

CITY OF NORWALK
FIRE DEPARTMENT

121 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT 06854



Tel: (203) 854-0200

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

121 CONNECTICUT AVENUE

NOVEMBER 17, 2009

5:00P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Carol Andreoli, Chair; Mayor Richard A. Moccia,
Michael Coffey

STAFF: Fire Chief Denis McCarthy; Deputy Chief Prescott;
Fire Marshal Iannaccone

OTHERS: James Haselkamp, Personnel Director; John Schlosser, Asst.
Personnel Director; Khalid Muhammad, Mrs. Muhammad

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Andreoli called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PERSONNEL

There was a brief discussion with Mr. Muhammad as to whether this should be held in Executive Session. Mr. Muhammad said that he would like to have this handled in public session and requested a postponement

**** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST BY FIREFIGHTER MUHAMMAD TO POSTPONE THE HEARING UNTIL 4:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL ON NOVEMBER 19, 2009.**

**** MR. COFFEY SECONDED.**

Mr. Coffey said that he would advise Mr. Muhammad that the Commissioners were planning on moving forward on the issue on the 19th and that he should advise his legal counsel about this. Mr. Muhammad said that he was trying to obtain some additional records from the Fire Academy. Chief McCarthy said that he might be able to assist Mr. Muhammad in expediting the records.

Mrs. Muhammad pointed out that the list skipped days. Mr. Coffey explained that the

Commission could not discuss any issues because Mr. Muhammad had requested a postponement.

Chief McCarthy said that after the vote regarding the postponement, the Board needed to discuss whether Firefighter Muhammad would be placed on administrative lead.

**** THE MOTION MOVED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST BY FIREFIGHTER MUHAMMAD TO POSTPONE THE HEARING UNTIL 4:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL ON NOVEMBER 19, 2009 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Chief McCarthy said that Firefighter Muhammad would be placed on unpaid administrative and would not have to attend the Academy until after his hearing.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting October 20, 2009

The following corrections were noted:

Page 1, under **ATTENDANCE**: Please change “Andrelio” to “Andreoli”

Page 2, under **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** - “”Black Friday Program”, line 3, please change “could figure the” to “could figure the occupancy load.”

**** MAYOR MOCCIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2009 AS CORRECTED.**

**** MR. COFFEY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items to consider at this time.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

09/10 Budget Report

Chief McCarthy said that the secretary position could not be filled until at least January because of the hiring freeze. He said that he had requested that the position should be changed from Full Time to Part Time. The union has not discussed this

Regarding the coordination of projects with DPW. Chief McCarthy said that he had spoken with Police Chief Rilling about this. He then gave an example of how Crescent Street was almost closed on schedule by the City but the 95/7 project has been delayed. Fire Chief McCarthy then explained that doing this without the second access route and forcing all the truck traffic onto Butler Street without a light at the intersection would be dangerous. He added that if there were plans made without letting the Police and Fire Departments know, change orders would need to be issued, which costs the City more money. Mayor Moccia said that he thought that when the projects start with the shovels in the ground, there should be a meeting of the various Departments, along with the contractors so that these items can be discussed.

ASSISTANT CHIEF REPORT

There was no report at this time.

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

Summary of Activities

Fire Reports

Fire Marshal Iannaccone said that the only major fire in October was a multi-family fire resulting from a child playing with a lighter. Two families were displaced.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Black Friday Program - Recap

Chief McCarthy said that the program was working out and that the flashing traffic light issue has been cleared by the State. Walmart will be open on Thanksgiving and will remain open all night through to Friday. He said that he was glad that this was being discussed in advance so that the Department could find all the problem areas before problems occurred.

Norwalk Housing Authority

There was a scheduled meeting with the Housing Authority yesterday. Chief McCarthy said that the Housing Authority needs to be aware that if there is a major problem, the Fire and Police need to be aware of it.

Webpage (EM & Holiday)

Ms. DelVecchio has helped to develop updates to the City Websites on H1N1 and holiday safety. Mr. Coffey asked about the status for firefighters and police officers in terms of receiving H1N1 vaccine shots. Chief McCarthy said that the firefighters had been added to the list of first responders who would need the shots.

TRAINING REPORT

Recruit Training

Educational comments

Deputy chief Prescott reviewed his written report with the Fire Commissioners. Chief McCarthy said that there had been no feedback from Gilbane about the reconfiguring of the septic trucks drop off station by the fire tower.

UNION PRESIDENT REPORT

Mr. Petrisea was not present and there was no report.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief McCarthy said that he would be meeting with the Union President at the end of the week regarding the request by the union be allowed to intervene about the number of sick days. The number of sick days has risen to 9.3 days per man and the budget only allows for 8 days per man. A brief discussion then followed. Ms. Andreoli suggested that the Union President be invited to attend the Fire Commissioners meeting and provide them with a briefing report.

Chief McCarthy said that in the past, Ms. DeLuca had requested gift cards for those who are fire victims. The local Firefighter's Golf Committee is interested in this project.

PERSONNEL CONT'D

Executive Session

**** MR. COFFEY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS.**
**** MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners entered into Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. and returned to public session at _____.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. COFFEY MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MAYOR MOCCIA SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at _____

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services