

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY  
NEW JERSEY FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Meeting of January 17, 2018**

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ.

**Commission Members Present:** Mr. Kevin Krushinski, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Daniel DeTrollo  
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood  
Mr. Roger Potts  
Mr. Pasquale Intindola  
Ms. Kathleen O’Leary  
Mr. Steve O’Gorman  
Mr. Arthur Londensky  
Mr. Armando Roman  
Mr. Fred Collender  
Mr. Raymond Heck  
Mr. Kevin Bellew  
Mr. Charles Siedenburg

**Commission Members Excused:** Assemblyman Anthony Bucco  
Mr. Richard Blohm  
Mr. Stanley Sickels  
Mr. Gerard Naylis

**DCA Staff Members Present:** Lou Kilmer, NJDFS Acting Director  
Rick Farletta, NJDFS  
Tim Weiss, NJDFS  
Jason Spiecker, NJDFS  
Charles Lavin, NJDFS  
Jerry Clark, NJDFS  
Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

**Guests:** Anthony Correia, Health & Fitness Coalition  
John Garton, NJDOL/PEOSH  
Ronald McGowan Jr, Wildwood Crest Fire  
Timothy Clark, Local 696  
David Kurasz, NJFSAB  
Alexi Assmus  
John S. Wisniewski  
Joseph Szebenyi, MCFM

## **A. Call to Order**

Vice-Chairman Kevin Krushinski called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Vice-Chairman Krushinski led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence, and pointed out the fire exits.

## **B. Approval of Minutes**

With no discussion requested or additional corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of November 15, 2017 were approved.

## **C. Correspondence**

Vice-Chairman Krushinski noted that all correspondence for today's meeting is contained in the Fire Safety Commission packets. With no discussion requested on any of the items, the meeting was moved to Public Comment I.

## **D. Public Comment I**

Alexi Assmus gave an update regarding the bills currently in the legislature dealing with large-scale lightweight construction. Ms. Assmus and her citizens group is supporting the bill by Senators Stack, Turner, and Weinberg and the accompanying bill in the Assembly. There was also a bill reintroduced by Senators Stack and Angelo that was written by the concrete interests, however it does not limit the area of a megablock complex. Alexi Assmus and her group is continuing to meet with legislators and advocate for these bills.

John Wisniewski, speaking as a member of the public now, gave an update on the bill that he had sponsored in the last legislative session and was endorsed by the Fire Safety Commission. The bill had gotten through both the Senate and Assembly, but was pocket-vetoed by former Governor Christie on his last day in office. However, Senator Bucco and Assemblyman Bucco will be reintroducing the bill in the new session and have said they will try and fast-track it. Mr. Wisniewski also spoke about the need to keep in mind the costs of what fire safety measures they recommend and advocate for. While we want the utmost in fire and life safety, a balance still needs to be struck.

Tony Correia from the New Jersey First Responders Health and Fitness Coalition spoke about an upcoming Health and Fitness Symposium. It will take place on April 12<sup>th</sup> and be host with the help of staff from Kean University and the NJ Division of Fire Safety. Mr. Correia said that anyone interested can attend and encouraged the Fire Safety Commission members to come.

David Kurasz from the New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board spoke about a recent bill that passed calling for a fire sprinkler survey of schools statewide. Mr. Kurasz offered his help to Chief Kilmer and the NJDFS on completing this study within the three

year timeframe. Chief Kilmer said this is a significant undertaking that includes all public, as well as private, schools throughout New Jersey.

With no additional members of the public wishing to comment at this time, the meeting was moved to Division of Fire Safety Activities.

#### **E. Division of Fire Safety Activities**

Acting Director Louis Kilmer began his report by speaking about the readoption of the Fire Service Incident Management System that will be coming out in the February 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the New Jersey Register. The NJDFS took this opportunity to update some of the regulations based on input received from County Coordinators and those changes have gone through. This will change the incident timekeeping from time of arrival to time of first call, because it is important to know the real time of the incident to have an accurate read on how fast a fire has progressed. Chief Kilmer spoke about having the support of former DCA Commissioner Richman as well as the Governor's Office. The only potential hiccup could be the new administration putting a hold on the regulations, but Chief Kilmer said he has not seen or heard anything to indicate that would be done.

