CALL TO ORDER: Chair Nekota called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charlotte Nekota, Max Hannemann, Dennis Morton, William Hong, Nicholas Teves and Craig Nagamine.

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting Fire Chief Lionel Camara, Jr. (HFD), Acting Deputy Fire Chief Sheldon Hao (HFD), Brian Ancheta (Department of the Corporation Counsel), and Nadine Murata. The public was allowed to participate through audio and video-teleconference.

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON ALL AGENDA ITEMS.

Chair Nekota asked the public to identify themselves and to keep their testimony brief.

Public testimony began at 10:33 a.m.

Chair Nekota mentioned that she would like to end public testimony. Commissioner Morton moved and Commissioner Teves seconded. The public testimony concluded at 10:47 a.m. with 15 participants.

III. APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2021.

Chair Nekota called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of the special public meeting executive session minutes of July 14, 2021. Commissioner Morton moved and Commissioner
Nagamine seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the minutes.


Chair Nekota called for any comments or corrections to the executive session minutes of July 21, 2021. Commissioner Morton moved and Commissioner Nagamine seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the minutes.

V. APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 13, 2021.

Chair Nekota called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of the special public meeting of August 13, 2021. Commissioner Morton moved and Commissioner Hong seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the minutes.

VI. APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF AUGUST 13, 2021.

Chair Nekota called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of the special public meeting executive session minutes of August 13, 2021. Commissioner Morton moved and Commissioner Hong seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the minutes.


Chair Nekota called for any comments or corrections to the minutes of August 25, 2021. Vice-Chair Hannemann moved and Commissioner Hong seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the minutes.


Chair Nekota called for any comments or corrections to the executive session minutes of August 25, 2021. Commissioner Hong moved and Commissioner Morton seconded. There being no further comments or corrections and with a unanimous vote in favor, the Commission approved the minutes.

IX. REPORT OF ACTING FIRE CHIEF. Acting Fire Chief Camara passed out his August 2021 monthly report and highlighted the following:

A. Major Incidents.

Acting Fire Chief Camara went over major incidents with the Commission. Details can be found in the monthly report.
1. **Fires.**

   Acting Fire Chief Camara mentioned that there were 14 fires, consisting of 11 building fires, and 3 wildland fires.

2. **Rescues.**

   Acting Fire Chief Camara mentioned that there were 27 rescues with 1 fatality.

   Acting Fire Chief Camara mentioned there was 1 boater in distress, 7 hikers in distress, 5 injured hikers, 7 lost hikers, 1 swimmer in distress, 3 missing swimmer calls, and 2 vehicle accidents.

   Acting Fire Chief Camara mentioned overall there were 16 residents rescued, 27 visitors, and 3 military, and 5 unknown.

   Vice-Chair Hannemann asked if the department keeps track of which trails have more rescues.

   Acting Fire Chief Camara answered the more popular trails are Koko Head, and Diamond Head trails.

   Chair Nekota asked about Stairway to Heaven.

   Acting Fire Chief Camara answered that there’s security at the site and if there’s a rescue it’ll come from the backside.

3. **Hazardous Conditions.**

   43  Stalled elevators
   12  Gas leaks
   8   Downed trees
   5   Chemical spills
   3   Arcing wire calls
   3   Downed power lines

4. **Vacancies as of August 31, 2021.**

   Acting Fire Chief Camara went over vacancies with the Commission and mentioned the department currently has 87 vacancies.

   Acting Fire Chief Camara mentioned that the 110th class recently graduated and there are 24 recruits in recruit class for a total of 63 total vacancies.
Injuries.

Acting Fire Chief Camara mentioned there were no major injuries.

Commissioner Morton asked for clarification regarding number of incidents/exposure to COVID.

Acting Fire Chief Camara answered it depends on the activity (i.e. carrying/lifting patient, patient assessment) while exposed at the scene.

Acting Fire Chief Camara answered anyone can file a precautionary report.

Commissioner Morton asked about needle stick.

Acting Fire Chief Camara answered it’s when they took the vaccination.

Chair Nekota asked about non-vaccinated fire fighters.

Acting Fire Chief Camara answered there are 901 fully vaccinated in uniform and 71 non-uniform for a total of 972/1122.

Chair Nekota asked about encouragement for the non-vaccinated to get vaccinated.

Acting Fire Chief Camara mentioned that the department has 34 that are partially vaccinated and 104 that have claimed exemptions and the non-vaccinated are required to test weekly using the rapid test.

Commissioner Morton asked what is the department doing about personnel who had COVID and if the department had experience problems with those who don’t want to test weekly.

Acting Fire Chief Camara answered those who had COVID cannot receive the vaccination until 3 months after. There have been no problems with uniformed personnel and no confirmation on a civilian if he/she has updated…..

5. Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA).

Acting Fire Chief Camara mentioned that no meetings held with HFFA in August 2021.

Acting Fire Chief Camara also reported on the following:

1. During the month of August, HFD received 2 complimentary correspondence and 2
complaints. Details can be found in the monthly report.

2. Acting Fire Chief Camara had each member of the executive staff give a brief description of their sections’ recent activities.

Acting Deputy Fire Chief Sheldon Hao. Acting Deputy Fire Chief Hao went over succession plan with the Commission.

Chief Hao mentioned that there are 1 Assistant Chief and 5 Battalion Chiefs vacancies within the department and at the end of the year there will be 3 Assistant Chiefs and 6 Battalion Chiefs which represents 30% of its Chief Officers.

Chief Hao discussed project management class that gives Battalion Chiefs exposure to administration.

