

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners convened at 9:05 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, Andrew Friedman and Jill Furillo. 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. ITEMS NOTICED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

B. [BFC 08-123] - Fire Chief's transmittal dated August 11, 2008, submitting a request for approval to amend the Los Angeles Municipal Code (L.A.M.C.), Chapter 5, Article 7, Division 15, Construction and Plan Check Inspection Services - Modify Section 57.04.12C the provisions for review and fee calculation (as noted in draft ordinance):

1. Include provision and modification of the fees based on L.A.M.C. Section 57.04.1, Subsection C.
2. Construction and Plan Check Inspection Services - increase hourly rate from \$121 to \$150.
3. Expedite and/or Off-Hour Fee – Rate \$77 per hour
4. Construction and Plan Review Inspection Services minimum charges as follows:
 - a. Fire/Life Safety Plan Review Fee – increase minimum charge of 3 hours from \$121 minimum to \$450 minimum
 - b. Additional Inspection and Reinspection Fee – increase minimum charge of 1-hour from \$121 per hour to \$150 per hour.
 - c. Expedite Fire/Life Safety Plan Review Fee and Off-Hour Inspection Fees is minimum charge of 4-hours or \$308 and \$77 per hour thereafter.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the report and recommendations.

Commissioner Bontá indicated that her employer Kaiser Permanente has buildings that require inspections from the Fire Department and requested a legal opinion from Deputy City Attorney Jackson that no conflict existed. Ms. Jackson opined that no conflict of interest existed.

MOTION (Furillo/Tolentino): That the Board approves the report and recommendations.

ADOPTED: AYES - 5 NAYS – 0

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

Troy Westbrook, Stentorians, commented on his concerns regarding the disciplinary process.

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3. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 16, 2008.

MOTION (Bontá/Friedman): That the Board approves the minutes as submitted.

ADOPTED: AYES - 5 NAYS – 0

- B. [BFC 08-143] - Motion (Tolentino/Hudley-Hayes) relative to consolidation of the Human Relations Development Committee (HRDC) and Employee Relations/Personnel Committee.

Recommendation: That the Board adopts the necessary action relative to the consolidation of the two committees.

Vice President Tolentino indicated that the Motion was a technical formality to ensure that the Board's Standing Rules are compliant. **MOTION** (Tolentino/Hudley-Hayes): That the Board approves the Motion as submitted. **ADOPTED:** AYES - 5 NAYS – 0

- C. Announcements/Meetings/Events.

None.

4. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Items A. and B. considered jointly.

- A. Announcements/Meetings/Events.

- B. [BFC 08-144] – Calendar of Events.

Recommendation: Receive and File

Fire Chief Barry reported having attended the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony last weekend. He provided information on the upcoming events, including the Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service and Brent Lovrien Memorial; both events are scheduled on October 11th.

- C. Significant Incidents/Activities:

1. Verbal report - Significant Incidents/Activities for the period of October 3 through October 7, 2008.

Deputy Chief Rueda, Bureau of Emergency Services, provided information on a variety of events that occurred in the downtown area. He indicated the number of events in the downtown area have increased and subsequently are requiring additional LAFD resources. Concerns regarding the budgetary impacts that the additional resources have on the Department were discussed.

2. [BFC 08-145] - Significant Incident Summary report for the period of September 22 through September 29, 2008.

Recommendation: Receive and File

The report was received and filed.

- D. Verbal report on the disposition of LAFD matters considered by or referred to City Council/Committees during the period of ~~October 3~~ September 17 through October 7, 2008.

Recommendation: That the Board provides instruction to staff and adopts any necessary action relative to the LAFD matters considered by or referred to City Council/Committee during the reporting period.