Chief Kilmer spoke about the Solar Signage Proposal is completed and passed the adoption process. It is now a regulation that is in place and should be enforced. Also, an adoption notice will be coming out in the February 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the New Jersey Register for the Fire Code Enforcement Regulations. Additionally, the Standards for Fire Service Training and Education – which includes approximately one hundred voluntarily certifications – has also passed and will appear as an adoption notice on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

The NJ Division of Fire Safety will be moving to the 2015 edition of the Fire Code, something that has been championed by the Codes Advisory Council and their leadership on the Fire Safety Commission for many years now. This will bring the fire service up a decade from the previous code and will see numerous positive changes for fire and life safety throughout the state. One of those changes Chief Kilmer highlighted was the move to 10-year sealed-battery smoke alarms as the standard rather than the older kind. Also, LPG cylinder markings were moved to a pictograph to make sure the warnings can be understood clearly in any language. Chief Kilmer spoke about a law that was passed a few years ago requiring the markings of fire hydrants, snow removal, etc. This law did not initially require regulations in the fire code, but it will now be included with the move to the 2015 Code. The Code will have a wide array of positive effects, including for municipalities, fire officials, ratings for insurance, etc.

Letters have gone out for the appointments and reappointments of the County Fire Coordinators. In all cases, the individuals chosen by Chief Kilmer were the ones who were submitted by the County. All County Coordinators will be receiving ID cards at the meeting at Middlesex County Fire Academy on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Also, the Annual NFIPS Report has been edited, modified, and ultimately completed. It is in the process of being approved by the Department of Community Affairs before publication. This is the "Fire in New Jersey 2016" report. Staff has already begun working on the "Fire in New Jersey

2017” report as well. The NFIRS Unit has benefitted from the addition of Vince Campagna, who is serving the northern half of the state.

Chief Kilmer reported on the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference and the Inaugural New Jersey Fire Safety Summit. Chief Kilmer was able to participate in both events, which were extremely well attended and contained a wide-range of great information. Chief Kilmer congratulated Charles Lavin for his work on these events.

The registration period of the NJDFS’s spring semester will be opening in the near future. There are numerous new courses in a great catalog of programs on tap for the spring. There also have been a lot of resources dedicated to the development of training on the new Fire Code. This is something that all existing fire inspectors and fire officials will need to come to this. Hopefully this training will be rolled out within the next couple months. Chief Kilmer added that he has been working with Kean on getting some recertification and code update classes online.

Chief Kilmer reported that the Division of Fire Safety has been continually filling staffing vacancies, and are in the process of adding two new full-time inspectors as we speak. Chief Kilmer also said that the NJDFS will be doing 100% of smoke alarm/CO detector/fire extinguisher inspections in changes of occupancy in the towns where it is the enforcing agency. Chief Kilmer also spoke about the replacement of the radio system for the NJDFS staff and County Coordinator System. This was budgeted for the 2018 fiscal year and cost upwards of \$350,000.

The Carbon Monoxide regulations are now in place and a guidance document was put out by the NJ Division of Fire Safety – thanks to the work of Britt Schulmeister and Mike Whalen from Codes & Standards. Chief Kilmer also reported that the NJDFS is continuing to work on hold mail collections – roughly \$880,000 has been collected so far this fiscal year. Chief Kilmer said the RIMS system is stable and the NJDFS was able to complete 100% of its mandated inspections for the sixth straight year. 17,284 initial inspections were completed in 2017 with about 20 full-time inspectors.

The NJ Division of Fire Safety has worked with the Codes Advisory Council on regulations in regards to the fireworks law that was passed last July. The new administration has placed a hold on these, but once everyone is settled in Chief Kilmer’s thought it that it will start moving again. Also, the Division of Fire Safety has been approved for the addition of a Compliance Unit through Civil Service.

Chief Kilmer spoke about the new DCA Commissioner, Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver. Given the very recent appointment, Chief Kilmer has not been able to sit down and speak with her as of yet but looks forward to doing so in the near future. Additionally, Chief Kilmer has directed Jerry Clark to work on volunteer recruitment and retention and he is in the process of compiling web-based resources for the NJDFS website.

The Operation 7: Save-a-Life program will be kicking off in New York City tomorrow [Jan. 18] and several NJDFS staff are scheduled to attend the event. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual program that has seen the State of New Jersey receive in the hundreds of thousands of smoke alarms through the generosity of Kidde, Home Depot, Toyota, and WABC-NY.

