

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners convened at 9:20 a.m. in the Fire Commission Meeting Room, City Hall East, 200 N. Main Street, Room 1820, Los Angeles.

▪ **ROLL CALL**

Present: President Genethia Hudley-Hayes
Commissioner Diana Bontá
Commissioner Andrew Friedman
Fire Chief Brian L. Cummings
Deputy City Attorney Janet Jackson

Absent: Vice President Casimiro Tolentino
Commissioner Jill Furillo

▪ **FLAG SALUTE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE**

The flag salute was followed by a moment of silence in honor of past and present members of the Los Angeles Fire Department, the Fire Service, Law Enforcement, EMS and the Military who devote their lives to the protection of the community and of our Country.

▪ **PRESENTATION – Dr. Diana M. Bontá, Fire Commission 2007-12.**

Commission President Hudley-Hayes commended Dr. Bontá on the many contributions she made during her time with the Board of Fire Commissioners. President Hudley-Hayes read and presented Dr. Bontá with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Board. Commissioner Friedman echoed President Hudley-Hayes' sentiment and added that under the leadership of President Hudley-Hayes they have worked as a team, but a team can only work properly if the team members are also cohesive. With Commissioners Tolentino, Furillo and Dr. Bontá they have had that cohesiveness. He thanked Dr. Bontá for working so fruitfully with the Commission and wished her the best in her future endeavors.

Fire Chief Cummings added that with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) being our core business, it was fantastic having someone with her background and experience on the Board. He thanked her for her service to the Department and the City of L.A. and he looks forward to partnering the LAFD with the California Wellness Foundation.

Deputy City Attorney Jackson stated that on behalf of the City Attorney's Office, Dr. Bontá has been a cornerstone on a wonderful Commission and her professionalism and ethical awareness and work ethic will be missed. She appreciates all the time they were able to be at the Commission and wished her good luck.

President Hudley-Hayes stated Dr. Bontá would be leaving Kaiser Permanente to be the Executive Director of the California Wellness Foundation. It is one of the most important foundations in the State of California as it looks at how to increase health, healthcare, grant funding for other institutions and organizations involving the most challenged sections of the State of California.

Dr. Bontá stated that this has been a wonderful opportunity for her to serve as a Fire Commissioner in the City of L.A. She thanked the Mayor and the City Council for their confidence in her, Commission staff, Department staff, the Assessor, but the highlight has been working with President Hudley-Hayes. She also thanked Commissioners Tolentino, Friedman and Furillo; Deputy City Attorney Jackson, Fire Chief Cummings and the Chiefs and staff of the Fire Department; the men and women who serve; she thanked her husband Mr. Frank Matricardi for all his support. In closing, the California Wellness Foundation will be an opportunity to partner with organizations and provide grants from \$2,000 to millions of dollars on an annual basis; the Foundation provides about \$50-\$60 million throughout

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

California for a variety of grants that further prevention activities, wellness, and training for health professionals.

President Hudley-Hayes also thanked Mr. Matricardi for 'lending' Dr. Bontá to the Commission, and Dr. Bontá thanked her three children for their support.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Tony Tripp, Interim Executive Director, Boys & Girls Club, Los Angeles Harbor, commented they are here to show their gratitude to the Los Angeles City Fire Department for participating in helping in their holiday events; a successful toy drive during which 2,500 children participated. He thanked Firefighter Mark Marquez for organizing the event and Fire Chief Cummings for attending their Thanksgiving event at the Wilmington Dana Strand Boys & Girls Club where they served 400 dinners. Mr. Tripp presented a thank you card made by the children to Fire Chief Cummings.

Fire Chief Cummings thanked Chief John Vidovich who has been working with the Wilmington Boys & Girls Club for a long time and also served at Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Friedman suggested that either a photo or a memo of this presentation be sent to the press. Fire Chief Cummings concurred and pictures were taken of the attendees and LAFD staff.

Mr. Su Don spoke on behalf of Ms. Sang Kang of Due Sang Corporation. They are refinancing their building and the SBC Loan Officer has a requirement to check the environment impact. His question concerns a 2,000 oil tank that was installed in 1958 and they cannot find whoever removed the document. They checked the environment company for the document, can the L.A. Fire Department check for the document? President Hudley-Hayes asked Fire Marshal Stormes to assist this member of the public. Fire Marshal Stormes said he would.

Mr. Pat McOsker, UFLAC, thanked Commissioner Bontá for her service. He wanted to comment on response times. At the last Fire Commission the Fire Department presented a report for 6 months of statistics; he did not comment on that day because it was the first he had seen and heard of this report, but they have taken a harder look at it now. They had an expert report to them on his analysis of raw data and his skepticism of what is in the report. His skepticism is that the report says that the response time increases for fire companies and ambulances are not significant and it goes on to say that the real concern is about response times with Chiefs getting on scene. They see those two issues differently. Last week on Thursday morning at 3:00 a.m. they had a fire in the West Hills and he went in on Friday to the City Council and let them know about it. He told them about the fire and what happened; it was a residential fire and it took more than 9 minutes for the first company to get on scene, the home is a total loss and much more tragically a civilian was burned over 60% of his body. It took us so long to get there because of a response collision, it was in 105's district; it is one of the places where they closed an engine company in this year's budget, a hard closure, leaving only the light force. The light force at 3:00 a.m. was on a medical call - when the fire call came in and OCD made the dispatch they sent the closest companies; the closest one being from 106's. Despite their best efforts, it took them more than 9 minutes to get there; whether or not he would have been that badly burned, whether or not the home would have been a total loss if they would have gotten there sooner, he cannot say for sure, but he knows it took them about twice as long to get there as it would have from 105's with the response that they would have had; it is serious and they are not giving people the best chance of surviving fires and other emergencies in Los Angeles. Related to the report – they see it differently, they think that the response increases in fire companies and ambulances are very significant; they have started asking their members to report things to them that happens; now they are getting reports of even things like districts going unprotected when they are rolling the dice and do not have a single fire company in a district let them know and they are hearing much more about that than he thought. Yesterday's ConocoPhillips fire, they heard about unprotected districts like 1's, like 2's, like 25's with no fire

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

companies in the district for significant periods of time and they heard from the guys at the fire that they did not have the kind of resources and support they would expect to have normally in a fire of that size; a friend of his with 25 years on the jobs said in his 25 years he has never seen a fire like that one that was so hard to fight and they had so little help and support; did not even have help picking up their hose after all those hours of fighting fire; there were so few companies there. They are very concerned and regarding the concern that management has about the number of Chief sedans; they would like to have everything restored in the LAFD too, but he wants people to understand, that statistic is significant because we made it so, because the LAFD in April, as they were losing half of the staff assistants, decided to change the response criteria and start dispatching more Chiefs on more calls. In other words, two Chiefs on certain fire calls and a Chief on certain types of incidents that had never received a Battalion Chief response before; so we created a statistical uptick there; he wants people to understand that and understand that the statistics we are seeing on fire companies and ambulances are significant too and might be costing us lives right now and he wants to work together, in the budget especially, start restoring companies. Additionally, with the motion that was introduced after his speaking at Council on Friday, there is a real opportunity. The motion was introduced that reminded everybody that we are the top priority for restoration and said that we should look at the money coming back to us from the State because of the abolition of redevelopment agencies as a source of funding for fire department restoration. He wants to work together, but they will also need to agree on what the priorities are and that has been a real problem. They hope for a three-pronged attack: Fire Commission, Fire Management and rank and file fighting for the restoration needed to properly protect the public and keep firefighters safe.

President Hudley-Hayes asked if he was speaking about a policy change that has happened. Mr. McOsker responded that what happened in April was the software that tells our dispatchers what to send on each incident was reprogrammed; now Chief Officers are sent much more frequently than they were before. That report talks about increased response times for Chief Officers; we created that, for better or worse. He is not saying that they should not send Chiefs on those calls, but you would expect to see that increase in response time when you do that.

Fire Chief Cummings commented because they removed the former staff assistants, emergency incident technicians, from 50% of the Chiefs in order to provide for accountability to incidents; they made a decision to send a second Battalion Chief to all of those incidents which normally have one; to maintain safety and accountability. The statistic that was measured in the report is for the first Chief on scene, it does not matter if they had a two; so it did not affect that particular statistic. It would show the availability since they are sending Chief Officers more often, but yes for firefighter safety they added a second Chief on all structure fire calls.

