

Disaster & Fire Safety Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday August 3, 2022

Present: Jose Luis Bedolla, Shirley Dean, Tobias Simmons, Paul Degenkolb, Toni Stein, Nancy Rader, Weldon Bradstreet

Absent: Kim-Mai Cutler,

Staff: Khin Chin, Chris Pinto

Public: 42 Attendees : Carol L Rice, Henry DeNero, Ganey PMT, Andrew Talbot, Shantee, kellyhammargren, Peter Lydon, Jerry Kent, Richard, Richard Thomason, Jon Kaufman, Esther Mandeno# Digital Mapping Solutions, Cheryl Miller, marthasrabkin, Susie Bailey, Benay Dara-Abrams, Scott Stoller, sheryl Drinkwater, Gretchen Carlson, Carolyn Burgess, Takato Umeda, Kathleen Kelly, arbara Gross, Davis, Iris Kwok, Madeline, Alec Dara-Abrams, Joan Hollinger, Masha Fergusson, Maya Jimenez, Steve Taylor, Michael Rowe, ray yep, Doug Kennedy, David Schindler, molly, Linda, Lynn Crook, Michael, ipad, C Chen, Stephen Yang

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

J. Bedolla called meeting to order at 7:01pm

Approval of the Agenda

Approved by Acclamation

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Benay Dara-Abrams Secretary for Hillside Fire Safety Group, Status of the June 22 and why is it in still in staff review and what responsibility does the Fire Department have to provide the report in a timely basis to the Council.

1. Fire Department Staff Report

DFSC Staff Report

August 3, 2022

1. Measure FF Monthly Report

a. Budget Overview – Next scheduled update will be the Year-end report at the end of September or beginning of October

i. Program Review

1. **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.

- Status: No update

2. **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.

- a. Update: Presentation on Agenda.

3. **Wildfire Prevention / Mitigation – Vegetation Management Inspections** – We have complete 8500+ annual inspection that began in the summer of 2021. The inspection program has transition from paper to the new Defensible Space Inspection (DSI) program. All properties are being imported into the DSI program so we can follow up with re-inspections and not lose the violation data on those properties.

On July 27th we kicked off the new Inspections Season along with going live with the DSI iPad inspection program. We have changed to a year-long inspection cycle from the previous 5-month cycle that will reset every May 1st. We are collecting data with the software to track various home hardening vulnerabilities (roof types, gutters, eaves, windows, vents, fences, decks, and sidings as examples). These inspection times will increase due to the home hardening assessments and using the digital format with iPads. These increased times will benefit the department and the property owners as there is much more information collected and shared with the homeowner following the inspection. This should result in a more-clear process for the homeowner and ultimately less questions and follow-up.

The first two areas that we are starting the new inspection season will be the Panoramic Area and properties east of Grizzly Peak Blvd.

4. **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.

- a. Update: Currently we have 9 field inspectors and 4 administrative still performing work for the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Division.

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

- a. The Division has worked collaboratively with Local 1227 and Human Resources to draft single function EMT and Paramedic Job Classifications which were approved with elation at the December Personnel Board meeting and were approved by the City Council on January 18th, 2022.
 - i. Update: Recruitment for our first class of Paramedics has begun! We will take a snapshot of the applicant pool on and move that group ahead through the process. We plan to hire groups of 10 with an ALS Academy of eight weeks followed by Field Training Observation.

6. 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.

- i. Update: Will have a Closed Work Session with City Council to deliver a mid-project report in September after Council Recess.

7. 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.

- i. Status: No New Updates

8. **Recruitments:**

- i. No new updates.

9. **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.

- a. Update: No new updates.

ii. Implementation & Metrics

Outdoor Warning System –5 complete sets of the Outdoor Warning System equipment have been delivered in June to cover the five pilot sites. 10 more sets of the equipment will be ready to ship August 12th

HY Architects have been added as contractors to provide:

Provide permitting services for documentation of location of the initial 5 pilot sites and installation and to provide construction documents, Department of State Architect approval services and construction administration for documentation of location and installation for emergency broadcast speakers at eight Berkeley Unified School District campuses. These services include Schematic Design (site, building and roof plan), Construction Documents (building, roof plan and may include elevations), and Agency Review (follow up on questions, clarifications).

Vegetation Management Inspections – Annuitants

As of:	Vegetation Management Inspections						
AI Inspections							
	Inspected	No Violation Found	Violations Found	Re-Inspection Required	Re-Inspection Completed	Re-Inspection No Violation Found	Re-Inspection w/Violations Found
Foley	449	234	215	215	12	3	9
Frankel	1194	1108	86	86	3	3	
Greene	97	68	29	29	350	317	33
Guzman	1		1	1			
Higgins	817	622	195	195	2	2	
Johnson	877	505	372	372	67	52	15
Lee	202	167	35	35	213	192	21
Marbury	654	379	275	275	424	337	87
McCracken	104	70	34	34	105	70	35
Nagamoto	687	546	141	141	113	107	6
Pinto	13	7	6	6	98	80	18
Ward	431	293	138	138	362	237	125
Williams	1628	1384	244	244	11	5	6
Totals	7154	5383	1771	1771	1760	1405	355
Total Inspections	7,154						
% Completed	100%						
Remaining	0						

2. Measure GG Monthly Report –

- a. Budget Overview – Next scheduled update will be the Year-end report at the end of September or beginning of October.

