

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 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 and Andrew Friedman. Fire Chief Douglas Barry and Deputy City Attorney Janet Jackson. Absent: Commissioner Jill Furillo

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.

The Board commiserated on the tragic loss of Firefighter Brent Lovrien. They conversed on the memorial service that was a tribute and celebration of Firefighter Lovrien's life.

- **PRESENTATION** - Metro Transit Security staff was acknowledged for their important contribution and partnership with the Fire Department.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Discussion on the progress of the Fire Department's reforms.

B. Verbal report on the measure of success regarding complaints.

(Items A. and B. were considered jointly.) Fire Chief Barry provided an update on the progress of the audit implementation goals. The matter was opened for discussion and questions from the Board. Deputy Chief Fox provided a progress report on recruitment and the hiring process. The Board requested that follow up information of several issues be provided, including Professional Standards Division staffing and training resources; the new complaints process and how the information is communicated to the field staff; recruitment, selection and criteria processes; proposed hiring changes and staffing needs. The reports will be channeled through Fire Commission Personnel Committee prior to submission to the Board.

C. Fire Commission - Budget Ad Hoc Committee.

President Hudley-Hayes reinstated the Budget Ad Hoc Committee. She indicated that she would Chair the committee and appointed Commissioner Bontá to co-chair.

3. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Events/Meetings/Announcements:

1. [BFC 08-042] – Calendar of Events.

Fire Chief Barry reported on the recent Department events and activities. He provided information on the memorial services of Firefighter Lovrien and Captain Thomas Dowling. Vice President Tolentino indicated that he had attended the memorial service for Captain Dowling. He recognized Captain's Dowling accomplishments and expressed his sorrow to the Department for their loss of another member. Chief Barry announced the passing of another

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employee, Senior Systems Specialist Mike Nares and provided funeral details. He requested that the meeting be adjourned in memory of Mr. Nares and Captain Dowling.

B. Significant Incidents/Activities:

1. Verbal report - Significant Incidents/Activities for the period of April 11 through April 15, 2008.

Assistant Chief Fulmus, Bureau of Emergency Services, provided a summary on a fire incident that occurred at 6030 Wilshire.

2. [BFC 08-041] - Significant Incident Summary report for the period of March 25 through March 31, 2008.

Recommendation: Receive and File

The report was received and filed.

1. [BFC 08-049] - Significant Incident Summary report for the period of April 1 through April 7, 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 April 2 through April 15, 2008.

Assistant Chief Yamahata, Chief of Staff, reported that Council took action to support AB 2737. If the bill passes, it would enhance existing laws on blood and bodily fluid exposure requirements to further protect the safety of peace officers, firefighters and emergency medical employees. He said that the City is proposing modifying the Ordinance regarding vacated fire station proceeds. The change would transfer funds from the Fire Department to the General Fund. He reported that Councilmember LaBonge would be sponsoring an LAFD brush fire and evacuation informational video for distribution to his council district residents. The Department is scheduled before the Budget and Finance Committee on Monday, April 28th to evaluate the proposed Fire Department budget.

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

Fire Chief Barry indicated that the Mayor referenced civilian lay-offs in his State of the City Address and that the impact to the Fire Department is unknown until the Budget is made available on April 21st.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. [BFC 08-045] - Fire Chief's transmittal dated April 8, 2008, submitting a proposed revision to Board Resolution No. 732 - Fire Line Passes.

Recommendation: Approve the report and recommendations.

Captain Hogan, Public Information Office, provide an overview of the report. The matter was opened for discussion and questions from the Board. Commissioner Tolentino reminded Captain Hogan that the Board previously requested quarterly reports on this matter and they had not receive the first report. **MOTION** (Friedman/Tolentino): That the Board approves the report and recommendations. **ADOPTED**: AYES - 4 NAYS – 0 (Absent – Furillo)

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5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. [BFC 08-043] – Transmittal dated April 8, 2008, from Bea Lopez, Commission Office, requesting approval of the revised Discrimination Prevention Policy Handbook (Book 90).

Recommendation: Approve the report and recommendations.

Bea Lopez provided an overview of the report changes. The matter was opened for discussion and questions from the Board. The Commission directed that corrections be made to the report and that it be returned back to the Board for further consideration. Chief Barry indicated that his staff was not provided the opportunity to review the document and requested that the matter be continued. **MOTION** (Friedman/Tolentino): That the changes discussed today are made; and, that the matter be continued to allow further review of the report so that any additional corrections submitted by Commissioners or the Fire Chief can be incorporate into the document.

ADOPTED: AYES - 4 NAYS – 0 (Absent: Furillo)

- B. Verbal report on the LAFD Explorer Program - services and programs provided by the Learning for Life and its affiliate organizations.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Paul Waters, Executive Director, Valley Pride, commented in support of the vote to disassociate the LAFD Explorer Program from Learning for Life. He offered to help with the resources to successfully transition the program.

