

Fire Commission VIRTUAL Meeting

September 15th , 2021

The meeting via TELECONFERENCE, with approximately 44 virtual participants, was gaveled to order by Chairman Breen at 7:30 pm. A sign-up sheet was not available.

Chaplain Hamilton (Margaret Ann) & Chief Chaplain Hetz (Harry) – opened the meeting with a brief invocation prayer and the pledge. The Chief Chaplain's report will be provided separately.

Office of the Fire Chief – DFC McClelland (Jim)

1. As previously reported, we are working to have a M# assigned to each vehicle, boat and trailer, regardless of who fuels, maintains and insures them. An email has been sent to the respective Chief and President for corporations that have vehicles with no M#. That information is due Friday, October 8. Please don't wait until the last minute and don't be late with the information, it is needed for the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Volunteer Insurance Coverage. Most stations only have 1 or 2 vehicles to address, so this is not a huge effort.
2. All supervisors (career and volunteer) must ensure compliance with wearing face mask in all facilities owned or operated by the County, whether you are vaccinated or not. The only exceptions are if you are in an enclosed space by yourself or while eating / drinking and social distancing. These requirements are not optional. Our COVID-19 numbers continue to rise. As of this morning we have 13 in quarantine and 2 testing positive. Please follow all appropriate protocols. The quickest way to go back to some of the previous restrictions is to not follow direction.
3. A survey was sent out to the respective Chiefs to see how many members have been fully vaccinated and how many intend to be vaccinated by October 3, so we can develop a plan for administering vaccinations and perform COVID testing. **This information was due September 3.** Information is still needed from Co. 8, 28, 37, 40 and 48. Please send this information directly to the Department Operations Center (DOC). That email is PGFDDOC@co.pg.md.us . If you have questions, contact Captain Jim Jiron at 301-807-8389. The Department will use this information to determine how many COVID-19 vaccination doses and tests will be needed.
4. A policy on how the Department will maintain compliant with the Executive Order for mandatory vaccination or weekly testing is still being developed and will be coming soon. However, the County's Office of Human Resources Management sent out information providing instructions on how to upload evidence of vaccination into the COVID-19 Vaccination Status Portal. The deadline for submission is September 24. I was able to upload my Vax Card this morning with no issues. However, it appears that some people are unable to gain access to the portal and it is telling you that you are not authorized. OIT and OHRM are working to resolve that ASAP. I will let everyone know when that is resolved. The weekly testing will be a rapid test or a self-test (that has not yet been determined). If the test results are inconclusive or positive, the member will be required to get an PCR test. Members can seek an exemption, based on medical or religious reasons, by submitting a "reasonable accommodation" request to the Health & Wellness office, in accordance with General Order # 08-24 Reasonable Accommodation Requests by Employees and Volunteers.
5. As stations plan their fire prevention open houses, please keep in mind you will need to follow appropriate COVID-19 protocols. It is recommended that you plan for all outside activities to avoid having to have a visitor log in case of the need for contact tracing. Chief Green is seeking guidance from the Health Department.

