

**AGENDA**  
**SAN RAFAEL FIRE COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, June 14, 2023 @ 4:00 P.M.**  
**Public Safety Center, Lobby Conference Room**  
**1375 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, San Rafael, CA 94901**

Watch on Zoom: <https://cityofsanrafael-org.zoom.us/j/83441506482>

Webinar ID: 834 4150 6482

Listen by phone: +1 669 900 9128

*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 – May 10, 2023**

*Recommended Action: Amend and or approve as submitted.*

**3. Board and Commission updates**

*City Clerk Lindsay Lara*

**4. Fire Foundation – Verbal Update from Commissioner Donna McCusker**

*Recommended Action: Accept Verbal Report and take appropriate action.*

**5. Chair and Commission Member Reports:**

-  Nadine Atieh Hade – Chair
-  Stan Burford– Vice Chair
-  David Fonkalsrud
-  Ken Johnson
-  Thomas Weathers
-  Donna McCusker, Alternate

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

**6. Fire Chief Report**

*Informational only. No action to be taken.*

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, 1375 Fifth Avenue, San Rafael, CA. Sign Language interpreters and assistive listening devices may be requested by calling (415) 485-3066 (voice), emailing [Lindsay.lara@cityofsanrafael.org](mailto: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.

**CITY OF SAN RAFAEL**

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

May 10, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

In Person Meeting at 1375 Fifth Ave, San Rafael, CA 94901

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Nadine Atieh.

Present:

Chair Nadine Atieh Hade  
Commissioner Stan Burford  
Commissioner Dave Fonkalsrud  
Commissioner Donna McCusker  
Fire Chief Darin White

**1. Open Time for Public Expression**

Larry Luckham shared his photograph book of pictures he took on the job from 2017.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Fonkalsrud moved to adopt the draft minutes. Commissioner Burford seconded.

The minutes were adopted unanimously.

**3. Fire Foundation**

Commissioner McCusker began her comments for the Fire Foundation to be put back on the property, December 9<sup>th</sup> which will be held at the old venue where volunteers will be needed.

Chief White is assisting the Fire Foundation with outreach for the crab feed this year and attempting to get more donors. Commissioner Fonkalsrud volunteered to assist with outreach and will be contacting the foundation directly.

Commissioner McCusker mentioned there will be a memorial service that will be held for Ritt Hewitt with a tentative date of July 7<sup>th</sup>.

She also shared an article from San Jose State University Wildfire Interdisciplinary Research Center.

Commissioner Burford asks if there is a Plan B in the event there isn't a crab season. Chief White mentions they will possibly go up north to get crab.

**5.) Commissioners' Report**

**Commissioner Burford had comments:**

- 2023 changes to Brown Act
- Concerns regarding URL addresses not lasting forever in the commissioner packet
- Novato Fire Department starting a fuel break around the city

**Commissioners David Fonkalsrud:**

Offered to assist with community outreach for the crab feed.

**Commission Chair Nadine Atieh Hade:**

Briefed on updates that have been made by the City Clerk's office regarding the commissioners' duties and the need for a City Clerk representative to attend a future meeting for questions.

**6. Fire Chief's Report (45:17)**

Chief White shared the March and April Fire Report.

San Rafael, Marinwood, and Cal State Parks have a project underway, that's designed to clear invasive and non-native species.

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the MWPA (Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority) board of directors will meet to approve projects that have been recommended by the advisory technical committee.

Chief White was not able to attend the last MWPA Ops meeting on May 2nd but was told all the projects were approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:09pm



**To:** San Rafael Fire Commission

**From** Darin White, Fire Chief

**Date:** June 10, 2023

**Re: Monthly Report**

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### **Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority-Vegetation Management**

On Thursday May 18, 2023, the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority approved the FY 2023-24 Workplan and Budget. The Workplan is the fourth year/iteration of effort by the Operations Committee and Advisory Technical Committees collective efforts to build a comprehensive and effective strategy to reduce wildfire risk throughout Marin County. The workplan includes but is not limited to: strategic shaded fuel breaks, goat grazing, and other vegetation management activities near homes to reduce fire intensity and severity, rate of spread, and potential for burning embers to be carried downwind into adjacent communities.

Additionally, the Workplan included vegetation management projects to reduce risk around key evacuation routes and vulnerable communities, funding dedicated to home hardening and defensible space inspections, as well as grants to support residents working to implement the recommendations provided during those inspections. Funding is available for free chipper programs for residents performing their own defensible space work, evacuation, and alert systems, including auditory alert systems, online evacuation management systems, and additional signage. A comprehensive public education campaign will remain a key aspect of the outreach and information sharing, effective and efficient environmental compliance practices will continue to play a key role in wildfire project proposals and mitigation efforts.

### **Promotional Ceremony and Graduation of Fire Academy 25**

Four of the six members of Fire Academy 25 have made it to successful completion of their probationary periods and will be honored on June 22, 2023, at Station 52 from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Each of these individuals persevered and had been provided with an opportunity to succeed by completing intensive and focused EMS training and skills development immediately following their academy's fire-based curriculum and training. We are looking forward to their future successes.

Also on June 22, we will celebrate the promotion of Grant Saysette to the rank of Fire Captain, and Colton Beal to the rank of Engineer. Last, but not least, we have finally secured a Training Coordinator for our Department wide goals of ongoing training, skill development, and proficiency. On May 16, 2023, Captain Ryan Goodwin was appointed to the role of Training Coordinator, and he will be celebrated on June 22, 2023 for this accomplishment.

