



TODD HARMS  
Fire Chief

# Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

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## ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT Thursday, January 14, 2021 Held Remotely Via Zoom

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Kelly. Board members present: Clark, Goold, Jones, Kelly, Orzalli, Saylor, Sheetz, Wood, and White. Board members absent: None. Staff present: Chief Harms, General Counsel Lavra, and Clerk Penilla.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. David Warren commented about the letter he submitted on January 7, 2021 in anticipation of this phone call, and since then he obtained the January 4<sup>th</sup> memo from the Los Angeles County EMS Agency concerning patients in traumatic and non-traumatic cardiac arrest which directed EMS units to not transport patients to the hospital if they could not be resuscitated. The *LA TIMES* ran a story similar to this, however included non-cardiac arrest responses thus confusing the directive. Subsequently this story was picked up by Los Angeles news agencies and Channel 3 locally. Mr. Warren had the chance to speak to Chief Harms and received clarification that this memo specifically related to cardiac arrest. Mr. Warren requested Metro Fire contact local media stations to clarify the misunderstanding, and place a comment prominently on our website describing our policy to transport based on EMS protocols.

Joe Pick from the Firefighter's Burn Institute presented the 2020 Fill the Boot Awards to Metro Fire and Chief Harms. He encourages everyone to participate this year again, even though it may look a bit different due to the pandemic.

#### CONSENT ITEMS

**Action:** Moved by Wood, seconded by Clark, and carried unanimously by members present to adopt the Consent Calendar as follows:

- 1. Action Summary Minutes**  
**Recommendation:** Approve the Action Summary Minutes for the Regular Board meeting of December 10, 2020.  
**Action:** Approved Action Summary Minutes.
- 2. Purchase of Mobile Data Computers (MDCs)**  
**Recommendation:** The Board approve the purchase of 42 MDCs from CDCE Inc. not to exceed \$211,500.  
**Action:** Approved staff's recommendation.
- 3. Ground Emergency Transport Program – Updated Agreements with California Department of Health Care Services and Statewide Participants 16**  
**Recommendation:** Adopt a resolution authorizing the Fire Chief to execute the Agreement with CA Department of Health Care Services and authorize the CFO to enter into Agreements for Recovery of the Administrative Costs for Implementation and Recovery of GEMT Payments with each agency participating in the GEMT Program.  
**Action:** Adopted Resolution No. 2021-001.

## ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Bid Award – Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat** (*Erin Castleberry, Administrative Specialist*)  
**Recommendation:** Approve the Request for Exception to Competitive Bidding Process and approve the bid award to Rogue Jet Boatworks.  
**Action:** Moved by Goold, seconded by Sheetz, and carried unanimously by the members present to approve staff's recommendation.
- 2. Agreement between the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District and Local 522 regarding the Paramedic Training Program** (*Deputy Chief Casentini*)  
**Recommendation:** Approve the Paramedic Training Program agreement between the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District and Sacramento Area Fire Fighters Local 522.

Director Goold recused himself from this action item, and left the meeting.

**Action:** Moved by Clark, seconded by Wood, and carried (Aye: Clark, Jones, Kelly, Orzalli, Sheetz, Wood, and White; Noes: Saylor; Absent: Goold) to approve the Paramedic Training Program agreement.

Director Goold rejoined the meeting for Action Item 3.

- 3. Memorandum of Understanding for Endowment** (*Director Orzalli*)  
**Recommendation:** Approve the MOU between Metro Fire and the Public Safety Foundation and authorize the Fire Chief to sign.  
**Action:** Moved by Wood, seconded by Clark, and carried unanimously by the members present to approve the MOU and authorize the Fire Chief to sign.
- 4. Response to the Request of Mr. David Warren** (*Director Orzalli*)  
**Recommendation:** Issue a letter emphasizing support of following COVID-19 protocols and wearing PPE, and post the letter publically to the Metro Fire website.  
**Action:** Moved by Goold, seconded by Saylor, and carried unanimously by the members present to issue a letter in support of COVID-19 protocols and wearing PPE, and post the letter on the Metro Fire website.

## REPORTS

### 1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Kelly shared the Executive Committee met earlier and made committee appointments for the year, with most appointments remaining the same.

