

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2011

**DRAFT**

The Special Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners convened at 12:10 p.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 Andrew Friedman  
Commissioner Jill Furillo  
Interim Fire Chief Brian L. Cummings  
Deputy City Attorney Janet Jackson

Absent: Vice President Casimiro Tolentino  
Commissioner Diana Bontá

▪ **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 who devote their lives to the protection of the community.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Pat McOsker, President, United Firefighters, commented that he wanted to make the Commission aware of staffing at Fire Station 18 today; he had a brief conversation with Battalion Chief Trevor Richmond regarding this item. Battalion Chief Richmond knows about it and it is being worked on; the staffing problem is the closure today of the ambulance at Fire Station 18 which he believes is unnecessary. The ambulance was closed today and the two people from the ambulance were sent to fire stations where, he was told, two former staff assistants worked (two different places), and those former staff assistants were then assigned to Battalion Chiefs that normally would not have staff assistants. Given the budget, half of the Chiefs now do not have them, but in those battalions their help is from EMS District Captains, on emergency incidents especially, and in the other half of the battalions, they have staff assistants still assigned, still driving Chief Officers.

Mr. McOsker stated that today he was told that this ambulance was closed so that two Chiefs could have staff assistants. He was told that the rationale was that they are brand new Chief and being shown around the battalion. He does not think it is right that an ambulance be closed in that neighborhood for that purpose. There are other ways to accomplish the goal of providing a new Chief a driver. If it is a good thing to give a brand new Chief a driver when it is not in the budget – that work could be done by the EMS District Captain. They could hire on an overtime basis an off-duty staff assistant, but the last way they ought to achieve that is by closing an ambulance. In Fire Station 18 you might have a kid drown today in a backyard swimming pool, you might have someone choking on a chicken bone and the ambulance crew is not there, the staff is not there. Whether it is only an 800 ambulance, it impacts their response; there is always the domino effect. You are going to have a paramedic ambulance on a call that the 800 should have been on and then you have this life and death situation and no paramedic ambulance available, at least not nearby. They would like this addressed for public safety.

2. **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

- A. [BFC 11-110] - Approval of Meeting Minutes for July 19, 2011  
**MOTION** (Friedman/Hudley-Hayes): That the Board approve the minutes as submitted.  
**ADOPTED:** AYES – 3 (Absent: Bontá, Tolentino)

President Genethia Hudley-Hayes asked Deputy City Attorney Janet Jackson if it were possible for Interim Fire Chief Brian L. Cummings to make an announcement. Deputy City Attorney Jackson concurred. Interim Fire Chief Cummings introduced Battalion Chief Glenn Miyagishima to brief the Commission on the press conference for apprehending the arson suspect in North Hollywood.

Battalion Chief Miyagishima stated that regarding the string of arson fires in North Hollywood, this morning, about 2:30-3:00 a.m., the Arson/Counter-Terrorism Section made an arrest of a suspect that could be tied to the string of arson fires over the last 10 days.

Interim Fire Chief Cummings added that LAFD worked collaboratively with the Los Angeles Police Department's Major Crime Division and North Hollywood Division and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. They staked out the particular area and were able to apprehend the suspect. Approximately 20 vehicle fires from July 17 to today have occurred.

President Hudley-Hayes commented it was important for the Commission to know this is a big kudo for the Department; it was a lot of property damage and a lot of property lost. On behalf of the Commission she congratulated the Department for their effort. Commissioner Jill Furillo echoed President Hudley-Hayes' comments.

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

Interim Fire Chief Cummings identified Assistant Chief Daren Palacios as the Board's meet and confer negotiator.

**5. WORLD SUMMIT ON COUNTER TERRORISM – APPOINTMENT OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS REPRESENTATIVE – Taken out of turn.**

President Hudley-Hayes reiterated the request made at the July 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting (under item 9. Request for Future Agenda Items) regarding this item for Commissioner Andrew Friedman. She added that a letter had been developed and asked if it could indicate Commissioner Andrew Friedman, with Interim Fire Chief Cummings' approval, be the official representative for the Los Angeles Fire Department. President Hudley-Hayes asked Deputy City Attorney Jackson if there were any legal concerns regarding the change from Board to Los Angeles City Fire Department representative.

Deputy City Attorney Jackson responded that without having researched the issue, she could think of nothing, as long as the Interim Fire Chief concurs. Interim Fire Chief Cummings concurred. Commissioner Friedman emphasized there would be no cost to the City for this item.

**MOTION** (Furillo/Hudley-Hayes): That the Board approve the letter and appoint Commissioner Friedman to represent the Los Angeles Fire Department at the World Summit on Counter Terrorism.

**ADOPTED:** AYES – 3 (Absent: Bontá, Tolentino)

Commissioner Friedman added he would report back regarding the event at a future Board meeting.

**4. 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.

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Deputy City Attorney Jackson stated the Board would move into Closed Session on Item 4.A. The regular meeting recessed at 12:22 p.m., the Board went into closed session.

Deputy City Attorney Jackson called the regular meeting to order at 12:44 p.m. and indicated the Board met in closed session with its Chief Negotiator, Assistant Chief Palacios, and the Independent Assessor and direction was given to the negotiator.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 p.m. (Friedman/Furillo).

ATTEST BY:

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GENETHIA HUDLEY-HAYES  
President

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LETICIA GOMEZ  
Commission Executive Assistant

Date: August 3, 2011

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.