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Assistant Chief Yamahata, Chief of Staff, indicated that a status report on the Audit Implementation Plan was provided to the Joint Meeting of Public Safety/Audits and Governmental Efficiency Committee on September 22nd and also to the Audits and Governmental Efficiency Committee on October 1st. He said that the Budget and Finance Committee approved the ambulance transport fee increase report and had transmitted it to Council; a Council Motion was introduced regarding a collection sheriff to handle the City's uncollectible accounts, including ambulance billing. The proposed collection process was discussed. Commissioner Hudley-Hayes requested that the Office of Finance be invited to explain the process on the contractual obligation and that an analysis of cost exemptions be provided.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Verbal status report regarding the LAFD Explorer Program annual re-charter activities with Learning for Life and the revised youth development program.
Recommendation: That the Board provides instruction to staff and adopts any necessary action to ensure that the LAFD youth program transitions without interruption of service.

President Hudley-Hayes provided an overview of the progress made by Learning for Life (LFL) to comply with the Board's prior request. Mr. David Tomblin, President of LFL, provided an overview of the organization's non-discrimination policies, procedures and practices. He outlined the changes made by LFL since the May Board Meeting to address, correct and reinforce their commitment to diversity and the LGBT community. Mr. Tomblin said that LFL values the 30-year partnership with the City of Los Angeles and is committed to expanding their program to reflect the diversity of the community. He requested an extension to continue the work between the LFL and LGBT. President Hudley-Hayes indicated that LFL has demonstrated their commitment to change and supports an extension beyond the October 1st date previously set by the Board. However, that the Department is to move forward with the Board's prior direction. The matter was opened for discussion. **MOTION** (Hudley-Hayes): That the Board provides LFL an opportunity to continue with their changes until December 16th. (*or the 1st meeting thereafter*) and direct the Department to continue moving forward with the alternate planning for the Explorer Program. Commissioner Friedman Moved to insert the phrase "or the 1st meeting thereafter" after "in December." There being no objections, the Motion was amended and Seconded by Commissioner Friedman. **ADOPTED** (5/0).

- B. [BFC 08-147] - Audit Implementation Plan, Accomplishments Update Report - Third Quarter 2008.

Recommendation: Receive and File

Fire Chief Barry provided an overview of the report. The matter was opened for discussion and questions from the Board. Assistant Chief Terrazas provided an overview of the training program. President Hudley-Hayes indicated that she required further clarification on several issues and would forward her questions to the Fire Chief. She requested that a written response be submitted for the November Board meeting.

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6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. [BFC 08-131] – Emergency Medical Services (RFP 2007-38-001 / BFC 07-080) Field Data Capture System and Emergency Medical Services System – Approval of the selection recommendations and authorization to enter into contract negotiation with:
1. SANSIO for field data capture system
 2. ADVANCED DATA PROCESSING, INC. for ambulance billing and collections system.
 3. Alternate vendors: IMAGE TREND and/or ACCORDIS

Recommendation: That the Board approves the report and recommendations.

President Hudley-Hayes provided an overview of issues discussed at a meeting with the ITA, CAO and Office of Finance staff. She said that she is confident that the Department has met its obligation regarding a cost benefit analysis and due diligence by inviting the other Departments to participate in the process; she supports moving forward to contract negotiations. Dennis Bloemhof, Director of Systems, provided an overview of the RFP process. The matter was opened for discussion and questions from the Board. **MOTION** (Tolentino/Furillo): That the Board approves the report and recommendation. **ADOPTED**: AYES - 5 NAYS – 0

7. NEW BUSINESS – CONSENT ITEMS

- A. [BFC 08-146] - Fire Department Statistics for Second Quarter 2008

Recommendation: Receive and File

The report was received and filed.

8. ITEMS CALLED SPECIAL

None.

9. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

(Out of order – At 9:53 a.m., the meeting was suspended to consider the Special Agenda. The regular meeting resumed at 10:14 a.m.)

- Audit Implementation Plan and PSD follow up report on issues raised at today's meeting (Hudley-Hayes)
- Analysis on the possibility of charging an emergency service fees in the absence of ambulance transport (Friedman)

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m. (Tolentino/Bontá)

ATTEST BY:

GENETHIA HUDLEY-HAYES
President

BLANCA GOMEZ-REVELLES
Commission Executive Assistant II

Date: November 18, 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.