

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMISSION**

Public Safety Headquarters, 100 Edison Park Drive, First Floor

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mcfrs.zoom.us/j/84637941540?pwd=UDM2VytEQ2RxR0xrcDJGUENDbS9XQT09>

Meeting ID: 846 3794 1540

Passcode: F3SC2022

***Thursday, January 9, 2025
7:00 PM***

Minutes

In Attendance

**Anita Powell-Chairperson
Mark Dempsey-Commissioner
Robert Ford- Commissioner
Jane Callen- Commissioner
Hilary Miller- Commissioner
Marcine Goodloe-Public
Heather Jeffrey-FRS Staff
Corey Smedley-Fire Chief
Steve Steinberg-Kensington Member
Peter Dugan-Battalion Chief
John Petrarca- Master Firefighter**

100 – CALL TO ORDER

101 – Approval of FESC December Minutes -Approved with Change From Jane Callen Chief Addressed Jane's Comment regarding Demographic info-We are awaiting information from the office of Human Resources.

102 – FESC Chairperson's report – Chair Powell
No Report

103 – Fire Chief's report

1. Infusing many facets of the Organization cohesively—awards Ceremonies, Graduations, and Events—we would like to ensure that the Commission is invited to all events.

2. We have Finalized the EMST, ESPP, and AMOSS Grant Policy, three funding sources for our department. We have put a policy in place to manage all of the funds, how you request them, how they go through the approval process, and how we document the use of all of the funds. Once we give the Union and association notice of opportunity for any changes, we will provide information to the Commission once they have provided their comments, we want to ensure that you have a final version.
3. We are hearing that people want to get involved in decision making processes and provide insight on what is happening. There are many ways for people to do this in our organization. We are working on this; Dr. Parker (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer) introduced the idea of a “Thought Partnership,” bringing a diverse group of thoughts together, no matter people's position in the department, to give us time to think through things that we need to find solutions for. We will be establishing thought partnerships, we will be dealing with the situation, and we need a group of people to convene in a period of time with a specific goal to come back with recommendations and ideas on how we can solve those issues. One of the first ones will be with Chief Demsey and Chief Cooper on Automatic fire alarm dispatches, this will start in the very near future.
4. Has been briefed on the Master Plan. We will be holding a Leadership Conference to include members of organization leadership (civilian, paid, and volunteer) to really understand and reintroduce the Master Plan and collect ideas on the best steps to execute it. The goal is to have the Conference in the First Quarter of this year.
5. We have had many promotions recently, including an Assistant Chief and three Battalion chiefs. We also have the opportunity to promote someone to be a Battalion Chief in the FEI Unit which will be announced soon.
6. Accountability and Compliance— met with the Division Chiefs about this. We don’t have any evidence that we aren’t in compliance, but we would like to be proactive so that everything that should be in compliance is in compliance.
7. The Inspector General notified us that we will soon undergo the Inspector General Audit process.

104 – Comments from Commissioners

1. Chair Powell- Is the Inspector General meeting a public meeting
Response from Fire Chief-Does not believe it is a Public Meeting
2. Chair Powell- Question on thought partnership: is anyone allowed to be involved?

Response from Fire Chief: We have circulated information to the Union and Association to hear their ideas. From time to time, others will have an opportunity to be involved.

3. Chief Dempsey-We've had a few Fire fatalities, and I know that the Department works hard on fire prevention, but it's been a tough start to the year.

Response from Fire Chief: There have been 3 deaths; 2 may be Fire fatalities, and investigations are ongoing. Last year we had 6 fire fatalities. We realize there is work that has to be executed. We aren't going to talk about people using Fire Extinguishers, we are going to focus on people getting out and letting us put the fires out. Part of the Master Plan will look at us restructuring our efforts on prevention and how we utilize all of our resources.

200 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

300 – DISCUSSION

301 Old Business

The annual Report is finalized; Jane Callen will Clean it up and send it to the Chair.

The CERB report was sent in and received by Mr. Bak-Buccitelli.

302 New Business

1. Elections

Chair Powell sent out the Bylaws. Fire Chief George Giebel will be out for quite some time and has been handling this. We are trying to understand and ensure that we are in compliance. We have questions for the County Executive's office. We are asking for clarity regarding terms and whether retirees are able to continue to be on the commission. If I don't have clarity on who has the authority to approve extended terms, who has the authority to approve them? If I can't answer specific questions on who has jurisdiction over this, I am unable to support elections at this time. We hope to have answers regarding this by the next meeting.

2. June 12th-Volunteer Graduation

We need to decide if we should move the Commission Meeting as it is on the same night. We will bring this up again next month.

400 – ADJOURNMENT