## Community Outreach

### San Rafael Fire Association Scholarship Presentation



On Wednesday May 24, 2023, San Rafael Fire Department members Ca. Kyle Kleinschmidt, Engineer Mike Lewis, FFPM Joseph “Pepi” Morel and Chief Darin White attended the Award Night for the Terra Linda high school students. Many students received numerous awards, but none shined as bright as the 3 students (top photograph) who were the recipients of the San Rafael Fire Association (SRFA) scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500. These students will be able to use the funds to launch

careers of study in Fire and EMS or Medicine with the generous help of the SRFA and donors such as the San Rafael Fire Foundation. Ca. Kleinschmidt and numerous others were instrumental in launching this impactful program and we look forward to its growth and intertwining with the SRFA's future endeavors.

### **Marin County Survivors' Celebration Event**



On Thursday May 25, the Marin County Survivors' Celebration was held at the Marin Osher JCC. Personnel from law enforcement, Fire, EMS, Kaiser Hospital, Marin County Health and Human Services, American Red Cross, multiple Fire Service agencies, and others all came to socialize, celebrate, and learn about the hardships, miraculous recoveries, and life altering events that our personnel have responded to while improving the outcomes of those who found themselves in a sudden and unexpected brush with death. In the top photo, Captain Randy Ainsworth and Engineer David Lopes are acknowledge for their

life saving efforts involving San Rafael Police Officer Karl Luhmann. In the photo above, Marinwood Captain Ryan Bracket and San Rafael Fire Department Firefighter Paramedic Juan Alejandro are thanked by the man whose life they helped save. Both members played a key role in providing care to this individual who experienced an otherwise normally deadly abdominal aneurism.

### Ember Stomp 2023



On Saturday May 20, 2023, the much anticipated second annual Ember Stomp 2023 was held at the Marin County Fairgrounds. Estimations of approximately 5,000 attendees filled the fairgrounds to learn about Wildfire safety, Emergency Management best practices and preparedness, fire safe landscaping and more. Multiple vendors displayed and demonstrated their tools and equipment designed to create fire safety. Staff from the San Rafael Fire Department’s Vegetation Unit and the city of San Rafael’s Emergency Management/Preparedness Personnel (pictured in the photo immediately above from left to right Simon

Wright, Michelle Detrick, Cedric Adona, Ben Flint, Quinn Gardner, Darin White, Justin Goger Malo, and Calvin Schrader) spent the day providing education and prizes and other giveaways to attendees who demonstrated their familiarization with emergency preparedness and more. In the very top photo (previous page, Chief White is flanked on his left by Anne Crealock of the MWPA and Quinn Gardner, Deputy Director of Emergency Management, and by City of San Rafael Council Member Rachel Kertz and Executive Director Mark Brown of the MWPA.

### **Employee Recognition Luncheon**



On Tuesday May 16, 2023, the annual Employee Recognition Luncheon and Award ceremony was held at the B street Community Center. The auditorium was packed full of employees. The catered event included tasty Mexican cuisine and employees from every department in the city were in attendance. Sadly, this was Jim Schutz's final recognition of the award recipients from the many different categories and awards. Service awards acknowledging employees with 20 plus years of service were provided, the Team of the Year, Employee of the Year, Ann Bauer Social Responsibility Award, Dean Allison Award, and the Innovation award were just a few of the awards given this year. In the photo above, Jim Schutz acknowledges this year's social responsibility award which was given to Ca. Kyle Kleinschmidt, who along with several other members of the San Rafael Fire Association (SRFA) established a scholarship for the youth who may aspire to careers in public safety. Congratulations to Ca. Kleinschmidt and thanks to the San Rafael Fire Foundation for their contribution to the scholarship fund.



## Station 54



On Tuesday May 23, 2023, San Rafael Police arrested Kevin Cook, a 37-year-old San Rafael resident, after he caused over \$5,000 in damage to a San Rafael Fire Station and later threw a can of beer at a moving police car. Cook was booked into the Marin County Jail on felony and misdemeanor charges.

At 3:30 AM, Cook walked to San Rafael's Fire Station #54 and began throwing baseball-sized rocks at the front of the newly remodeled and constructed building. Cook threw about 30 rocks over the fence in about an hour, causing over \$5,000.00 in estimated damage to the front of the building. Cook broke out a window, destroyed several glass railings, and damaged the stucco on the façade of the building.

The East San Rafael fire station, currently under construction and undergoing a yearlong renovation to bring it up to modern-day use and seismic safety standards, is currently closed to the public and was fenced off. When construction workers arrived later in the morning, they made a report to SRPD, and officers started looking for video surveillance to identify the suspect.

While the investigation was occurring into the vandalism at the fire station and just after 8:20 AM, Officers were driving on Bellam Boulevard in the area of Belvedere Street when Cook was seen walking on the sidewalk. As the police car got closer, Cook became agitated and threw a 24-ounce can of beer. The beer can struck the windshield, causing minor damage. The officers stopped and took Cook into custody. The officers were not injured in the incident.

It was quickly determined that Cook was the same person involved in the earlier vandalism at the fire station. Cook matched the description and was still wearing the same clothing as seen in the video surveillance. Cook was booked into the Marin County Jail for felony assault on police officers, felony vandalism, and misdemeanor vandalism and is being held to answer in lieu of \$50,000 bail. The two cases have been forwarded to the Marin County District Attorney's Office. (Story taken verbatim from the SRPD Press Release).