3. Department Activities

- a. One of the biggest news we have to report came up suddenly. Fire Chief Abe Roman has retired from the City of Berkeley and has accepted a position with the San Rafael Fire Department. We are sad to see him leave the City, but recognize his difficult decision to do what he feels is right for his family.

Dave Sprague will be the Interim Fire Chief and Keith May will be the Interim Deputy Chief. The command team has been well positioned by Chief Roman to succeed. During the last two years, did a lot to flatten the organization, create transparency within the command group, and push information and decision making out and down. This has created a situation where one person’s departure – even an essential one – can be absorbed by the remaining personnel with little lost in transition.

- b. We have concluded our second-round interviews for Academy 112 and have sent 15 candidates to the background process.
- c. Grants – Recognizing that we do not have the bandwidth, we are leaning into our contractor to scope out proposals that would further our programs and identify grant opportunities that match the department’s needs.

4. Safe Passage

- Update: We have been working with Transportation and Traffic to repaint existing red curbs and replacing “no parking signs” that have faded as well as painting red curbs around hydrants.

5. Call Volume Report

Fire Department Report by California Incident Type		
	June, 2022	
	July, 2022	
Fires – including Encampment Fires (structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney,	29	
	31	
Encampment Fires (structures, warming/cooking, debris)	3	
	7	
Explosion - no fire (overpressure ruptures, explosions)	0	
	4	
Rescue & EMS (medical assist, vehicle accident)	790	
	783	
Hazardous Condition - no fire (combustible spills/leaks, chemical release, radioactive condition, electrical wiring problem, biological hazard, potential accident w/ building/aircraft/vehicles)	52	
	35	
Service Calls (person in distress, water issue, smoke/odor problem, animal issue, public	136	
	120	

assist, cover assignment/standby)		
Good Intent (canceled en-route, wrong location, nothing found, steam mistaken for smoke)	85 113	
False Alarm Calls (malicious, malfunction, unintentional, biohazard scare)	148 192	
Severe WX (lightening, wind storms)	0 0	
Special Incidents (citizen complaints)	1 3	
TOTAL	1,241 1,281	

Unit Utilization	Apparatus Count	2,676 2,831
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6. Commissions Actions Status

Date of Action	Topic	Result	Description of result	Notes
12/1/2021	Measure FF Oversight Recommendation- revised	City Council 6/28/22 Agenda	Item 34	
2/23/2022	Request for Timely Fiscal Information on Measures FF and GG	City Council 6/28/22 Agenda	Item 48	
4/13/2022	Budget Recommendation for Parking Enforcement			Staff Review for Response; Police Department
4/27/2022	Measure FF Budget Recommendation - Expanded Fire Prevention Inspection			Staff Review for Response; Fire Department
5/25/2022	Annual Measure GG Tax Rate Adjustment Memorandum	City Council 6/14/22 Agenda	Communications Packet related to Item 17	Submitted to Clerk for inclusion in Council Communication Packet
5/25/2022	Request for One Additional Meeting of Disaster and Fire Safety Commission	City Council 7/26/22 Agenda	Item 26	Additional Meeting Approved
6/22/2022	Red Curbs and Visible Signage			Staff Review for Response; Fire Department

Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of June 22, 2022*

Motion to approve as submitted: Bradstreet

Second: Rader

Vote: 7 Ayes: Rader , Bedolla, Dean, Bradstreet, Simmons, Degenkolb, Stein; 0 Noes; 1

Absent: Cutler; Abstain:

Action Items

3. Commission Annual Workplan

No action taken, held to next meeting.

Discussion Items

4. Community Wildfire Protection Plan Community Input Process (Staff Presentation)
 5. Community Communications About 2022 Fire Season (Bedolla)
 6. Fire Department Facilities Master Plan (Dean)
 7. CERT Training (Bedolla)
 8. Safe Passages Program Update (Bedolla)
 9. June 28, 2022 Council Meeting - Consideration of Various DFSC-related Budget Items* (Rader)
 - a. Rader Communication to Council
 - b. Measure GG and FF Tax Rates
 - c. Parking Enforcement in Fire Zones 2 and 3
- J. Bedolla left the meeting at 9:01p
10. Berkeley Strategic Plan Quarterly Report on Wildfire Safety* (Rader)
 11. California and Berkeley Fire Code Updates (Rader)
 12. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Dean

Second: Stein

Vote: 6 Ayes: Rader , Dean, Bradstreet, Simmons, Degenkolb, Stein; 0 Noes; 2 Absent:
Bedolla, Cutler; Abstain:

Adjourned at 9:23p

DRAFT