Chief Hao mentioned that the department is planning to reinstitute an internship program for Captains to get exposed to administration.

Chief Hao mentioned that the department has reached out to the union to discuss this program.

Chair Nekota asked about reaching out to the union.

Chief Hao answered due to a need the department would like to be prepared when the time comes.

Commissioner Hong commended the department for its efforts.

Acting Assistant Fire Chief Joseph Kostiha- Fire Operations. Chief Kostiha went over issuance of new water safety equipment and training with the Commission.

Chief Kostiha mentioned that the department recently issued over 4,000 pieces of equipment to all personnel so they will have their own sets of water personal protective equipment (PPE’s).

Chief Kostiha mentioned the department is at 60% in distribution with Fire Fighter I’s being the first to receive the equipment.

Chief Kostiha mentioned in the past PPE’s were issued 2 per truck, not 2 per person.

Chief Kostiha mentioned by the end of the calendar year everyone will be receiving their own set.

Assistant Fire Chief Jason Samala- Operations. Chief Samala went over Vector Solutions with the Commission including a handout distributed with the report of the Acting Fire Chief.
Chair Nekota asked for clarification purposes that Vector Solutions is software that tracks training.

Chief Samala answered yes, it was more of a need to centralize the departments training records.

Chief Samala explained how Target Solutions (former name for Vector Solutions) came about in 2014 and mentioned that the Training Center manages the apparatus section, medical, pre-trainer… and the main purpose was to control the amount of assignments that were issued.

Chief Samala discussed what training is required and mandated.

Chief Samala mentioned that Target Solutions was transferred from Chief Bratakos in 2018 to Fire Operations under the guidance of Chief Rico.

Chief Samala mentioned that Chief Rico now had control on what was to be assigned.

Chief Samala mentioned Target Solutions assignments later increased along with special notices.

Chief Samala mentioned Target Solutions was transferred back to Support Services and re-established its support group.

Chair Nekota asked if Hazmat and Fire Responders Operations (FRO) is something that everyone must complete.

Chief Samala answered yes, its credentials for Hazmat and first responders which is a combination of distributed education online content and hands-on training.

Chief Samala went over personnel who were disciplined for not completing Vector Solutions training.

**Acting Assistant Fire Chief Damien Kahauleilio:** Planning and Development. Chief Kahauleilio went over generators for mobile morgues with the Commission.

Chief Kahauleilio explained how the dispatching of the mobile morgues came about and its purpose.

Chief Kahauleilio mentioned that on August 24th the first mobile morgue was put into use with generated power, and on August 31st the City’s Medical Examiner requested the other 2 containers and on September 7th they were dispatched.

Chief Kahauleilio mentioned that the department refuels the generators daily and conducts regular maintenance and inspections.

Chief Kahauleilio mentioned the City’s Department of Design and Construction (DDC) and Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM) are working on permanent power from the building.
Chief Kahauleilio mentioned that the first container is currently holding 40 persons with a capacity of 50 and another container of 10.

Chief Kahauleilio asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Morton asked what is the timeline on holding the bodies.

Chief Kahauleilio answered families are not claiming the bodies and are waiting for things to settle down on the COVID front in order to hold large funerals.

X. SELECTION PROCESS OF THE FIRE CHIEF, INCLUDING COMMISSION CONVERSATION WITH FIRE CHIEF FINALISTS LIONEL CAMARA, JR. AND SHELDON KALANI HAO REGARDING EDUCATION AND TRAINING BACKGROUND AND OTHER QUALIFICATIONS.

Chair Nekota mentioned that on August 25th she attended a meeting of the Honolulu City Council’s Committee on Public Safety (chaired by Councilmember Heidi Tsuneyoshi) along with Chief Camara and Chief Hao. The meeting included discussion of a Resolution urging the City Administration to implement dementia training for first responder personnel, and a Fire Commission update on the selection of the new Fire Chief.

Chief Nekota mentioned that a question was brought up on the new Fire Commissioner, and Vice-Chair Hannemann had called in with this thoughts.

Chief Nekota mentioned that under the leadership of Acting Fire Chief Camara, the department is running in a timely and good manner.

Vice-Chair Hannemann thanked the public for their support and the two candidates for their patience as the Commission continues to deliberate on the new Fire Chief. He noted that the two candidates are very qualified; and while there is a 3-3 commission deadlock and he respects the votes of his fellow Commissioners, he had asked Council to give the Commission a full team to help break the tie. He also recognized that it was hard for the candidates to be exposed to this level of scrutiny.

Chair Nekota mentioned that the Commission had no follow-up questions for the 2 candidates at this Commission meeting.

Chair Nekota asked for a motion.

Commissioner Teves moved and Commissioner Morton seconded that the Commission go into executive session regarding the selection process of the Fire Chief to “consider the hire, evaluation, dismissal, or discipline of an officer or employee or of charges brought against the officer or employee, where consideration of matter affecting privacy will be involved” [HRS Sec. 92-5(a)(2)] and to “consult with the board’s attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the board’s powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities” with regard to these matters.
[HRS Sec. 92-5(a)(4)]. By unanimous vote, the Commission went into executive session at 11:32 a.m. and the regular public meeting reconvened at 11:54 a.m.

V. **ANNOUNCEMENT**: The next monthly Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. in the Honolulu Fire Department Auditorium.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**: There being no other business, Commissioner Morton moved and Commissioner Nagamine seconded that the meeting be adjourned. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned on September 21, 2021 at 11:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Nadine Murata, Secretary.

APPROVED:

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CHARLOTTE NEKOTA, Chair