Battalion Chief Reynar, LAFD Youth Development Program Coordinator, provided an overview of the Learning for Life's program and services provided to the Explorer Program. The matter was opened for discussion and questions from the Board. Commissioner Friedman questioned the legality of the Board taking action on the matter as agendized. City Attorney Jackson agreed that a vote would not be appropriate because the action to be taken by the Board was not specific enough. The vote on disassociation from Learning for Life was continued to May 6th. President Hudley-Hayes requested that City Attorney Jackson follow up on the Board's request of April 1st for a legal opinion regarding the legal separation between Learning for Life and Boy Scouts of America.

- C. [BFC 08-044] - Fire Chief's transmittal dated April 8, 2008, requesting authorization to begin the 2007 Brush Clearance Appeals Process and approval to hire the following hearing officers to conduct appeals on behalf of the Board of Fire Commissioners:

1) Janice Iving, 2) David Shapiro 3) Paula Petrotta (alternate hearing officer)

Recommendation: Approve the report and recommendations.

The matter was opened for discussion and questions from the Board. At the conclusion of discussion, the Board determined that a comprehensive report was essential. They instructed that a subsequent report addressing their questions and concerns be resubmitted for consideration at the next meeting. The matter was continued to May 6th.

6. ITEMS REQUIRING PUBLIC HEARING

Items A, B and C were considered jointly. The Board briefly discussed the process of fee calculation. They instructed the Department to provide follow up information and to make sure that the appropriate interest groups and associations are notified of the proposed increases.

MOTION (Friedman/Tolentino): That the Board directs the Commission Executive Assistant to schedule a public hearing (May 6, 2008) and publish the appropriate notices regarding the fee enactment. **ADOPTED:** AYES - 4 NAYS – 0 (Absent: Furillo)

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- A. [BFC 08-046] - Fire Chief's transmittal dated April 9, 2008, submitting a request for approval to modify the method of fee calculation and authorize an increase of the High-Rise Building Annual Inspection and Permit Fee. Change of the following:
1. Amendment to the Los Angeles Municipal Code (L.A.M.C.) Section 57.119.
 - a. Modify the method of determining costs from salaries with fringe benefits to total costs including salaries and indirect costs.
 - b. Include charging fees for inspection of high-rise residential apartments and condominiums.
 2. High-Rise Building Annual Inspection and Permit Fee Increases:
 - a. Building inspection rate to \$0.0131 per square foot of building area (+18 percent).
 - b. Garage inspection rate to \$0.0066 per square foot of garage area (+18 percent).
 - c. Base building fee of \$900 for all high-rise buildings including vacant and/or partially vacant buildings.
- Recommendation: The Board directs the Commission Executive Assistant to schedule a Board of Fire Commissioners public hearing and publish the required notices relative to the proposed fee enactment.
- B. [BFC 08-047] - Fire Chief's transmittal dated April 8, 2008 submitting the Fiscal Year 2008-09 Unified Program Fee Adjustment report. Change of the following fees:
1. Unified Program (L.A.M.C., Section 57.14.10C) – increase 10% (Attachment 1).
- Recommendation: The Board directs the Commission Executive Assistant to schedule a Board of Fire Commissioners public hearing and publish the required notices relative to the proposed fee enactment.
- C. [BFC 08-048] - Fire Chief's transmittal dated April 8, 2008 submitting the Fiscal Year 2008-09 Annual Cost of Special Services Fee Adjustment report. Change of the following fees:
1. Continuing Permit Activities (L.A.M.C., Section 57.04.12C) – 5% decrease (Attachment A).
 2. Non-Continuing Permit Activities and Emergency Inspections (L.A.M.C., Sections 57.05.31 and 57.05.32) – 5% decrease (Attachment B).
 3. Miscellaneous Fees (L.A.M.C., Sections 57.01.28, 57.01.30, 57.05.14, 57.05.15 and 57.06.15) - 5% decrease (Attachment C).
 4. Brush Administrative Cost Fee (L.A.M.C., Section 57.21.07) - increase from \$982 to \$1026.
- Recommendation: The Board directs the Commission Executive Assistant to schedule a Board of Fire Commissioners public hearing and publish the required notices relative to the proposed fee enactment.

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7. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

In addition to follow up information as discussed and directed by the Board during the meeting, the Board requested follow up information on the Vacated Fire Station Fund proposed changes be forwarded to them.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m. in memory of Captain Thomas Dowling and Senior Systems Specialist Mike Nares who gave exemplary service to the City of Los Angeles.
(Tolentino/Friedman)

ATTEST BY:

GENETHIA HUDLEY-HAYES
President

BLANCA GOMEZ-REVELLES
Commission Executive Assistant II

Date: May 20, 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.