

Disaster & Fire Safety Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday April 13, 2022

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

Absent:

Staff: Khin Chin, Keith May

Public Attendees 8: Alec Dara-Abrams, Benay Dara-Adams, Kathleen Kelly, Kelly Hammargen, Richard Thomason, Henry DeNero, Nancy Gillette, Marcus von Engel

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

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

Approval of the Agenda

Approved by Acclamation

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

None.

1. Fire Department Staff Report

DFSC Staff Report

April 13th, 2022

1. Measure FF Monthly Report

a. Budget Overview – No Update

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: Contractor has completed the Risk Assessment and will deliver the Mid-Project Briefing to the City Manager, Fire Chief, Fire Union, City Council in April
2. **Project Management and Subject Matter Expert (SME)** – Through this contract, the Department has relied on a team of professionals that have varied background including in project management, information technology, videography, marketing and industry specialists that have specific skills in emergency medical service and training.
 - a. Status: No Updates
 3. **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:
 4. **Wildfire Prevention / Mitigation – Vegetation Management Inspections** – See chart below.
 5. **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: No Updates

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.

Update: No Updates

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.

Update: No Updates.

Employee Physicals & Human Performance: First responders suffer higher rates of chronic medical and psychological injury and illness than the general population. These issues are often directly correlated to shift work, traumatic experiences and stress, and exposure to carcinogens. Wellness programs have reduced healthcare and workers compensation costs associated with injuries and illness. Additionally, responders that are healthy (medically and psychiatrically) are more resilient, make better decisions and are more likely to be at work.

Update: After a multi-year solicitation process, two Contractors have been selected that will provide services that include but are not limited to, annual physical examinations, screening for cancer and other chronic diseases associated with the work, one-on-one consultations, managing wellness/fitness initiatives, coordinating awareness and motivational campaigns, mental and health related training, long-term data collection and analysis, and educational seminars. We will have one full time on site Human Performance Coach that will be likely starting by May of this year.

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 Updates.

6. Recruitments:

- a. Shift Fire Inspector Recruitment –These are filled by existing fire department personnel and are used to assist with fire investigations and other inspection related activities in the built environment.
 - i. Update: Interviews have been completed and six members will begin this three-year assignment on May 1st, 2022.

b. Sworn Fire Inspector Recruitment – Recruitment is on-going.

i. Update: Three new sworn fire prevention inspectors started work on April 4th, and have started their City of Berkeley in-house training.

7. **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 Updates.

ii. Implementation & Metrics

1. **Outdoor Warning System** – The City of Berkeley MOU has been fully executed with the BUSD. We are still facilitating the permit process between the COB and vendor.

iii. RFP Updates

b. Program Specific Reports

i. Defensible Space Inspection Updates

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	136	53	83	83				
Frankel	628	576	52	52	3	3		
Greene	93	65	28	28	100	94	6	
Guzman	1		1	1				
Higgins	559	465	94	94	2	2		
Johnson	292	160	132	132				
Lee	119	84	35	35	196	178	18	
Marbury	310	172	138	138				
McCracken	102	70	32	32	94	65	29	
Nagamoto	54	22	32	32	7	7		
Pinto	14	7	7	7	94	77	17	
Ward	329	216	113	113	209	112	97	
Williams	1144	1030	114	114	4	4		
Totals	3781	2920	861	861	709	542	167	
Total Inspections	7,356							
% Completed	51%							

2. Measure GG Monthly Report –

a. Budget Overview – No Update

b. Emergency Services Coordinator Position

i. Applicants are being screened for qualifications week on April 12th and we are hoping to schedule interviews the week of May 9th.

ii. RFP Updates – No new updates.

3. Department Activities

a. Grants – No new update.

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 in front of hydrants.