Mr. McOsker commented that it does affect the result, even when you are measuring first Chief when you are sending them all over, now they are less available and then a response collision happens and it takes longer to get there.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Announcements/Meetings/Events
Considered jointly with Items 3.A. and 3.B.
- B. [BFC 11-177] - Approval of Meeting Minutes for December 6, 2011
MOTION (Bontá/Friedman): That the Board approve the minutes as submitted.
ADOPTED: AYES – 3 (Absent: Tolentino, Furillo)

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

3. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Announcements/Meetings/Events

1. The following newly promoted Chief Officer is presented to the Board of Fire Commissioners pursuant to Section 1(g) of the Rules and Regulations:

Mark Stormes, Deputy Chief, Fire Marshal, Bureau of Fire Prevention and Public Safety
David Yamahata, Chief Deputy, Emergency Operations
Daren Palacios, Chief Deputy, Administrative Operations
Roxanne Bercik, Deputy Chief, Training and Support Bureau

Items 2.B., 3.A. and 3.B. considered jointly. Fire Chief Cummings referenced the Calendar of Events provided, and highlighted the following events: January is Fire Safety in the Home Month, January 22 & 23 – Chinese New Year, January 28 & 29 – Golden Dragon Parade & New Year Festival, February is Flood Control Water Safety Month, also American Heart Campaign, the National Burn Awareness Month and Black History Month; February 12 – 54th Grammy Awards, February 17 – NAACP Image Awards, and February 26 – Academy Awards.

Fire Chief Cummings noted events since the last Commission meeting: presentation of badge for newest promoted Battalion Chief Cory Tipton, four Conversations with the Fire Chief Events around the City (FS 5, 81, Board Room, Frank Hotchkins Training Center), Holiday Spark of Love Toy Drive Press Conference, DUI Press Conference, attended the Pacific Coast Fire Academy Graduation, Press Conferences around the series of Arson Fires, Mayor's Public Safety Press Conference, Martin Luther King Parade.

Lastly, Fire Chief Cummings presented the newest appointed Deputy Chief, Deputy Chief Mark Stormes assigned to the Fire Prevention Bureau and current Fire Marshal.

Deputy Chief Stormes stated he is proud to be the team leader for the Fire Prevention team that he has worked with for the last two years. He thinks the opportunity to move forward, despite the staffing reductions we are currently having, moving forward with the development of better, more efficient databases, the more technology they are seeing, they are currently using that in the brush, and they want to move it into the CUPA. The CUPA is becoming a large challenge for the Fire Prevention Bureau, it is a huge undertaking and their staff is challenged to keep up. In addition, ITA and MIS have been supportive over the last two years; redeveloping the brush vegetation system, allowing for the first time a payment by citizens using the modern technology. Additionally, they are finishing the last steps to adopt the international fire code which will replace the current fire code, it is a project that has been underway on and off for the last eight years; it will come to fruition within the next new months. And with the Fire Chief's support, move forward in the development of a better and more aggressive approach to public relations relative to fire safety with the communities.

President Hudley-Hayes congratulated all four Chief Officers listed on the agenda and Fire Chief Cummings stated that the three other Chief Officer promotions will be placed on a future agenda.

2. Recognition of Georgia Mattera, Fire Administrator – Taken out of turn.
Fire Chief Cummings introduced Ms. Mattera, who is going to work for the Los Angeles County. He added that it had been fantastic having the opportunity to work with her in

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

many capacities. Her contribution to this organization and advancing their ability to accomplish their mission cannot be overstated. He presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation for her 22 years of service with the City of Los Angeles and noted the numerous positions she held, including her work with the Mayor's Office the past year. He extended heartfelt thanks from the LAFD and himself and wished her the best with L.A. County.

President Hudley-Hayes shared the importance of having someone of Ms. Mattera's skill and ability; the process they went through together in President Hudley-Hayes learning the LAFD budget. Ms. Mattera was great at finding those little nuggets of money, specifically with our technology program. She commented on her observation of a tablet being used during the Martin Luther King Parade and at the instantaneous way to communicate and she feels it was because of Ms. Mattera's participation. She thanked Ms. Mattera for all the personal mentoring on how to be a good Commissioner.

Dr. Bontá echoed it was a pleasure to work with Ms. Mattera and that Mr. Sal Martinez and the team she created is a true reflection of excellence; she will be missed.

Commissioner Friedman also wanted to echo what the President said and from him, good luck.

Ms. Mattera expressed her thanks to the Commission, the City is fortunate to have people of their caliber leading this Department. There are not many people who possess their qualifications; she thanked them for their support. This is one of the best Commissions the City has; she also commended her staff.

