

AGENDA
SAN RAFAEL FIRE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

Fire Administrative Office
1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 345
San Rafael

Wednesday, January 8, 2020
4:00 P.M.

Members of the Public May Speak on Agenda Items

1. Open Time for Public Expression

The public is welcome to address the Fire Commission at this time on matters not on the agenda that are within its jurisdiction. Please be advised that pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2, the Fire Commission is not permitted to discuss or take action on any matter not on the agenda unless it determines that an emergency exists, or that there is a need to take immediate action which arose following posting of the agenda. Comments may be no longer than two minutes and should be respectful to the community.

2. Approval of Minutes – December 11, 2019

Recommended Action: Amend and or approve as submitted.

3. Fire Foundation – Verbal Update from Appropriate Commissioner(s)








Recommended Action: Accept Verbal Report and take appropriate action.

4. Historic Subcommittee – Verbal Update from Appropriate Commissioner(s)

Recommended Action: Accept Verbal Report and take appropriate action.

5. Update on Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority

6. Chair and Commission Member Reports:

-  Dr. Stephen Mizroch – Chair
-  Larry Luckham – Vice Chair
-  Thomas Weathers - *Absent*
-  Nadine Hade
-  Elias Hill
-  David Fonkalsrud, Alternate
-  Stan Burford, Alternate

Informational only. No action to be taken on these items.

7. Fire Commission 2019 Annual Report and Goals for 2020

8. Social Media and Webpage

9. Status of Fire Chief Recruitment

10. Fire Chief Report

Informational only. No action to be taken.

11. Adjournment

Any records relating to an agenda item, received by a majority or more of the board or commission less than 72 hours before the meeting, shall be available for inspection at San Rafael Fire Department's Administrative Office, 1600 Los Gamos Drive, Suite 345. Sign Language interpreters and assistive listening devices may be requested by calling (415) 485-3066 (voice), emailing Lindsay.lara@cityofsanrafael.org or using the California Telecommunications Relay Service by dialing "711", at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Copies of documents are available in accessible formats upon request. Public transportation is available through Golden Gate Transit, Line 22 or 23. Paratransit is available by calling Whistlestop. Wheels at (415) 454-0964. To allow individuals with environmental illness or multiple chemical sensitivity to attend the meeting/hearing, individuals are requested to refrain from wearing scented products.



FIRE COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT, 2019

MISSION:

- To review and recommend concerning the future needs of the fire department in respect to long-range capital needs, including buildings, training facilities, and water mains and hydrant replacements.
- To review the relationship of the fire department with other governmental agencies and private entities concerning topics, which the commission feels present a true and pressing need for the city's fire service.
- To review, comment and make recommendations regarding the annual operating budget of the department.
- To recommend to the Fire Chief and the City Council action concerning initial adoption and future amendments to the fire prevention code, the building code, and other such ordinances that pertain to the prevention of fires within the community.
- To receive monthly reports from the Fire Chief concerning the general operations and functions of the department.

MEMBERSHIP:

- Dr. Stephen Mizroch, Chair Apr 01, 2018 to Mar 31, 2022
- Larry Luckham, Vice Chair Feb 19, 2019 to Mar 31, 2023
- Thomas Weathers Apr 01, 2016 to Mar 31, 2020
- Elias Hill Oct 07, 2019 to Mar 31, 2021

- Nadine Hade Apr 01, 2017 to Mar 31, 2021
- David Fonkalsrud, Alternate Apr 01, 2016 to Mar 31, 2020
- Stan Buford, Alternate Apr 01, 2018 to Mar 31, 2022

2019 HIGHLIGHTS:

This past year, several critical achievements have come to fruition:

- Capital improvements to Fire Stations across the San Rafael
- Maturity and adoption of the Wildfire Prevention and Protection Action Plan for San Rafael and Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority for Marin County
- Continued material support for the San Rafael Fire Foundation
- New Fire Station openings and several others approaching completion, including the new Public Safety Center
- Participation in departmental milestones throughout the year, including badge pinnings, promotions, retirements, and new firefighter graduation ceremonies.