6. I am working on scheduling a meeting with the Fire Commission and Pensions & Benefits to address the back payment for additional service credit for LOSAP recipients for FY2020 and to make sure we will have no issues for FY2021 going forward. I am hoping to have the meeting next week.
7. Ground ladder testing starts on October 12 and runs through October 28. The Volunteer Chiefs have been notified when and where their respective battalions are scheduled. Battalion Chiefs will coordinate rotating units to the test site on their scheduled date. Ground ladders on ladders are not tested at this time. They are tested during the annual aerial ladder testing.
8. Air Unit 819 will be placed in service in the next few weeks and have 70 SCBA cylinders. It will not have the ability to refill cylinders, just exchange cylinders. A new air unit is on order and expected arrive mid-2022 and will be capable of refilling cylinders.
9. The following General Orders are currently being reviewed by the General Order Work Group:
 - GO # 11-22 Volunteer Separation – comments due 09/17/21.
 - Specifically identifying property to retrieve, including PAT tag and ID card.
 - Adding TISO for disabling Target Solutions and email accounts.
 - Changing references to Risk Management to Health & Wellness.
 - GO # 11-23 Volunteer Application Process – comments due 09/17/21
 - Updated to include current practices, including downloadable application and online fingerprint scheduling.
 - Added a Personal History Statement Questionnaire to enhance / strengthen the background check process.
 - Additional documents requested to be submitted with the application:
 1. High School diploma or GED, if 18 years old or greater.
 2. DD214 Certificate of release or Discharge from Active Duty, if prior military service.
 3. Right to Work Visa if not a US citizen.
 4. Letter of good standing from previous fire departments.
 - Spelled out that our physical examinations are based on NFPA 1582.
 - New language added related to physical examination “no shows”.
 - Automatic disqualification for failed drug test.
 - GO # 11-25 Volunteer Inter-Departmental Transfers – comments due 09/17/21.
 - Language added that no member may transfer more than 3 times without expressed approval from the Fire Commission Chair and DFC for VSC.
 - Language added identifying Fire Commission responsibility for notifying Logistics & Supply of a transfer for PPE recordkeeping and TISO for changes in station assignment for Target Solutions and email accounts.

Commissioner/ Vice Chair Kuenzli (Randy) -

- Requested expenditure approval of \$2,672.04 for Mount Rainier (3) to purchase another commercial ice machine. They are replacing and received a refund for the ice machine that was purchased at the last meeting. - **Motioned and Approved.**

Commissioner Bolden (Jonathan) – met recently with logistics to discuss ERF’s

Commissioner Holbert (Antwan) –

- Requested expenditure approval of \$2,560 for Kentlands (33) to purchase saw blades and repair saw - **Motioned and Approved.**

- Requested expenditure approval of \$4,725 for Kentlands (33) to purchase replacement 1.5" - 50 foot sections of hose - **Motioned and Approved.**

Commissioner Surlis (Vanessa) – No report tonight.

Commissioner King (Buddy) (as read by Chairman Breen)

- Requested approval for the following annual reports; 2021 LOSAP Report for Greenbelt (35) as corrected, 2021 LOSAP Report for Mount Rainier (3), and 2020 LOSAP Report for Riverdale (7) as corrected – **All Motioned and Approved.**
- Requested approval for LOSAP award for the following individuals: Deneen Lewis-Ratliff (38), for 30 Years effective 12/1/21, Bryan Teague (33) for 37 Years effective 9/1/21, Wanda Thomas (38) for 25 years, effective 7/1/21, and Keith Fullington (5) for 25 years effective 7/1/21 – **All Motioned and Approved.**
- The Fire Commission has not received the 2020 LOSAP annual reports from the following companies: 1, 8, 28, 30, and 56.

Commissioner/Chairman Breen (Bobby)

- Requested expenditure approval for Silver Hill (29) of \$2,775.12 for repairs to their utility vehicle. - **Motioned and Approved**
- Insurance policies provided by AIG and Provident were out of date. They have been updated and documentation will be on the FC website soon.
- Stations missing audits; 8, 14, 43, & 56/57. Please schedule a make-up audit ASAP
- Missing 508 audit documents; 3, 13
- The October 6th Fire Commission meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at Baden VFD (36). Confirmation will be forwarded to the list.

Commissioner/ Secretary Wilson (Rick)

- Requested that the September 1st 2021 minutes be approved. - **Motioned and Approved.**

Commissioner/ Battalion Chief Chandler (Michelle) - Excused

Commissioner Smalls (Fred) – Excused

PGCVFRA President Whipple (Vic) – Upcoming convention and tribute luncheon events. Requested an update on recruiter. No update, will check with HR.

Q&A – Question - regarding FC bylaws. Answer -The issue has been sent to the Office of Law for review.

Chaplain Hamilton (Margaret Ann) - provided a benediction and Chairman Breen requested a motion to adjourn @ 8:09 pm.

Minutes were recorded and typed by Commissioner/Secretary Wilson.