B. Calendar of Events
Considered jointly with Item 3.A.

C. Significant Incidents/Activities

1. Verbal report on the occurrence of recent arson fires in the Hollywood area; the Department's response including prevention, suppression and apprehension of the arson suspect; and current status.
2. [BFC 11-178] – Significant Incident Summary report for the period of November 21 through November 27, 2011.
Recommendation: Receive and file.
The report was received and filed.
3. [BFC 11-179] – Significant Incident Summary report for the period of November 28 through December 4, 2011.
Recommendation: Receive and file.
The report was received and filed.
4. [BFC 11-180] – Significant Incident Summary report for the period of December 5 through December 11, 2011.
Recommendation: Receive and file.
The report was received and filed.
5. [BFC 11-183] – Significant Incident Summary report for the period of December 12 through December 25, 2011.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

Recommendation: Receive and file.
The report was received and filed.

6. [BFC 12-002] – Significant Incident Summary report for the period of December 25 through January 2, 2012.

Recommendation: Receive and file.
The report was received and filed.

Deputy Chief Mario Rueda stated that he had scheduled a presentation to discuss the recent arson fires for their next meeting that will be more comprehensive since Commissioner Tolentino is not here and had requested it.

Deputy Chief Rueda stated there has been a significant uptick in the number of structure fires the Department has responded to; the Chief ran an analysis and determined we are about 50% above what we normally are for fires. There is not a common denominator; electrical fires, a number of attic fires that have occurred and arson fires, but there has been an uptick in several fatalities and significant injuries that resulted from these fires as Mr. McOske pointed out.

Deputy Chief Rueda added that they did pre-deploy to red flag conditions last Monday which is significant in January. It appears as though our level of rain fall is going to impact us this year in terms of brush and very unusual for us to deploy to red flag level at this point. Again, on Friday deployed again, augmented staffing again for extreme fire conditions; we are fortunate in that we did not have a fire either day, but there were significant winds and we do have brush that is just above the critical level still. On the Hollywood fires, an unusual attack on the Hollywood area; started on December 30th when they started seeing a series of fires in the Hollywood area. Fortunately, command in the Hollywood area brought in a number of additional resources, brought in a number of arson investigators and command staff to start to try to get ahead of that event. They will share with the Commission the whole timeline of those events at the next Commission meeting. A lot of great work by the firefighters from preventing these fires from spreading because resources were taxed; with combined efforts of LAFD, arson investigators, Police Department and also the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Response Team assisted them in bringing this individual to justice and on January 2nd a well publicized arrest of the perpetrator occurred.

President Hudley-Hayes asked when you have this kind of an uptick that we cannot anticipate, i.e. structural fires, and we know that there was no contingency this time that was set aside, does that also impact our growing budget deficit?

Fire Chief Cummings responded that any time we have to deploy additional resources, those are not budgeted, so they do impact our budget deficit. In the budget process, they requested funding for a contingency, but the City said no. President Hudley-Hayes asked if we pull those costs out so that as he is talking to Council and helping them to understand, they can actually see the importance of having that contingency. Because if we have an uptick now, and fire season has not started; she has no doubt we are going to have one. Without a contingency it looks as though we are not being careful about our budget because we keep getting a bigger budget deficit, but if we do not have the proper budgeting priorities and accounting systems on their side.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

Fire Chief Cummings responded that with each deployment there is a unique code/work order set up for it to capture the exact amount spent for each event they have to pre-deploy resources and report those back to City Council.

Commissioner Bontá stated that as she will miss the next meeting, she wanted to ask a few questions in relationship to the fire: 1) were there any pieces of equipment or resources that people in the field felt this tested piece of equipment worked well and we would want to expand it further as a consequence, and 2) did GIS assist in establishing a fire pattern?

Deputy Chief Rueda stated two things brought fruits to the effort: one was the assignment of our tactical planning people – they came in at a moment's notice over the holiday weekend, brought the command vehicles out and did bring out the GIS expertise to start mapping the fires and time stamping them for patterns. The second item was our work with law enforcement, LAPD & Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the development of systems that can be used in the future for events of this magnitude. While they have had the national response team out several times for fires in the Los Angeles area, this was the first effort that overwhelmed our investigative capacity and the addition of LAPD's major crimes division and the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to our arson taskforce served us well.

