolah EMS Program be provided at the April 1st Board meeting.

B. Significant Incidents/Activities:

1. Verbal report - Significant Incidents/Activities for the period of March 14 through March 18, 2008.

Deputy Chief Rueda, Bureau of Emergency Services, provided information on recent emergency incidents. He reported that Engine 94 responded to an emergency call and was fired upon; LAPD conducted a criminal investigation and arrested a suspect. Discussion ensued on the unexpected financial impact that violent crime (shootings, gang activity, etc.) and special events (academy awards, large funerals, etc.) have upon the Department's resources and budget. The Board questioned if statistical data would demonstrate the correlation and impact on LAFD response and resources. The matter was referred to the Fire Commission Personnel/Employee Relations Committee.

2. [BFC 08-029] - Significant Incident Summary report for the period of February 25 through March 3, 2008.

Recommendation: Receive and File

The report was received and filed.

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3. [BFC 08-030] - Significant Incident Summary report for the period of March 3 through March 10, 2008.

Recommendation: Receive and File

The report was received and filed.

- C. Verbal report on the disposition of LAFD matters considered by or referred to City Council/Committees during the period of February 19 through March 18, 2008.

Assistant Chief Yamahata reported that implementation of an LAFD false alarm fee is being considered by Council. He said that the Audits and Governmental Efficiency Committee would be reviewing the Office of Finance report on LAFD's billing and collection operation; and, Council would be reviewing a request to write-off \$172,000 of LAFD's uncollectible fees for the period of 1991 to 2005. Commissioner Friedman suggested that the Department also look into the possibility of implementing an EMS service fee for patients that are treated but not transported. President Hudley-Hayes expressed concern that the Board was not provided an opportunity to review or made aware of the three items transmitted to Council. She instructed that the matter be placed on the next agenda for full discussion and that the Department provides a complete report.

- D. Verbal report on the disposition of the Fire Department Budget:

1. Fiscal Year 2007-08
2. Proposed - Fiscal Year 2008-09

Fire Administrator Georgia Mattera reported that the blue budget book had not been released and therefore, there was no significant information to report. Ms. Mattera indicated that the budget schedule would probably not allow sufficient time for the Board to review the changes. President Hudley-Hayes indicated that if there were radical changes made to the LAFD budget, the Board would consider scheduling a special meeting to review the budget analysis and help make recommendations.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. [BFC 08-026] - Fire Chief's transmittal dated March 10, 2008, submitting the Fire Department 2008 Audit Implementation Plan – Response to the City Controller and Personnel Department Management Audit of 2006.

Recommendation: Approve the Department's report and recommendations.

Chief Barry indicated that the report was a culmination of collaborated work by many people and thanked those that contributed to the development of the plan. He provided a perspective of the recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chris Mattson commented on the goals of the complaint and disciplinary process found on page 25 of the report.

The matter was opened for discussion and questions from the Board. Commissioner Friedman would like to review an LAFD and LA County Fire Department comparison of represented class (i.e. gender, ethnicity); and a six-month analysis of founded racial discrimination complaints or types found in the audit to determine if there is a decrease in complaints processed by the Professional Standards Division. Chief Barry explained that with the separation of the EEO unit there have been more complaints filed because employees have gained more confidence in the process, which is addressing the complaints quickly and resolving them before they turn into full blown investigations. President Hudley-Hayes indicated that she is pleased that issues are being

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resolved in a timely manner and the Department is meeting the needs of its members. She requested a follow up report so that the Board can review the data. Commissioner Tolentino would like to see a strategic action step added to the audit implementation plan that summarizes the efforts made on the adding of a civilian as part of the Board of Rights. Chief Barry indicated that the Department would continue its implementation efforts and provide quarterly progress reports to the Board. President Hudley-Hayes would like to see the fiscal-crisis impact factored in to the Department's plan because funding will have an affect on the implementation of some goals. **MOTION** (Friedman/Tolentino): That the Board adopts the Department's report and recommendations. **ADOPTED:** AYES - 5 NAYS – 0

5. NEW BUSINESS - CONSENT ITEMS

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

ADOPTED: AYES - 5 NAYS – 0

- A. [BFC 08-027] - Fire Chief's transmittal dated March 11, 2008, submitting travel report for March through May 2008.
Recommendation: Receive and File.

6. ITEMS CALLED SPECIAL

None.

7. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Overview of Hatzolah Program.
- Proposed false alarm fee.
- Uncollectible LAFD accounts considered by City Council on 3/19/08.
- Office of Finance report relative to LAFD billing and collections to be considered by Audits and Governmental efficiency Committee on 3/19/08.
- Measures of success regarding complaints.
- LAFD and LACFD ethnic and gender comparison.
- EMS Committee review of the EMS Summit.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m. (Furillo/Tolentino)

ATTEST BY:

GENETHIA HUDLEY-HAYES
President

BLANCA GOMEZ-REVELLES
Commission Executive Assistant II

Date: April 1, 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.