

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

May 8, 2025
Tele-conference
Gaithersburg, Maryland

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Anita Powell, Chair
Commissioner Mark Dempsey
Commissioner Robert Ford
Commissioner Tony Coleman
Commissioner Jane Callen (absent)

STAFF PRESENT:

Division Chief Michael Kelley
Division Chief Charles Bailey
Assistant Chief James Carpenter
Battalion Chief Ashley Robinson
Battalion Chief Peter Dugan

OTHER:

Captain Michael Weimer
Captain Wesley Shipley
Lieutenant Brennan Martin
MFF John Petrarca
Roger Cook
Susan Williams

100 – CALL TO ORDER

Chair Anita Powell called the meeting to order at 1903.

101 – REPORT OF THE COMMISSION CHAIR

Commissioner Powell addressed that two public commissioners resigned: Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Ogens, to which the documentation has been forwarded to the appropriate office according to FESC bylaws. Chair Powell would like a meeting with the Fire Chief and other commissioners re: the structure of the commission going forward.

Former Commissioner Maloney passed away and his service was held on May 2nd.

Commissioner Powell also attended the public awards ceremony on April 28th and would like to congratulate all of the awardees and to thank the Fire Chief for the invitation.

Per Commissioner Powell, the County Council voted 7-4 to cut positions from the Hyattstown Volunteer Fire Department. Commissioner Powell requests a meeting with the Fire Chief to talk about the future, in terms of what that would mean for the career personnel at Hyattstown and Clarksburg stations. Commissioner Powell would also like the Fire Chief to explain the budget cuts and the possibility of the council changing their vote.

102 – REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

None

103 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion passed to approve the April 2025 meeting minutes.

104 – FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

A video was played on behalf of Fire Chief Smedley. Division Chief Michael Kelley attended on behalf of Fire Chief Smedley. Commissioner Dempsey appreciated the Fire Chief's message and offered there is some progress with the MCVFRA and IAFF inclusion re: input. Commissioner Dempsey also stated that the MCVFRA is waiting for data they requested. Division Chief Kelley has stated he would relay the request to the Fire Chief.

200 – BUSINESS ITEMS

- FCGO EMS Affiliation – Passed unanimously 4-0, no discussion
- FCGO 25-05 - Risk-Based Approach to the Operation of MCFRS Vehicles – Passed unanimously 4-0, no discussion

300 – DISCUSSION

301 – OLD BUSINESS

No old business

302 – NEW BUSINESS

- Commissioner Dempsey brought up Commissioner Powell's question on the vote on the budget and requested Division Chief Kelley to provide input re: staffing at station 9. Division Chief Kelly stated the County Council voted (via straw vote) to eliminate two positions from station 9 (1 an overtime paramedic position, and 1 firefighter positions).
- Updates:
 1. MCFRS Volunteer graduation – June 12, 2025 @ 1730-2100
 2. June 2025 FESC meeting moved to July 10, 2025, due to the above graduation

400 – Public Comment

None

500 - Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1930.

Respectfully submitted:



Anita Powell, Chair