Commissioner Bontá stated that some of the comments that were made in the media and by some of the elected officials talked about how this in some ways was a practice run for what could potentially be urban terrorist activities and she was particularly struck that it was over that holiday period of time where you will have a lot of officers taking vacation time off and still needing to have the proper alignment. Are there lessons learned there, things that as you approach a holiday season with a potential for ill will, are there things that you would change if you could?

Deputy Chief Rueda responded that our Homeland Security Division does monitor activity leading into the holiday season and puts out several bulletins with respect to general awareness, however, this was unpredictable, but our men and women understood duty calls, showed up for work and did a great job, on a holiday weekend. A number of staff people came in to serve the citizens and did a great job.

Commissioner Bontá stated they had the Commission's appreciation for that and that this was disruptive to us and the team was very committed to put a stop to it.

Deputy Chief Rueda added that this event also included the LAPD bringing in a number of people on that holiday weekend and national response team mobilizing from all over the nation to be here on New Year's Eve Day to assist us. He thanked everyone involved.

MOTION (Friedman/Bontá): That the Board receive and file 3.C.2.-6.

ADOPTED: AYES – 3 (Absent: Tolentino, Furillo)

- D. Verbal report on the disposition of LAFD matters considered by or referred to City Council/Committees during the period of November 16 through January 17, 2012.

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.

Assistant Chief John Vidovich reported on the following matters:

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

November 22, City Council – Councilmember LaBonge introduced a motion relative to accepting a donation from Simmons Mattress Company of 23 mattresses for the use of members of Fire Station 27 with a retail value of \$50,000.

December 6, Audits & Governmental Efficiency Committee – Held a meeting relative to the Risk Management Working Group's status report on improving risk management policies and practices to prevent high risk liability for the LAPD and LAFD, Chief Mack represented the Department at this meeting.

December 16, City Council – Approved the transfer of funds for the retrofitting of water tanks on three LAFD helicopters in the amount of \$271,875.00, he complimented Mr. Martinez and his staff for getting through the process forthwith.

December 19 through January 3 – City Council Recess

January 11, City Council – Approved the Departmental Personnel Ordinances known as DPO in accordance with the Mayor and City Council action for the 2011-12 Budget and formally approved the reduction of the following staffing: Firefighter III assignments are amended to reflect the reduction from 57 to 27 Emergency Incident Technicians formally known as Staff Assistants. A reduction from 108 to 96 Hazardous Materials Specialists or Technician positions; the deletion of one Hydrant Planning position, the deletion of eight Safety Education positions. Apparatus Operator is amended to reflect a reduction from 21 to 16 Hazardous Materials Specialists. Fire Battalion Chief assignments were amended to update the name of several sections and divisions and delete reference to the Quality Improvement Section. Fire Assistant Chief assignments is amended to delete reference to the Training Division; Captain I assignments are amended to reflect a reduction from 21 to 19 Hazardous Materials Specialists; Captain II's assignments is amended to add one position assigned to Medical Liaison.

January 13, Public Safety Committee – Approved a report relative to proposed fees for the plan review, inspection and testing of fire hydrants, fire access and fire flow requirements and directed the Fire Department and the CAO to report to City Council with an analysis of the proposed fees and the time required for department staff to perform these inspections. Additionally, Public Safety Committee and City Council approved the 2011 FEMA Grant Award in the amount of \$1,085,078 for the Fire Department's USAR Program for the period which began August 1, 2011 through January 31, 2013; approved the extension of the 2010 FEMA Grant Award to October 30, 2012 in the amount \$226,302 for the purchase of equipment to use by the Department's USAR Program.

January 13, City Council – Motion was introduced by Councilmember Garcetti to have proposed dollars coming back from the dissolution of the CRA; money to come back to the Department to restore resources, approximate amount is estimated to be \$40 million.

President Hudley-Hayes commented that with regard to the CRA money, are we weighing in on that in any way at all? Are we putting in our own proposal about the savings from the dismantling of CRA so some of that can come back to us? She acknowledges that other departments need additional resources, but it seems to her that if the Department is submitting a proposal, she would like for the Commission to have a report in order for the Commission to understand what they are asking for; Chief Vidovich concurred. Fire Chief Cummings added that staff is putting that forward; reminding the Council Offices of their expressed interest to have the Fire Department first in line if resources/money did come back to the City and they are

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

also reminding them of the projected shortfall for this fiscal year which the Department would like to fill first, but then looking at adding additional resources in our priority list. President Hudley-Hayes asked who the person was that expressed an interest in us being in the front of the line. Fire Chief Cummings stated Councilman Garcetti, among others, as they were finalizing the budget process.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. [BFC 10-045] – Fire Department response to the Assessment of the Department's Disciplinary Process and Professional Standards Division conducted by the Office of the Independent Assessor [BFC 10-027]

1. [BFC 10-091] – LAFD Implementation Action Plan (IAP) – Department's response to the 2010 Independent Assessor Audit (Revised 08/31/2010; Supersedes BFC 10-085)

Fire Chief Cummings stated the Department would like to report back at the next Commission meeting with a written report on those items; President Hudley-Hayes concurred.

- B. [BFC 12-008] - Proposed Fire Department Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13.
Recommendation: Receive and File

Mr. Sal Martinez, Administrative Services Bureau, stated the proposed 2012-13 budget calls for an increase to our current operating budget from \$472 to \$541 million; it outlines our increases primarily due to salary increases due to cost of living increases, MOU agreements, furlough payments, compensation adjustments and some deferred payments that were delayed in prior MOUs. It also reflects the continuation of our Deployment Plan and a reduction of our Resolution Authorities. Last year we started off with the 318 position that were being reduced as part of our Deployment Plan, part of those positions were given to us in Resolution Authorities. We have had 267 Resolution Authorities, this year it is going down to 190 for next fiscal year; we are seeing a continuous trend in the reduction of our Resolution Authorities because of the Deployment Plan.

Mr. Martinez stated they are also asking for an increase in our MICLA funds this year to \$24 million; in past years they have been limited because of the amount they can obtain from the MICLA funds; this year it was \$6.8 million, last year about \$6 million and prior to that it was zero; the \$24 million is an attempt to get back on track to procure the necessary vehicles they need to maintain the fleet and to infuse into their fleet new equipment that is badly needed; this would be for their engines, trucks, and ambulances.

Mr. Martinez stated that regarding revenues, in this current year they are looking at approximately \$142 million and that is not inclusive of increases they are hoping to receive from the Department of Water and Power (DWP); ongoing forward movement for between \$3 million and \$6 million depending on what they will be able to obtain from them, but also from AB 678 which would supplement our Medi-Cal transport costs; they are working with the State. Their EMS Group, through Assistant Chief Greg Reynar and Battalion Chief Allen Norman, to obtain the necessary information to do final applications; that process is ongoing with the State and the Feds; the information will be received in February. Thereafter, they will provide the State all the information necessary for their reimbursements.

Mr. Martinez stated they are also looking at other revenues to increase and offset operating costs for next year, i.e. Commercial, Industrial, False Alarm Fees; the whole goal is to increase revenue for our operating costs.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

Commissioner Bontá appreciated the Department looking at other revenue sources, particularly for building inspection and the like; the budget refers to three new construction inspectors for LAX and also mentions a construction project inspector for the Farmer's Field. She wondered if we need to show it in our budget and why it does not show in the budget of that construction project; so it would not look as though the Department is augmenting staff when it is really the cost of those projects. Mr. Martinez agreed and stated the CAO has asked staff and Farmer's Field to provide information for a consolidated City approach in terms of insuring that they are looking at money for this year as well as next year. In terms of LAX, our new Fire Marshal has been diligently working with the LAX staff to obtain the necessary MOU to keep it in place so that it would be a reimbursement; those positions would be fully covered in terms of full reimbursement. They are actively pursuing reimbursement on both ends.

Commissioner Bontá also inquired if there is a training class scheduled and funds for it for 2012 and if not, she asked Fire Chief Cummings if that could be looked at again as they were going on the third year without a training class and the impacts on the Department. Fire Chief Cummings stated they are closely monitoring staffing levels and projected they will need to start a class in the 2013-2014 year and are looking for September 2013 to start that first class. Additionally, he stated they are still above our staffing levels right now, still attriting people down, as they close those companies in the field they had people that went into pool positions to offset over time and are still attriting them down over the course of the next year.