5. Call Volume Report

Fire Department Report by California Incident Type March 17, 2022 – April 6, 2022		
Fires – including Encampment Fires (structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney,	13	
Encampment Fires (structures, warming/cooking, debris)	2	
Explosion - no fire (overpressure ruptures, explosions)	0	
Rescue & EMS (medical assist, vehicle accident)	537	
Hazardous Condition - no fire (combustible spills/leaks, chemical release, radioactive condition, electrical wiring problem, biological hazard, potential accident w/ building/aircraft/vehicles)	20	
Service Calls (person in distress, water issue, smoke/odor problem, animal issue, public assist, cover assignment/standby)	70	
Good Intent (canceled en-route, wrong location, nothing found, steam mistaken for smoke)	67	
False Alarm Calls (malicious, malfunction, unintentional, biohazard scare)	107	
Severe WX (lightening, wind storms)	0	
Special Incidents (citizen complaints)	2	
TOTAL	816	

Unit Utilization	Apparatus Count	1,835
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Additional questions items posed by the DFSC:

1. Will Measure GG Funds reimbursed for overtime costs caused by Covid-19 response? (Chief May)

This question has a few complexities to be aware of:

COVID-related hours were tagged with the COVID Project Code. (20EM08 in FUND\$ or CWEM2008 in ERMA)

The work performed under these codes captures both work to fight COVID (ex: working at a vaccination site) and work required because of COVID (ex: backfill for someone out on COVID leave)

Some, but not all, of the Measure GG-funded OT work to fight COVID qualifies for reimbursement under FEMA. We have been submitting reimbursement requests to FEMA for over a year and have yet to see money back (or denials). FEMA is really, really, really backlogged.

If/when we receive FEMA reimbursement, the CMO's policy is that funds will be routed back into the account that originally paid for the OT. So we expect to see some FEMA reimbursement of Measure GG OT COVID costs, however it will not be complete, and we expect the overall process will take years.

6. Commission Actions Status

9/22/2021	Enforcement of Existing Parking Rules and Regulations	Heard at 3/7 Public safety Committee	-	Staff Review for Response; Police, Public Works - in Agenda Process for 3/8 City Council Meeting ; referred to Public Safety Policy Committee
9/22/2021	Long Range Development Plan for UC Berkeley			Staff Review for Response; Fire Department - in Agenda Process for 4/12 City Council Meeting.
10/27/2021	Recommendation to identify High Risk Areas that are exempt from State Imposed Housing Increases Due to Public Safety Considerations	City Council	Item 3/22/22	

		Agenda		
12/1/2021	Measure FF Oversight Recommendation- revised			Staff Review for Response; Fire Department
2/23/2022	Request for Timely Fiscal Information on Measures FF and GG			Staff Review for Response; Fire Department

S. Dean arrived at 7:17pm

Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of March 23, 2022*

Motion to approve the minutes as submitted: Bradstreet

Second: Rader

Vote: 8 Ayes: Bedolla, Dean, Bradstreet, Rader, Cutler, Simmons, Degenkolb, Stein; 0 Noes; 0 Absent;; 0 Abstain:

Action Items

3. Designating a Commissioner as a Primary and Alternate member of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Core Group *

Motion to designate Commissioner Bedolla and Commissioner Rader as primary and alternate member of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Core Group:

Bedolla

Second: Dean

Vote: 8 Ayes: Bedolla, Dean, Bradstreet, Rader, Cutler, Simmons, Degenkolb, Stein; 0 Noes; 0 Absent;; 0 Abstain:

4. Recommendation for Measure FF spending in FY 23 & FY 24 - Hazardous Vegetation Removal Program* (Rader)

No Action taken.

5. Recommendation for Parking Enforcement Budget* (Rader)

Motion to recommend, for FY 23 and FY 24, funding for parking enforcement in Fire Zones 2 and 3 from the General Fund to allow patrols of at least one full-time-employee-day per week.: Rader

Second: Degenkolb

Vote: 8 Ayes: Bedolla, Dean, Bradstreet, Rader, Cutler, Simmons, Degenkolb, Stein; 0 Noes; 0 Absent;; 0 Abstain:

Discussion Items

6. Commission Workplan (Bedolla)
7. Measure FF Budget Discussion
8. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps
 - a. Measure GG Tax Rate Increase

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Dean

Second: Bradstreet

Vote: 8 Ayes: Bedolla, Dean, Bradstreet, Rader, Cutler, Simmons, Degenkolb, Stein; 0 Noes; 0 Absent; 0 Abstain:

Adjourned at 8:57pm