### 2. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Harms shared that Don Olsen, a member of the CERT Team passed away. His passing was sudden and unexpected. He was a dedicated and active member of CERT and will be greatly missed. Chief Harms also shared that Forrest Adams, a former Fire Chief with the City of Sacramento who began his career in the fire service in 1977, also passed away. He asked for a moment of silence at the end of the meeting to honor these lives lost.

### Promotions

Captain Shannon Chamberlin effective 1/17

Captain Joseph Schmitt effective 1/17

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### **Retirement**

Effective 12/29, Captain Brian Benton – 26 years of service

Effective 12/30, Captain Craig Henderson – 26 years of service

Effective 12/31, Facilities Manager George Gravin – 19 years of service

### **Recruitment Opportunity**

Firefighter/Paramedic (21-1 Academy)

### **Reassignments**

Following members have been selected to fill the COVID-19 Response Unit, effective 1/18:

Firefighter Christie Ravera

Firefighter Michael Skaggs

### **Branch Reorganization**

Support Services: Community Risk Reduction, Fire Investigations, and Fire Dispatch

Administration: Information Technology

### **Meetings**

12/27, Sac County Fire Chiefs Association – Executive Group Meeting

### **Upcoming Events**

Firefighters Burn Institute Annual “Fill the Boot for Burns” February 4 – 7 at Sunrise Mall, with the Chief’s Challenge on Saturday, February 6 from 9:00-10:00am. Additionally, on-line donations are being accepted now. He is looking forward to keeping the trophy with Metro Fire!

### **OPERATIONS REPORT**

Deputy Chief Mitchell wished everyone a happy new year!

Since our last Board Meeting in December there have been 9,848 total calls, and 28 building fires with 16 being working fires. Staff has developed nine new after action reports from these fires, so crews who were not on the call can learn. As for busiest units, Engine 53 and Medic 224 were the busiest units.

A Smoke Detector Blitz, which was a collaborative effort between Operations, CERT, CRRD, FF Burn Institute, and the American Red Cross, took place in North Highlands on December 30<sup>th</sup>. This was after a fatal fire in the area where crews found no working smoking detectors. They were able to distribute 140 detectors and 60 batteries for devices that needed them.

DC Mitchell is happy to share the Command Manual is with the publisher, this will allow crews to reference consistent operations and will become a tool for promotional opportunities and training.

On January 1<sup>st</sup> the software program that records patient care reports and incident reports transitioned to Imagetrend, and training records transitioned to Target Solutions. This took a huge amount of work beforehand, and he thanked those involved.

We recently received the UASI Grant that allows for a Thermal Imaging Camera on each seat of apparatus. This is a regional grant so all surrounding fire agencies received them.

The Regional Incident Management Team is working with Law Enforcement in anticipation of civil unrest during next week's Presidential Inauguration.

Lastly, DC Mitchell provided an update on COVID-19. Currently, Metro Fire has experienced 102 positive employees, with 22 people currently off work, and we've tested over 1,000 people throughout this pandemic. At its peak, staffing has seen 93 members off work. As of November 1<sup>st</sup> there have been 69 different brown outs, where at least one position was browned out due to staffing needs. He is happy to share that because of membership's commitment it was rare that an apparatus remained browned out for an entire shift. We are currently working with local agencies to get personnel vaccinated quickly and efficiently.

Director Jones asked that we add retired City Fire Chief Ray Charles, and retired City Fire Captain Carl Granger who dedicated a lot of time and energy burn camp, they both passed away over the holiday season.

### **3. SMFD – FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 522 REPORT:**

Captain McGoldrick thanked the Board for approving the Paramedic Training Program earlier tonight. He also appreciates the moment of silence honoring the members whom recently passed away.

### **4. COMMITTEE AND DELEGATE REPORTS**

*All Committee Meetings will be held at the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District Board Room, 10545 Armstrong Avenue, Mather, California unless otherwise specified.*

#### **A. Executive Committee – (President Kelly)**

Report Out: January 14, 2021 at 5:30 PM

President Kelly shared the committee appointments for 2021 were made earlier, and staff will alert those agencies and employees where changes were made.

#### **B. Communications Center JPA – (DC Wagaman)**

Report Out: January 12, 2021 at 9:00 AM

DC Wagaman thanked Chief Harms and executive staff for assistance in transitioning to his new role of Deputy Chief. Assistant Chief Bailey has completed the transition to his new role as Executive Director and working on good things to come. Despite the toll COVID-19 had at the center, he is happy to report there was no loss in service. They are transitioning to monthly meetings, with the next meeting scheduled for February 9, 2021 at 9:00 AM.

#### **C. California Fire & Rescue Training JPA – (TBD)**

Next Meeting: January 21, 2021 at 4:00 PM

Location: Virtually due to COVID restrictions

#### **D. Finance and Audit Committee – (Director Orzalli)**

Next Meeting: January 28, 2021 at 5:00 PM

#### **E. Policy Committee – (Director Goold)**

Next Meeting: February 11, 2021 at 5:30 PM

## BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Director Saylor thanked all those who participated in the smoke detector blitz in her division. She also thanked everyone for their presentations tonight.

Director Jones thanked Mr. Warren and Mr. Pick for their comments, public participation is always appreciated. She also appreciates the efforts of all those involved in the smoke detector blitz. She thanked the COVID-19 response units for their work in congregate living facilities, and all members for their work in keeping companies open and responding to community needs. She was happy to hear about the consolidation of records into new software programs and the UASI Grant for Thermal Imaging Cameras.

Director Orzalli congratulated the department on receiving the thermal imaging cameras, and thanks Sue Frost for being the first person to purchase two cameras. He thanked Mr. Warren for supporting Metro Fire and employees. He also thanked Chief Harms and General Counsel Lavra for their work on the endowment process.

Director Wood echoed previous comments made by Directors Jones and Orzalli. He thanked Station 68's crew who was dispatched to his house on December 17<sup>th</sup>, the crew was very compassionate. The following day Captain Spiva led Engine 68 in the community parade, Director Wood and the community were very appreciative for the bit of normalcy this brought to the neighborhood during the holidays. Director Wood took a moment to share his thoughts on the recent actions of our local political leaders. He is deeply concerned they are acting contrary to safety related to the highly infectious COVID-19 virus and putting community members in harm's way. These political leaders are not acting as supporters of the region's first responders, and their political agendas are putting the community, members of Metro Fire, and the families of Metro Fire employees at risk.

Director White thanked Director Wood for his comments, and agrees with his sentiments. He also thanked staff for the support of Battalion Chief Read, who is genuinely appreciative of everything as he recovers.

Director Clark wishes everyone a happy new year, he is very optimistic about 2021. He appreciates the ability to vaccinate members, and the sentiments shared by Director Wood, and Director Clark agrees that our public leaders are bad examples. He hopes that we pay close attention to the COVID-19 long haulers. Lastly, he thanks the men and women of Metro Fire for doing great things in 2021.

Director Sheetz thanks staff for their presentations, especially the paramedic training program. She echoes comments from Director Clark on the COVID-19 vaccine, it is important for members to protect themselves and the public they serve. She sends condolences to those who passed away, and those who lost their lives in the riots. It is a very scary time right now, and she is hopeful that everything will remain peaceful next week.

Director Kelly thanks the Board for the opportunity to serve as chair this year, he is looking forward to it!

Board recessed to Closed Session at 8:06 pm with a moment of silence honoring CERT Member Mr. Olsen, City Fire member Forest Adams, City Fire Chief Ray Charles, and City Fire Captain Carl Granger.

## CLOSED SESSION

1. **Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9 (a) - One matter of Workers Compensation Compromise and Release.**

- A. Barry Taylor and the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District  
Claim # SMDM - 548900 – Workers Compensation Settlement Authority  
Colin Connor of Lenahan, Slater, Pearse & Majernik, LLP

**Action:** Moved by Sheetz, seconded by Wood, and carried unanimously by the members present to give the District's third party negotiator settlement authority.

2. **CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION – Significant Exposure to litigation pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9 (b): One case**

- A. Claim Against Public Entity Pursuant to Government Code Section 910  
Nabil Samaan v. Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District  
Deputy Chief Tyler Wagaman

**Action:** Moved by Sheetz, seconded by Clark, and carried unanimously by the members present to deny the claim and refer the matter to the District's insurance carrier.


The Board reconvened to Open Session at 8:18 pm.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

  
Matt Kelly, Board President

  
D'Elman Clark, Secretary

  
Melissa Penilla, Board Clerk