Commissioner Bontá asked if this would be the second year or the third year. Fire Chief Cummings confirmed this will be the third year without a training class; it will be a total of 4.5 years between when they stopped and when they will start again. Commissioner Bontá asked if L.A. County Fire Department was having training or are they closed also? Fire Chief Cummings stated he did not believe they were hiring. Additionally, since we did not lay any employees off and reduced their positions by 318 we were over employed, now they are slowly bringing that number down; he clarified they were not over employed, they just had a pool of individuals. Commissioner Bontá commented that the absence of the training classes gave him an opportunity to be able to utilize the staff that perhaps would have been laid off or had to terminate their service. Mr. Martinez added that it allowed them to downsize without negatively impacting our workforce. Commissioner Bontá stated that the negative side is that as we have Officers going out to schools and telling kids to come into the Fire Department as a career, we have three years of not having any new people come into the department. Maybe for the future, it would be useful to look at what are the consequences on discipline, morale, and those kinds of issues when you have a work environment that becomes stagnant with people who have a history of working together? She thinks it will be much harder when the classes open up for the new people because there becomes that closeness and camaraderie that can be a positive and it can be a negative sometimes in terms of the receptiveness to new people. Particularly that she would hope that the new classes have an over population of candidates of women and people of color reflective of the demographics of the City. For the future, Commissioner Hudley-Hayes suggested looking at how, when we do have that opening in 2013, how will we look to what needs to be done in the Department to increase the receptiveness of on-boarding those new members as they complete the training and are able to join the Department in 2014 and in the future.

President Hudley-Hayes stated that there was going to be a cost to that; she stated there would also be a cost to recruitment and recruitment strategies. She sensed that we are going to be inundated with applicants given the downturn in employment opportunities – have we thought about that and factored that in; how will we be working with the Personnel Department and engage with them in terms of the process and maybe for a future meeting, we really need to

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

have some clear picture of what our recruitment strategies are going to be and whether or not you have noticed, or others have noticed, maybe there is some kind of data we can look at in PSD in terms of the kinds of complaints, but are we really suffering from this not having the kind of robust training we had before; around those same issues because we do not want to find ourselves back in that lawsuit mill we were in before.

President Hudley-Hayes confirmed they are asking for \$69 million above our current fiscal budget, as opposed to what the Mayor is asking for which is a reduction. Mr. Martinez agreed, that also does not take into account the \$6.9 million that was pulled out; however, it has to be kept in mind that if we had not taken the action of implementing the Deployment Plan, our full cost would be somewhere about \$580 to \$560 million if we did not take some actions of trying to address the ever growing increase in our operation. In essence, we have provided severe savings for the City as whole by implementing the Deployment Plan; it has been successful in stopping the growth of our cost, but has also created an additional savings both in pension and healthcare costs. That is not reflected in our budget, but the City saves substantially from that on a move forward basis; we were the only large Department that come to the table last year, put on the table a reduction plan that in essence addressed a lot of severe financial problems the City was suffering.

Commissioner Friedman commented if the anticipation is that we will be inundated with applications, perhaps we should spend less money on recruitment. President Hudley-Hayes commented that the trade off is how we figure out how we recruit more effectively when talking about underutilized populations in the workforce which is what the Mayor is wanting them to look at; more women, more people of color; as opposed to expanding. They need to look at recruitment and figure out how to target it better. Commissioner Friedman stated that maybe if we are inundated with applicants, there will be women and people of color as well; before we spend money on recruitment lets see who the applicants are. Commissioner Hudley-Hayes commented then it would be too late. Commissioner Friedman asked that before we spend money on recruitment; let's bring it up to the Commission. President Hudley-Hayes asked this item be agendized.

President Hudley-Hayes asked for clarification regarding the Deputy Chief Accountant position on the Board of Fire Commissioners' page of the organizational chart. Mr. Martinez stated it is the format, our Departmental Chief Accountant normally would really report directly as reflected there; it is just a matter of procedure where they are showing them. President Hudley-Hayes stated she knows they do not report directly to the Commission. Mr. Martinez clarified that they are responsible for reporting to the Commission and that is what it is supposed to reflect; although they have it operationally within ASB, the Departmental Chief Accountant is responsible for reporting directly to the Board on any matters of financial.

MOTION (Friedman/Bontá): That the Board receive and file 4.B.

ADOPTED: AYES – 3 (Absent: Tolentino, Furillo)

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. [BFC 12-005] – Department Policy and Recommendations on Home Garaged Vehicles
Recommendation: That the Board approves the report and recommendations.

