



DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

**July 13, 2023
7:00 PM**

Fire Department Division of Training Classroom – 997 Cedar Street

Mayor's Appointee- Vacant

District 1 – Vacant

District 2 – Weldon Bradstreet

District 3 – Todd Darling

District 4 – Antoinette Stein

District 5 – Shirley Dean

District 6 – Greg Murphy

District 7 – Harrison Raines

District 8 – Theo Gordon

AGENDA

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

Approval of the Agenda

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

1. Chairperson's Report
2. Fire Department Staff Report*

Consent Items

3. Minutes of May 24, 2023*
From: Commission Secretary
Recommendation: Approve the draft minutes of the May 24, 2023 regular meeting.

Action Items

4. Select a Date and Time for a “Special Meeting” of the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission to Hear Presentations on the Facilities Master Plan and the Dispatch Needs Assessment (Bradstreet)
5. Election of a Vice-Chair position (Bradstreet)

Discussion Items

6. Work Plan (Bradstreet)
7. Request review of low-cost outdoor particulate smoke detectors that are tailored for high priority areas (Stein)
8. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

Work Group Reports

1. Plan & Budget Oversight
2. Home Hardening
3. Wildland Urban Interface
4. Safe Passages
5. Community Outreach

Adjournment

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*This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Keith May, [kmay@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:kmay@berkeleyca.gov) 510-981-5508.*

*Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: E-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required but, if included in any communication to a City board, commission, or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission, or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission, or committee for further information.*

*Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Berkeley Fire Department located at 2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley, CA.*



**COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:**

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair-accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

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I hereby certify that the agenda for this regular/special meeting of the Berkeley City's Disaster and Fire Safety Commission was posted at the front of the Division of Training, 997 Cedar Street, as well as on the City's website, three days prior to the scheduled Commission meeting.

SECRETARY SIGNATURE



DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

**May 24, 2023
7:00 PM**

Fire Department Division of Training Classroom – 997 Cedar Street

Present: Weldon Bradstreet, Shirley Dean, Antoinette Stein, Theodore Gordon, Todd Darling
Jose Luis Bedolla,
Absent: Greg Murphy (LOA), Harrison Raine (LOA)
Staff: Keith May, Leah Greenbaum, David Lopez, Jenny McNulty
Public: 3 attendees

AGENDA

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

W. Bradstreet called meeting to order at 7:05pm

Approval of the Agenda

Approved by Acclamation

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

- 1. Chairperson's Report:** *The Commission Chair may make announcements or provide information to the Commission in the form of an oral report. The Commission will not take action on such items but may request the items be placed on a future agenda for discussion*
- 2. Fire Department Staff Report***

J. Bedolla arrived at 7:30pm

Consent Items

3. Minutes of April 26, 2023*

From: Commission Secretary

Recommendation: Approve the draft minutes of the April 26, 2023 regular meeting.

Motion to approve minutes as revised: S. Dean

Second: T. Gordon

Vote: 5 Ayes: W. Bradstreet, T. Gordon, S. Dean, J. Bedolla, A. Stein;

0 Noes; 2 Absent: 1 Abstain, T. Darling

Action Items

4. Adopt a Recommendation to City Council on the Measure FF and Measure GG Tax Rate Adjustment

From: Commissioner Bradstreet

Recommendation: Review the annual Personal Income Growth and Consumer Price Index and vote on a recommendation to submit to Council. Annually, the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (DFSC) makes a recommendation on the property tax rate that Measures GG and now FF have the option of using. Either the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or Personal Income Growth (PIG) can be applied. At this time, the PIG rate is 4.44%. The CPI rate is 4.192%

Motion to Recommend City Council Adopt Yearly Adjustments of Measure GG and Measure FF Tax Rate using the CPI rate: S. Dean

Second: J. Bedolla

Vote: 6 Ayes: J. Bedolla, W. Bradstreet, T. Darling, S. Dean, T. Gordon, T. Stein;

