

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 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.

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**2. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

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

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

**ADOPTED:** AYES - 5 NAYS – 0

B. Discussion on the progress of the Fire Department's reform (Friedman).

(Taken out of order) - Commissioner Friedman explained that a full report on the strategic implementation reforms as it pertains to the audit plan was presented at the last Board meeting. However, that he would like this issue as a standing item on the agenda, so that discussion can be conducted as it becomes necessary. President Hudley-Hayes concurred and noted that in light of the City's fiscal crisis, it is important to keep the Board and the public informed of the audit reforms that are significantly impacted by lack of funding. She requested that updates on the Professional Standards Division also be provided to the Board on a regular basis. Chief Barry reported that the Department's audit implementation report had been forwarded to City Council for their review.

C. Board request for LAFD ethnic and gender data comparisons with that of other municipalities (Friedman/Hudley-Hayes).

(Taken out of order) – The Board requested that Department staff provide data comparisons between LAFD and other fire departments that have similar demographics.

**3. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

(Taken out of order)

A. Events/Meetings/Announcements:

1. [BFC 08-028] – Calendar of Events.

Fire Chief Barry reported on the recent Department events and activities. He referenced the LAFD calendar of events for the month of April.

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B. Significant Incidents/Activities:

1. Verbal report - Significant Incidents/Activities for the period of March 28 through April 1, 2008.

Fire Chief Barry and Deputy Chief Rueda, Bureau of Emergency Services, provided information on the March 26th explosion that occurred at the 8800 block of Sepulveda Boulevard. The incident resulted in a firefighter fatality and injury. The matter was opened for discussion and questions from the Board. Councilmember Tom LaBonge, Council District 4, expressed his condolences on the loss of Firefighter Brent Lovrein and offered assistance with the funeral arrangements. Councilmember LaBonge suggested that the Fire Commission consider a joint meeting with the DWP Board to discuss infrastructure technology and solutions. President Hudley-Hayes requested a follow up report on the finding of the incident, including preventive provisions that will avoid a similar occurrence.

2. [BFC 08-035] - Significant Incident Summary report for the period of March 18 through March 24, 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 March 19 through April 1, 2008.

None.

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

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

Fire Chief Barry indicated that the blue budget book had not been released and therefore, there was no significant information to report. Fire Administrator Georgia Mattera reported that the Mayor's budget would be released on April 21<sup>st</sup> and that the department's analysis is due on April 22<sup>nd</sup> to the Budget and Finance Committee. The matter was opened for discussion and questions from the Board. President Hudley-Hayes expressed concern with the budget schedule, which does not allow sufficient time for the Board to review the budget changes. Commissioner Furillo suggested that the Board schedule a special meeting to review the budget analysis and provide assistance to the Department with its recommendations.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Overview of the Hatzolah of Los Angeles emergency response program.

Mr. Zvika Brenner and Mr. Ari Friedman, Hatzolah representatives, gave a presentation on the services offered by the agency and discussed program details with the Board. **MOTION** (Hudley-Hayes/Bontá): That the Board issues a Resolution to the organization and acknowledges them in the community. **ADOPTED:** AYES - 4 RECUSAL – 1 (Commissioner Friedman)

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B. [BFC 08-037/CF 08-0292] - Status report on the request to write-off uncollectible Fire Department fees for the period 1991 to 2006 in the amount of \$172,273.35. Fire Administrator Mattera explained the City's write-off process. She indicated that in the future, uncollectible fees over \$1000 would be forwarded to the Board prior to forwarding to the City's Board of Review. The matter was opened for discussion and questions from the Board.

C. [BFC 08-038/CF 07-1875-S1] - Status reports on the review of the Fire Department's billing and collections operation by the Office of Finance. Ms. Mattera provided an overview of the process and reviewed the report with the Board. She explained that a proposed process change is forthcoming but that any changes must be made through an Ordinance. The matter was opened for discussion and questions from the Board. In response to discussion of the reduction in ambulance reimbursement fees from the State, Commissioner Furillo said that she would like the Board to go on record opposing State cuts on medical reimbursement of services and begin lobbying efforts against fee reductions. The issue will be agendized for consideration at the future meeting. Commissioner Bontá requested that the agenda item be broad enough to discuss overall State cuts and impact on other services. President Hudley-Hayes would like the connection between the ordinance and fees explained further. Ms. Mattera indicated that she would provide a report to the Board at a future meeting.

D. [BFC 08-039/CF 07-3262] - Status report on the City Council Motion regarding false fire alarm fees and actions to be taken by the Fire Department to decrease false alarm calls. Chief Barry reported that the Department's report is forthcoming. Commissioner Friedman indicated that he is familiar with the Police Department's process and would like to see the Fire Department copy that procedure.

**6. CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. [BFC 08-036] - Fire Chief's transmittal dated March 24, 2008, submitting a donation of Costco gift cards in the amount of \$2,100.00 from the Crenshaw Christian Center for distribution to Battalion 13 fire stations.

Recommendation: Approve the Department's report and recommendations.

**MOTION** (Furillo/Bontá): That the Board adopts the consent items as recommended. **ADOPTED:**  
AYES - 5 NAYS - 0

**7. ITEMS CALLED SPECIAL**

None.

**8. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A report on the relationship of the Fire Explorer Program with the Learning for Life organization.
- Tentative Special Budget Meeting - April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Fire Chief Barry requested that the Board of Fire Commissioners' meeting be adjourned in memory of Firefighter Brent Lovrien who lost his life during his service to the City of Los Angeles. A moment of silence in memory of Firefighter Lovrien was observed.

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**9. CLOSED SESSION**

At 10:40 a.m., Deputy City Attorney Jackson indicated that the Board would convene in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a) to confer with Legal Counsel on the litigation cases described under item 9. Closed Session.

- A. 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 case:
1. Magee v. City of Los Angeles, Case No. TC 020997
  2. Sawyer v. City of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 353505
  3. Bressler, Lee, Mellinger v. City of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 336783
  4. Cappon v. City of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 365046
  5. Fisher v. City of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 355988
  6. Hix v. City of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 361005
  7. Katz v. City of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 365832
  8. Burton and Tohill v. City of Los Angeles, Case No. BC 359875

The meeting was called back in open session at approximately 11:49 a.m. Deputy City Attorney Jackson reported that NO ACTION was taken in closed session.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m. in memory of Firefighter Brent Lovrien who lost his life during his service to the City of Los Angeles. (Tolentino/Friedman)

ATTEST BY:

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GENETHIA HUDLEY-HAYES  
President

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BLANCA GOMEZ-REVELLES  
Commission Executive Assistant II

Date: May 6, 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.