President Hudley-Hayes asked that this report be pulled and provided Fire Chief Cummings a list of questions which she would like to have answered in that report. She did not find answers to any of those questions in the Board report received; it can be in that same format, which would be clearer for Commissioners; on one side she indicated the pages she was looking at

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

and on the other side the questions. Fire Chief Cummings concurred. President Hudley-Hayes confirmed this item would be continued for the next meeting with the caveat to include the questions.

6. NEW BUSINESS – CONSENT ITEMS

- A. [BFC 11-176] – In-Kind Donation for Mattresses
Recommendation: Receive and file.
ACTION: RECEIVED AND FILED.
- B. [BFC 12-003] – In-Kind Donation for an Apple Computer
Recommendation: That the Board approves the report and recommendations.
ACTION: APPROVED.
- C. [BFC 12-004] – In-Kind Donation for Equipment
Recommendation: That the Board approves the report and recommendations.
ACTION: APPROVED.
- D. [BFC 11-181] – Monthly Disciplinary Action Summary – September 2011
Recommendation: Receive and file.
ACTION: RECEIVED AND FILED.
- E. [BFC 11-182] – Monthly Disciplinary Action Summary – October 2011
Recommendation: Receive and file.
ACTION: RECEIVED AND FILED.
- F. [BFC 12-009] – Monthly Disciplinary Action Summary – November 2011
Recommendation: Receive and file.
ACTION: RECEIVED AND FILED.
- G. [BFC 12-010] – Monthly Disciplinary Action Summary – December 2011
Recommendation: Receive and file.
ACTION: RECEIVED AND FILED.
- H. [BFC 12-001] - Corrective Action Summary – Notice of Discharge, Suspension, or Probationary Termination reports filed with the Board of Fire Commissioners – November 18 through December 23, 2011.
Recommendation: Receive and file.
ACTION: RECEIVED AND FILED.

MOTION (Friedman/Bontá): That the Board approve items 6.A. through 6.H.

ADOPTED: AYES – 3 (Absent: Tolentino, Furillo)

7. ITEMS CALLED SPECIAL

None.

8. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Newly promoted Chief Officers would be brought back. - See Item 3.A.1. (Fire Chief Cummings).
- Verbal report on the occurrence of recent arson fires; brought back when Commissioner Tolentino is in attendance. - See Item 3.C.1. (Deputy Chief Rueda).
- Commissioner Hudley-Hayes requested a report regarding the proposal being submitted for the CRA money. - See Item 3.D. (Chief Vidovich).

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

- The Department would like to provide a written report about the Department's response to the IA's Report. - See Item 4.A. (Fire Chief Cummings).
- Recruitment strategies to recruit more effectively in regard to underutilized populations in the work force, which is what the Mayor is wanting them to look at, i.e. more women, more people of color. Commissioner Friedman asked that before spending money on recruitment; it be brought up to the Commission - See Item 4.B. (Bontá/Hudley-Hayes/Friedman).
- President Hudley-Hayes asked that the Home Garaging report be pulled and provided Fire Chief Cummings a list of questions which she would like to have answered. - See Item 5.A. (Hudley-Hayes/Fire Chief Cummings).

9. IDENTIFICATION OF THE BOARD'S MEET AND CONFER NEGOTIATORS REGARDING DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES

Fire Chief Cummings stated there was no update and they will bring the Disciplinary Guidelines starting points at the next meeting.

10. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Conference with negotiators pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6(a) – To permit the Board to review its negotiating position and instruct its negotiators concerning the conduct of negotiations regarding disciplinary guidelines.

None.

- B. City of Los Angeles v. LAFD Foundation, Inc.
Case No.: CV11-08596-GW

The regular meeting recessed at 10:45 a.m. The Board went into closed session, and Deputy City Attorney Jackson stated for an update on litigation in the City v. Los Angeles Foundation, Case No. CV11-08596-GW.

Deputy City Attorney Jackson called the regular meeting to order at 10:53 a.m. and indicated during Closed Session the Board met with Legal Counsel and received an update on the City of Los Angeles v. LAFD Foundation. During the closed session Commissioners Friedman, Bontá and President Hudley-Hayes were present; after close of session Commissioner Friedman left and there is no vote taken in closed session.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

ATTEST BY:

GENETHIA HUDLEY-HAYES
President

LETICIA GOMEZ
Commission Executive Assistant I

Date: March 6, 2012

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.