0 Noes; 2 Absent: H. Raine, G. Murphy; 0 Abstain

5. Select a Date and Time for a “Special Meeting” of the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission to Hear Presentations on the Facilities Master Plan and the Dispatch Needs Assessment

Motion to hold Special Meeting on Thursday July 13, 2023: J. Bedolla

Second: T. Gordon

Vote: 6 Ayes: J. Bedolla, W. Bradstreet, T. Darling, S. Dean, T. Gordon, T. Stein;

0 Noes; 2 Absent: H. Raine, G. Murphy; 0 Abstain

6. Consideration to Change the June Disaster and Fire Safety Commission Regular Meeting of June 28th due to a Religious Holiday*

From: Commissioner Bradstreet

Commission Action Items

Recommendation: Review and discuss the City of Berkeley Religious Holiday schedule and discuss moving the Regular Meeting of the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission to another date in June. This year's Islam "Eid al-Adha" lands on June 28th, 2023. As a reminder, City of Berkeley Commissions should avoid scheduling meetings if possible.

Motion to reschedule regular meeting Monday July 24: J. Bedolla

Second: T. Gordon

Vote: 5 Ayes: J. Bedolla, W. Bradstreet, T. Darling, S. Dean, T. Gordon;

1 Noes A. Stein; 2 Absent: H. Raine, G. Murphy; 0 Abstain

7. Recommendation That Council Consider Establishing a Height-Related Fire Fighting Surcharge for High Rise Buildings*
From: Commissioner Dean

This item was pulled following discussion. Fire Department will provide updates on this project in future Staff Reports.

Discussion Items

8. Concrete Retrofits/Seismic Threat (Staff)

J. Bedolla left at 9:37pm

9. Work Plan

Hold over to the next meeting.

10. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

Work Group Reports

Hold over to the next meeting.

1. Plan & Budget Oversight
2. Home Hardening
3. Wildland Urban Interface
4. Safe Passages
5. Community Outreach

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Dean

Second: Gordon

Vote: 5 Ayes:, W. Bradstreet, T. Darling, S. Dean, T. Gordon; A. Stein 0 Noes ; 3

Absent: H. Raine, G. Murphy, J Bedolla; 0 Abstain

Meeting adjourned at 9:41

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DFSC Staff Report

July 13, 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: No New Update

- **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: Approved by City Council on May 16, 2023 ([Item 1](#))

<https://cwpp-berkeley.hub.arcgis.com/>

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

- No New Updates

- **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: The Retired Annuitant Inspection Program was a bridge until the Department could establish the Fire Intern Program. We now have nine WUI Fire Interns that have completed a two-week intensive training academy. They

received State Fire training and certification in Home Ignition Zone – Defensible Space Inspections, Wildland Fire Behavior, Parcel and Land Mapping, Fire Prevention Education Team training, Plant Identification and Community Outreach Ambassador Support.

This paid training pipeline now provides local residents, ages 18-25, to experience many other offerings that Berkeley Fire and the City of Berkeley can offer. The Interns are highly motivated, quick learners, and super engaged. They have been conducting Defensible Space Inspections along with our Sworn Fire Inspectors.

- **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: Dispatch Needs Assessment presented to Council on July 11th.
 - **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: No New Updates.
- ii. Implementation & Metrics
- **Outdoor Warning System** – Staff has received training on activation procedure for the OWS. Staff and partners also conducted a Table Top Exercise on activation and public alerting.

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: Approved by City Council on May 16, 2023 ([Item 2](#))

4. Department Activities
 - a. On May 31st, our crews responded for a young male who had collapsed in the downtown area and was in cardiac arrest with no bystander CPR in progress. The five-person team of paramedics worked the patient up in the ambulance and went through multiple defibrillations, cardioversions, pacing the heart, and multiple medication administrations. The quick response to the scene, CPR, early defibrillation, and early advanced care were key in the survival of this patient. Not only did he survive, but it was reported that he walked out of the hospital a week later 100% neurologically intact.
 - b. During the first two weeks of July, we have been interviewing and testing candidates for our second EMS Academy that is slated to start in October. We will see a total of 39 candidates and still have 4 that tested for the first EMS Academy that will be moved on to background investigations.
 - c. Fire Department Development Fee Nexus Study. The City has transitioned from a suburban, largely single-story community to a city with a dense urban and ever more vertical skyline. Even in the residential neighborhoods, single story structures are being replaced with multi-story apartment buildings or multiple residential units on a lot that previously had one. This is all well and good, but as the community changes, the impact on the operational services that the city provides, including the fire department change. Completing a Nexus study should have occurred decades ago, but we are going to begin the procurement process to hire a consultant to complete one now. This process will identify the connection between development and the impact it has on the fire department. This is a common component of development fees in many other jurisdictions and is long over-due in our community.

5. Grants
 - a. **SAFER Grant Planning:** We will be submitting for a SAFER grant to begin to address the staffing recommendations that are outlined in the Standards of Coverage report. A team has been working on the application for several months now and we are close to having a final draft.
 - i. No New Updates.

- b. **AFG Grant Submission:** We applied for ~800k that would fund two additional full-time on-site Human Performance Specialists for two years who would focus on nutrition and behavioral health.
 - i. No New Updates.
- c. **Cal Fire, Berkeley, and El Cerrito Grant:** The City is applying for a \$5 million grant to perform education, outreach and direct aid to Fire Zone 2, 3 and to perform work in Cerritos Canyon on both the Berkeley and El Cerrito/Kensington sides.
 - i. No New Updates.
- d. **CalFIRE Hills Emergency Forum (HEF) Grant:** Berkeley Fire is submitting for about \$1.2 million multi-agency mitigation grant that will provide funding for hazardous vegetation management along key roadways in Fire Zone 2, mostly along all of Grizzly Peak. A lot of work is going into this and the benefits will be a huge win for the City.
 - i. No New Updates.

6. Call Volume Report

Fire Department Report by California Incident Type		
	May 2023	June 2023
Fires – including Encampment Fires (structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney,	39	41
Encampment Fires (structures, warming/cooking, debris)	37	37
Explosion - no fire (overpressure ruptures, explosions)	0	0
Rescue & EMS (medical assist, vehicle accident)	847	801
Hazardous Condition - no fire (combustible spills/leaks, chemical release, radioactive condition, electrical wiring problem, biological hazard, potential accident w/ building/aircraft/vehicles)	52	34
Service Calls (person in distress, water issue, smoke/odor problem, animal issue, public	98	136

Public

assist, cover assignment/standby)		
Good Intent (canceled en-route, wrong location, nothing found, steam mistaken for smoke)	99	94
False Alarm Calls (malicious, malfunction, unintentional, biohazard scare)	169	179
Severe WX (lightening, wind storms)	0	0
Special Incidents (citizen complaints)	3	2
TOTAL	1,307	1,287
	Apparatus Count	Apparatus Count
Unit Utilization	3,188	3,048

DFSC Action Tracker

Date of DFSC Action	Description	Status
3/22/2023	Additional Disaster and Fire Safety Commission Meeting to Hear Presentations on Standards of Coverage and Facilities Master Plan	Recommendation Approved by Council on 5/9/2023: Closed
4/26/2023	Recommend that City Council Adopt the Final Draft of Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Received by Council and CWPP approved on 5/16/2023: Closed
4/26/2023	Request City Council to Require HUD to Upgrade Their Electrical Grid to Include Battery Backup During the Time that the Facility is Going Through Renovation (Dean)	Recommendation approved by Council on 6/27/2023 (no Companion Report submitted): Closed
5/24/2023	Adopt a Recommendation to City Council on the Measure FF and Measure GG Tax Rate Adjustment	Received by Council on 6/27/2023; First reading of Ordinance No. 7,877–N.S. was adopted on 6/27/2023; Second reading scheduled for 7/11/2023.