

## Fire Commission VIRTUAL Meeting

February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The meeting via TELECONFERENCE was gaveled to order by Chairman Breen at 7:30 pm. A sign-up sheet was not available.

Chaplain Hetz (Harry) - opened the meeting with a brief invocation prayer and the pledge of allegiance, and provided the chaplain's report.

Commissioner/ Chairman Breen (Bobby) -

- Requested that Greenbelt (35) be approved into the Senator Amoss 508 program – **Motioned and Approved**
- Requested expenditure approval for \$2796.81 for Ritchie (37) to acquire a new Dell computer. - **Motioned and Approved**
- Requested approval for up to \$15,000.00 for Kentlands (33) from the training account to be used to create a new training prop (see attached training funds request). - **Motioned and Approved**
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Commissioner King (Buddy)

- Requested 2020 LOSAP annual report approval for Berwyn Heights (14) as corrected and Baden (36) as corrected – **Both Motioned and Approved.**
- Requested 3 LOSAP award approvals for Branchville Company 11 volunteers; Ronald Leizear Jr. 30 years effective 5/1/21, John D Davies 32 years effective 5/1/21, and Thomas Tanner 30 years effective 5/1/21 – **All Three Motioned and Approved.**

Commissioner/ Secretary Wilson (Rick) - Requested that the February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021 minutes be approved. - **Motioned and Approved.**

Commissioner Mellits (Pete) –

- 2-5-21 Attended the weekly MSFA Legislative Coordination Call, virtually.
- 2-8-21 Attended the funeral passing for Brian Bregman in Greenbelt.
- 2-9-21 Attended the funeral viewing for Mr. Mutchler in Mitchellville.
- 2-10-21 Attended the PGCVFRA February meeting, virtually.
- 2-15-21 Attended the State Delegate Legislative Caucus Coordination Call, virtually.
- Expenditure approval request for Allentown Road VFD, Co. 32; in the amount of \$3,950.00 for a Blowhard 20" Fan. - **Motioned and Approved.**
- Assisting Companies with EARs, SERFs and Speed Letters for specific equipment and tools.
- Gentle reminder for Companies to research their needs to utilize/spend their tool and uniform SERF funds. The sooner in the fiscal year, the better. Several companies have asked for their balances, any Commissioner can do that or I am happy to assist as needed.
- When getting quotes from vendors, please request that quotes be valid for 60 to 90 days, 30 days minimum.

Commissioner Captain Chandler (Michelle) – NSTR

Volunteer Recruiter Aija X. Sills-Coates -

- Provided a brief overview of recruiting activities, including continued outreach to corporations.
- Requested assistance to visit or virtually meet with corporations.
- Contact info: 301 583-1941(Office) 240-825-9863 (Cell) [ascoates@co.pg.md.us](mailto:ascoates@co.pg.md.us)

*PIO Donelan (Jennifer)* – Provided background information regarding an invitation from Fire Chief Green to gather as many of our female firefighters and paramedics as possible to take a photo \*together\* at Station 816 in Bowie on Saturday, February 27th. For more information, please contact her on 240-695-7489.

*Office of the Fire Chief DFC McClelland (Jim)* (Provided via email)

1. A Safety Investigation Team (SIT) has been commissioned by the Department to review the structure fire response and subsequent actions on the February 7, 2021 house fire in the 5200 block of 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The SIT is chaired by Acting Battalion Chief Michelle Chandler.
2. This past weekend, Chief Green sent out an email reminding everyone that safety and accountability should always be a priority for command officers during emergency incidents. Chief Green has directed the Emergency Services Command to ensure that Battalion Chiefs and Duty Chiefs intervene as necessary whenever operations appear to be compromising the safety and welfare of members operating on an incident scene. This may include assuming command or working collaboratively with the current Incident Commander in addressing safety concerns.
3. The Department's COVID numbers continue to trend down, but that is no reason to let our guard down. Everyone is reminded to continue to wear face masks and practice social distancing. As of this morning there are **5** career / volunteer members in quarantine and **4** have tested positive.
4. Members that need the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine, must register for an appointment online. Do not just show up. An email was previously distributed from Captain Gunn with the links to the various vaccination sites. Again, this is for those that need their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.
5. REMINDER - Effective March 1, 2021, the Department will:
  - Restart fit testing. The online calendar for members to schedule a fit test at Apparatus Maintenance is open now. Mobile fit testing will also become available on March 1. Stations with qualified fit testers can continue to schedule the equipment through Acting Battalion Chief Chandler. Anyone with an expired fit test must be compliant by July 1.
  - Open up additional time slots on Monday and Wednesday evenings for fingerprinting new applicants.
  - Logistics will be open regular business hours Monday through Friday (0700 to 1530 hours) for picking up PPE. However, an appointment is still required.
  - Everyone is reminded that we are still in a health emergency and County facilities remain closed to the public and no other restrictions have been lifted. We will continue to monitor the situation and lift others restrictions when we can.
6. The Fire Commission MOU Review Committee has completed its review the document. Only a few minor edits remain regarding legislative titles. Those edits will be made by Monday, with the goal of sending it to the respective stakeholders next week for review.
7. Listed below are progress updates to General Orders:
  - General Orders that have completed the review process and have been forwarded to Chief Green for review and approval:
    - GO # 08-04 Lactation Policy
    - GO # 08-06 Employee and Volunteer Assistance Programs
    - GO # 08-16 Reporting on the Job Injuries

Commissioner Vice Chair Kuenzli (Randy) - Excused

Commissioner Captain Chandler (Michelle) – NSTR

Commissioner McSwain (Kenny) – Excused

PGCVFRA President Whipple (Vic) –

- Please update your chiefs and presidents contact information. Provided a status of recent meetings and upcoming events.

Q&A - NSTR

Chaplain Hamilton - provided a brief benediction and Chairman Breen requested a motion to adjourn @ 8:20 pm

**Minutes were recorded and typed by Commissioner/Secretary Wilson.**

Approved 