Other notable contributions by the members of the Fire Commission include:

- Commissioner Leonard “Len” Thompson continued to assist the San Rafael Fire Foundation in planning and carrying out its fundraising activities (including the 2018 Crabfeed). For the past 3 years, Len has served as Fire Chief for the Petaluma Fire Department and for the last year Chief for the Rancho Adobe Fire District. Prior, he served the Los Angeles Fire Department for 35 years in several capacities, culminating in his role as Chief Deputy of Operations and supervising Deputy Chiefs. He established the San Rafael Fire Foundation as a 501(c)(3) in 2014. Due to Len’s responsibilities with Petaluma and Rancho Adobe, he reluctantly stepped down from the San Rafael Fire Commission in June 2019. We honor Len’s commitment and contributions to our community and wish him well as he focuses his much-needed attention to the City of Petaluma. Eli Hill was appointed in October 2019 to complete his unexpired term through March 2021.

- Commissioners Steve Mizroch and Larry Luckham were appointed to the San Rafael Wildfire Advisory Committee under the City Council's ad hoc Subcommittee for Wildfire Prevention, which includes Mayor Phillips and Councilmember Bushey. The Committee convened its first meeting on June 19, 2019 and has endeavored to review and refine the Wildfire Prevention and Protection Action Plan.
- Commissioner Stan Burford has made several public statements at San Rafael City Council meetings in support of the Wildfire Prevention and Protection Action Plan. He also contributed a new point to the plan: "Prevent potential entrapments by requiring 2 gates in any fence in designated areas" which would help assure that multiple escape routes exist in the most vulnerable areas and provide ease of access for firefighters.
- Larry Luckham continued to photographically document San Rafael Fire Department events on [The Photo 50 Project site](#), including Retirements at Station 52, Move In Day at Station 52, Promotions at Station 52, and Academy 19 Graduations at San Rafael City Hall. Additionally, Larry continues to provide historic photographs and other materials to the new fire stations in order to maintain the history of the Department for this generation and those that will follow.
- Commissioner Tom Weathers is a highly regarded legal expert and he continues to support the Fire Commission and Fire Foundation with his expertise.
- Commissioner Nadine Hade provides fiscal guidance and expertise to the Commission as well as participating in events in support of the San Rafael Fire Department.
- Commissioner David Fonkalsrud provides strategic guidance around public relations and community engagement as well as participating in events in support of the San Rafael Fire Department.
- The proposed parcel tax to fund a \$21M annual budget for the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority, driven by the tireless efforts of Chief Gray, City Manager Schutz, and staff, has navigated approvals across agencies such that the voters will consider it in the March 2020 ballot. At the San Rafael City Council meeting on October 14, 2019, Stan Burford made a

public statement of unanimous support by the San Rafael Fire Commission for approval of the resolution.

- In July, David Fonkalsrud, Steve Mizroch, and Americorp volunteers staffed a booth with Quinn Gardner at the Marin County Fair to increase awareness of FireSAFE matters and signed people up for the Marin Alert system.
- With material support of the San Rafael Fire Foundation, the San Rafael Fire Department acquired Fire Boat San Rafael which was christened on November 11, 2019. Additionally, the Fire Foundation has committed to subsidizing the cost of Class A uniforms for San Rafael Fire Department personnel.

In closing, the San Rafael Fire Commission is an advocate for and an asset to the Fire Department primarily because Chief Gray wholeheartedly supports, encourages, and includes the Fire Commission in all Fire Department endeavors. The Fire Commission would like to recognize Chief Gray and Deputy Chief Sinnott for their deep commitment to the Fire Commission. Beyond taking the time to attend every meeting, they inspire the Commission to prioritize the safety of our community both now and in the future.

We will continue to ask the question, “How may we better serve the Fire Department and the City of San Rafael?” We look forward to continuing to support the San Rafael Fire Department and the wider community in the year ahead!

2020 GOALS:

- Act as a sounding board for the Fire Chief and Chief Officers via monthly meetings.
- Continued education of Fire Commission members to goals, objectives & operations on a monthly basis.
- Promote cooperation between the Fire Commission and San Rafael Fire Foundation by mutual support during fund raising efforts.

- Participate in departmental ceremonies (badge pinning, promotions & retirements).
- Support morale within the Department among its members.
- Participate in the grand opening of the Public Safety Center.
- Continue to advise and support the “Historical San Rafael Public Safety” exhibit in the lobby of the Public Safety Center.
- Support the implementation of the Wildfire Action Plan and the development of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority.