

AGENDA
Disaster Fire and Safety Commission
Regular Meeting
January 25, 2023
7:00 PM

District 1 – Kim-Mai Cutler

District 5 – Shirley Dean

District 2 – Weldon Bradstreet

District 6 – Greg Murphy

District 3 –

District 7 – Harrison Raines

District 4 – Antoinette Stein

District 8 – Paul Degenkolb

Mayor’s Appointee- Jose Luis Bedolla

PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) and the state declared emergency, this meeting of the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. The COVID-19 state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and presents imminent risks to the health of attendees. Therefore, no physical meeting location will be available.

To access the meeting remotely: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Please use this URL <https://cityofberkeley-info.zoomgov.com/j/1619573531> If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the “raise hand” icon by rolling over the bottom of the screen.

*To join by phone: Dial 1-669-900-9128 and enter Meeting ID 161 957 3531 If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, Press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair. Please be mindful that all other rules of procedure and decorum will apply for Commission meetings conducted by teleconference or videoconference*

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

Approval of the Agenda

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

1. Fire Department Staff Report *

Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of December 7, 2022*

Action Items

3. Designating a Commissioner as Core member of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Core Group (on Action Calendar)
4. Emergency Access Evacuation Routes (dean)

Discussion Items

5. FY24 Measure FF Budget Update (Staff)
6. CWPP Core Meeting Update (Bedolla/Murphy)
7. Federal Engineering Dispatch Study including Staffing, Facilities, Training, and Software for Dispatch Center (Murphy)
8. Fire Department Facilities Master Plan (Dean)
9. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps
 - a. Commission Officer Elections to be held in February for chairperson and vice-chairperson (February Action Item)
 - b. Quarterly Budget Report February 22, 2023

Adjournment

Disaster & Fire Safety Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday December 7, 2022

Present: Toni Stein, Harrison Raine, Greg Murphy, Weldon Bradstreet, Paul Degenkolb,
Absent: Kim-Mai Cutler (Leave of Absence), Jose Luis Bedolla, Shirley Dean (Leave of Absence)
Staff: Khin Chin, Keith May, Steve Riggs, Chris Pinto, David Sprague, Cheryl Miller, Carol Rice
Public: 16 Attendees; 4 public speakers

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

W. Bradstreet called meeting to order at 7:02pm

Approval of the Agenda

Approved by Acclamation

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

4 speakers

1. Fire Department Staff Report

Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of October 26, 2022*

Motion to approve as submitted: Stein

Second: Raine

Vote: 4 Ayes: Bradstreet, Degenkolb, Raine, Stein; 0 Noes; 3 Absent: Bedolla, Dean, Cutler; 1

Abstain: Murphy

Action Items

3. 2023 Commission Meeting Schedule*

Motion to adopt Disaster and Fire Safety Commission meeting schedule for 2023 regular meetings scheduled on January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, August 2, September 27, October 25, and December 6: Bradstreet

Second: Stein

Vote: 5 Ayes: Bradstreet, Degenkolb, Stein; Murphy, Raine 0 Noes; 3 Absent: Bedolla, Dean, Cutler; Abstain:

4. Designating a Commissioner as an Alternate member of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Core Group

Motion to designate Commissioner Murphy as alternate member of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Core Group for the next scheduled meeting only: Bradstreet

Second: Stein

Vote: 5 Ayes: Bradstreet, Degenkolb, Stein; Murphy, Raine 0 Noes; 3 Absent: Bedolla, Dean, Cutler; Abstain:

Discussion Items

5. Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Meeting #3 Assessment Priorities and Action Plan (Staff Presentation) *
6. Update on Commission Recommendations to Council (Rader)
7. Berkeley Fire Code Update (Dean)
8. Fire Department Facilities Master Plan (Dean)
9. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Stein

Second: Murphy

Vote: 5 Ayes: Bradstreet, Degenkolb, Stein; Murphy, Raine 0 Noes; 3 Absent: Bedolla, Dean, Cutler; Abstain:

Adjourned at 8:54p

DFSC Staff Report

January 25, 2023

1. Measure FF Monthly Report

a. Budget Overview –

b. Quarter 1 (July, August, September) report due in November

Quarter 2 (October, November, December) report due in February

Quarter 3 (January, February, March) report due in May

Quarter 4 (April, May, June) End of Year Report due in October

i. Program Review

- **Standards of Coverage Analysis** – The Department is undergoing an in-depth analysis of fixed and mobile resources to determine the best deployment model and to ensure the Department is responding effectively and efficiently.

(Measure FF has funded the study only)

- Status: Final draft is almost completed by CityGate. Working on scheduling presentations to stakeholders. I would like the DFSC to have one, are they interested, if so, when? It would take 60 minutes to present + questions. (special meeting ??)

- **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)** – The CWPP is a comprehensive risk analysis that addresses local target hazards and includes a community-based action plan to mitigate threats, promote preparedness activities, and ensure resiliency. It will serve as the foundation and roadmap for the Departments work to prevent wildfire and limit the spread when they ignite.

- Update: Discussion item.

- **Wildfire Prevention / Mitigation – Vegetation Management Inspections** –

- Update: Inspections are still being continued year-round with an emphasis on re-inspections and high hazard complaint properties.

- **Retired Annuitants** – The retired annuitants are largely focused on performing vegetation inspections for properties in fire zone 2 and 3. They are also looking at transitioning the inspection from paper to mobile technology, re-tooling the re-inspection, citation, and violation process. The Department has also expanded its traditional hazardous fire area program to include all properties in fire zones 2 and 3.

- Update: all Retired Annuitants have submitted their documentation to return back to work and we have a few who are doing inspections. The new sworn inspector will be starting January 30th.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Paramedic Recruitment – Single Function Job Classifications & Recruitment:

- The Division has worked collaboratively with Local 1227 and Human Resources to draft single function EMT and Paramedic Job

Classifications have been approved by the City Council on January 18th, 2022.

Update: Academy to start January 30th for the first class of 10 Paramedics. Family Day was held on January 21st as we welcomed the new recruits and their families.

Dispatch Study: Our goal, per Council direction is to enhance the dispatch center so it can triage calls, divert non-emergency calls (including mental health calls) to appropriate resources like the SCU; and provide emergency medical instructions to callers.

Status: No new update.

- **Recruitments:**

- Communications Specialist (PIO) – The new PIO should begin sometime in mid-February.
- Fire Inspector (Sworn) x2 – Interviews were completed and three candidates moved on to the background investigation phase.

- **Safe Passage**

- **Update:** No new updates.

- **Division of Training Property** – The Department is actively engaged to find a piece of property that will meet the City’s needs for the training and development of its emergency responders and support staff. Due to zoning, the cost of property and the proximity of residential units to most property in Berkeley, this location will likely be outside the City proper. This presents exciting opportunities for regional collaboration with other fire departments and a community college district.

- Update: Moving forward with plans that include Richmond, El Cerrito and Albany. No substantial updates. Next steps are MOUs.

- ii. Implementation & Metrics

- **Outdoor Warning System** – No New update.

2. Measure GG Monthly Report

- a. Budget Overview – No new update
- b. Quarter 1 (July, August, September) report due in November
Quarter 2 (October, November, December) report due in February
Quarter 3 (January, February, March) report due in May
Quarter 4 (April, May, June) End of Year Report due in October

3. Fire Facilities Master Plan (FMP): Berkeley Fire Department stations are undersized, in poor condition and in need of remodels or replacement. The Department initiated a long-term replacement planning process to better understand infrastructure needs. This process will provide the City leaders of today and tomorrow with actionable information ahead of future infrastructure bond measures. (*Measure FF has funded the study only*)

- a. Update: Final presentation provided to City Manager going to Council in April. Would the DFSC like a presentation? If so, when? Would take 60 min to present + questions. Cliff notes: all stations are approaching end of life and need substantial remodel or replacement. Station 1 needs to be moved, it has outgrown its residential neighborhood sized site. Analysis of costs in today's dollars put the project between 200-300 million. This was a previously unaccounted for part of the City's infrastructure challenges. (special meeting ??)

4. Department Activities

- a. All Commission Secretaries were advised that as of March 1st, 2023 all commissions will return to in-person meeting. These will not be hybrid meetings, they will be in-person meetings held in the same format as pre-pandemic meetings. The City is working guidance for appropriate health and safety protocols and will have more information at a later date.
- b. On December 20th, Berkeley Police and Fire received a call of a possible suicide via jumping off of a six-story building on Telegraph. A 20-year-old male was found and transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

5. Call Volume Report

Fire Department Report by California Incident Type		
December 2022		
Fires – including Encampment Fires (structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney,	39	
Encampment Fires (structures, warming/cooking, debris)	37	
Explosion - no fire (overpressure ruptures, explosions)	1	
Rescue & EMS (medical assist, vehicle accident)	867	
Hazardous Condition - no fire (combustible spills/leaks, chemical release, radioactive condition, electrical wiring problem, biological hazard, potential accident w/ building/aircraft/vehicles)	50	
Service Calls (person in distress, water issue, smoke/odor problem, animal issue, public	144	

assist, cover assignment/standby)		
Good Intent (canceled en-route, wrong location, nothing found, steam mistaken for smoke)	93	
False Alarm Calls (malicious, malfunction, unintentional, biohazard scare)	221	
Severe WX (lightening, wind storms)	1	
Special Incidents (citizen complaints)	1	
TOTAL	1,417	

Apparatus Count

Unit Utilization	3,089	
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January 25, 2023

For Action: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission Agenda

Submitted by: Commissioner Shirley Dean

I move that the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (DFSC) inform the City Manager and City Council that in consideration of major street changes to streets which have an existing designation as an Emergency Access and/or as an Evacuation Route or is in the process of considered for such a designation be subject to analysis prior to commencing any planning process to implementing proposed major changes. Further, that major changes be defined as changes that would result in narrowing all or part of a street or other changes that go beyond ordinary repair and maintenance that would lessen the street's functioning as an Emergency Access or Evacuation would be denied and an alternative to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety without lessening the Emergency Access and Evacuation Route designation be pursued.

Background:

Evacuation maps, updated in June 2011, indicate that Hopkins Street is one of several east-west streets currently designated as "Emergency Access and Evacuation" routes. Link to map follows:

<https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Berkeley-Emergency-Access-Evacuation-Routes-06-2011.pdf>

In 2019, in an effort to improve pedestrian and bike safety, the City Council voted to undertake a plan, Vision Zero, to achieve better safety for pedestrians and bicyclists that eventually would lead to the narrowing of some streets. (Note: The action//results of narrowing a street is now referred to as a "Road Diet.") Because of two fatal accidents in 2017, Hopkins Street was added to the Road Diet list. Actually, only one of these, a pedestrian fatality, occurred at the Hopkins Monterey intersection. The other involved a bicyclist who was hit by a car on Sacramento Street approximately ½ block from the Hopkins Sacramento intersection.

More than a year ago, a plan to change Hopkins Street was presented, and public participation sought. From the beginning, the plan was controversial – pro and con for many reasons, most concerning the impact of the proposed plan on the street's much loved and busy commercial area and the desire for a safe bicycle route.

In the beginning, the plan went from The Alameda to the end of Gilman. In 2022, the eastern end of the plan was extended to Sutter and considered as one segment ending at Gilman, with the remaining segment to be considered extended from Gillman to San Pablo. It was determined that a mistake had been made in counting the number of parking spaces that served the commercial area had been lost in the segment from McGee to Gilman. A short period of reconsideration was granted and a final vote will be coming

before the Council in the near future. At this time, the segment of Sutter to Gilman will be discussed by the:

1. Commission on Aging on Wednesday, January 18 at 1:30 pm.,
2. Disability Commission on Wednesday, January 18, at 3:00 pm
3. The segment from Gilman to San Pablo will be considered at the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission meeting Thursday, January 19, 7:00 pm.

The problem we face is that the information that Hopkins is a designated Emergency Access and Evacuation Route came to light in late 2022 and in subsequent meetings the impact of the proposed changes on that designation has not been addressed. We now have limited time to respond.

I am proposing that whatever action the DFSC considers does not involve in any way decreasing efforts to achieve better safety for pedestrians and bikers but it is our clear responsibility to address safe and sound evacuation plans. In 2019 the Vision Zero initial committee charged with starting the process included the Fire Department. Apparently in the months to follow, the committee did not fully function due to COVID. However, on June 28, 2022 the City Manager authored an annual report for 2021 and 2022 and concluded that there should be an appointment of a new task force to commence seeking the goal of greater safety. I can find little, if anything, in that report that placed an emphasis on the issues of safety when emergency access is needed and when a particular street would function in full evacuation mode. This item seeks to restore an enduring fully coordinated balance between achieving pedestrian and bicyclists' safety on a day-to-day basis and the essential need to function as an evacuation route when there is a disaster such as a wildfire, seismic issue or flooding has occurred and thousands of residents are fleeing their homes. *The planning must address both functions.*

What the Commission Needs:

1. An explanation of how specific regulations regarding fire apparatus access roads that are contained in California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Division 1, apply to the Hopkins proposal in
 - a. Section 503.2.2 that the fire code official shall have the authority to require or permit modifications to the required access widths where they are inadequate for fire or rescue operations or when necessary to meet the public safety objectives of the jurisdiction. And
 - b. Section 503.2.4 that the fire apparatus access road shall be determined by the fire code official. And
 - c. Section 503.4.1 that traffic calming devices should be prohibited unless approved by the fire code official.

2. A description of the process used to determine the Evacuation Routes listed on the attached map, including the method of approval, date and name and rank of the approval authority.
3. I am informed by a resident that AB-9 Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation of the following:
 - (g)(1) A safety element for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure, slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides, subsidence, liquefaction, and other seismic hazards identified pursuant to Chapter 7.8 (commencing with Section 26900 of Division 2 of the Public Resources Code, and other geologic hazards known to the legislative body, flooding, and wildfire and urban fires. The safety element shall include mapping of known seismic and other geologic hazards. It shall also address evacuation routes, military installations, peak load water supply requirements, and minimum road widths and clearances around structures, and those items related to identified fire and geologic hazards. (underlining added for emphasis.)

I am assuming that this is largely reference to the Safety Element in Berkeley's Master Plan but also has applicability to the CWPP. I cite it here because past DFSC communications regarding liquefaction and the increased fire hazards from residential development occurring around the storage of large quantities of toxic chemicals and toxins released from increased sea level seem to have been largely ignored and I want the Commission to remind that those problems remain and need to be further addressed.
4. I am also suggesting that the DFSC form a committee of its own members to do further research on such items as the experience that other cities, such as Los Angeles, but by others as well, have had with the streets on a diet approach.

Using the proposed process that this item suggests should save time and money as compared to the current Hopkins Street process, which has wasted hours of staff and resident time.