

**CITY OF SAN RAFAEL**

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

December 13, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

In person meeting at 1375 Fifth Ave, San Rafael, CA 94901

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Chair Burford

Present:

Chair Stan Burford  
Commissioner Donna McCusker  
Commissioner Ken Johnson  
Commissioner Dave Fonkalsrud  
Commissioner Weathers  
Commissioner Waterbury  
Commissioner Chung  
Chief Sinnott  
Thomas Wong

**1. Open Time for Public Expression**

No public comments

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Weathers makes a motion to approve the draft minutes. Commissioner McCusker seconds the vote.

The minutes are adopted unanimously.

**3. Appointment Certificate Presentation for Fire Commissioners and Alternates**

Chief Sinnott presents a Certificate of Appointment to Commissioner Johnson

**4. Fire Foundation**

Commissioner McCusker reports that the Crab feed was postponed due to lack of crab and that the new date is January 13. Tickets are still for sale.

**5. Current Media Coverage**

*Best Way to Extinguish a Flaming Electric Vehicle? Let It Burn – Wall Street Journal*

Commissioner Fonkalsrud shares the news article and adds that EVs are prevalent now and you basically have to let them burn out. Captain Berkey says there are currently no special tools that SRFD uses for EV fires, but you need a lot of water and it's a known hazard.

*Benign hurricane season ends 'peak hardening' for US commercial property – Insurance Insider US*

Commissioner Johnson reports that we've had 31 \$1B events around the globe in the past 20 years but this was a light year for hurricanes. It's slowly getting better than it was.

## **6. Improving Public Engagement**

Commissioner Burford questions whether Falkirk is fire safe and whether there is enough lighting there. At night it was very hard to get from the parking lot to the building.

Chief Sinnott states that Falkirk does not have fire sprinklers but is inspected annually. The building is run by recreation and staff will pass along the concerns.

Commissioner McCusker talked to her councilmember and will not be attending future events at Falkirk. We should use PSC lobby instead.

## **7. Commissioners' Report**

Commissioner Fonkalsrud did his ride along with Commissioner Weathers and E51 two weeks ago. They went on one call and were impressed with how fast they got out. Commissioner Fonkalsrud suggest that commissioners should do these ride alongs more often. Commissioner Fonkalsrud requests that the social media handles be included in these minutes.

### Department Social Media

<https://twitter.com/SRFD>

<https://www.instagram.com/sanrafaelfd/?hl=en>

<https://nextdoor.com/agency-detail/ca/san-rafael/san-rafael-fire-department-1/>

### Fire Foundation Social Media

<http://srfirefoundation.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/people/San-Rafael-Fire-Foundation/100054385425915/>

Commissioner Johnson has no updates.

Commissioner Weathers says that the ride along was the best thing he has done on his 10 years on the Commission. He learned about the staff turnover which has been high due to pay. Was very surprised by the number of calls that have increased.

Commissioner McCusker tells the Commissioners to keep seeing the firefighters and interacting with them.

Commissioner Chung asks if there are any BLS units in San Rafael.

Commissioner Waterbury has no updates.

Chair Burford states that each January a new Chair and Vice Chair are elected. Commissioner Weathers nominates Chair Burford and Vice Chair Fonkalsrud to maintain their current positions since they have not been in their position for a year. It was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and approved unanimously.

#### **8. Fire Chief's Report**

Chief Sinnott provides department wide updates including two new ambulances, staffing, Station 54, and MWPA updates.

Meeting adjourned at 5:18 PM