Vice-Chairman Kevin Krushinski asked if there was any way to amend the Annual Reports, moving forward, to include data on youth firesetter intervention. As it exists, it asks if there is a program but does not include numbers. Chief Kilmer answered that in future years this might become a non-issue in the way the reporting is done and he is looking to target the counties where participation is low.

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo asked if the new administration has asked for any kind of report on the Division of Fire Safety. Chief Kilmer answered that they have given information on what issues the fire service is facing, the many facets and duties of the NJDFS, and possible new solutions and initiatives going forward. Commissioner Kevin Bellew suggested that the NJ Fire Safety Commission support the permanent appointment of Chief Kilmer as State Fire Marshal and posed this in the form of a motion. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Lawrence Wood asked about the updated high-rise survey and whether that would be a priority in the early part of the new year. Chief Kilmer answered that, yes, this is high on the list of what needs to be done but much of the energy has been focused on the new code thus far. Chief Kilmer thanked everyone involved with the new code, as well as those on the Commission, in the fire service, and in the public who came out and supported its adoption.

## **F. Advisory Council Reports:**

### **1. Codes Advisory Council**

Commissioner Pat Intindola reported that the Codes Advisory Council had cancelled its December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and reported progress.

The next meeting of the Codes Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ.

### **2. Training and Education Advisory Council**

Commissioner Lawrence Wood reported that the Training and Education Advisory Council had met on [redacted]. The minutes of that meeting are contained in the Commission packets.

There was a lot of discussion in regards to Junior Firefighter Training. They have been examining what activities these recruits can and cannot participate in and are trying to

gain some clarity on this as it pertains to the regulations. The goal is to have everyone statewide on the same page and doing the right thing. There are numerous things in the workplace (in general) that minors are not able to do and it is important to interpret the law correctly as it pertains to the fire service.

Chief Kilmer commented that the Division of Fire Safety has worked on this for the past few months and it is an issue that is near and dear to him. He, along with presumably many in the room, were junior firefighters at some point and he stressed the importance of maintaining these types of programs to keep the state's fire service strong. Commissioner Wood agreed and said that the regulations as they exist have seemed to straightened the issue out, it is just a matter of covering all bases and make sure all are on the same page.

The next meeting of the Training and Education Advisory Council is scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup> at the Dempster Training Center in Lawrenceville.

**3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council**

In the absence of Commissioner Gerard Naylis, no report was given.

**4. Master Planning and Research Advisory Council**

The Master Planning and Research Advisory Council does not currently have a Chair and therefore no report was given. Commissioner Raymond Heck, who replaced former Commissioner and Chairman of this Council (John Lightbody), said that he could take over for him.

**5. Public Education Advisory Council**

Commissioner Daniel DeTrolgio reported that the Public Education Advisory Council had not met since the last Fire Safety Commission meeting and asked Charles Lavin to give a brief summary of the current public education programs going on at the Division of Fire Safety.

Charles Lavin reported that they are in the process of piecing together this spring's FIRE Bowl program, the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual edition of this fire safety education program. The continued success of the New Jersey FIRE Bowl is due in large part to the generosity of sponsors including Hartz Mountain Industries, the NJ State FMBA, Eastern Fire & Safety, and Joshua Marcus Group. This year's main event will take place on May 24<sup>th</sup> at Kean University's Little Theater.

**6. Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council**

In the absence of Commissioner Richard Blohm, no official report was given. Vice-Chairman Krushinski noted that a report from the last meeting was submitted by Commissioner Blohm and is contained in the meeting packets.

## **7. Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council**

Commissioner Kathleen O’Leary reported that the Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council met on January 11<sup>th</sup> at the Monmouth County Fire Academy in Freehold.

Commissioner O’Leary reported that 26 students completed the Youth Firesetter Program Specialist course held on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at the Monmouth County Fire Academy in Freehold. Commissioner O’Leary also mentioned that there would be a Youth Firesetter Program Manager class once again in Spring 2018. The dates and location for that class will be determined in the near future.

Commissioner O’Leary reported that the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference was successfully held on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. There were over 100 attendees and the programs ran relatively smoothly. The Council specifically talked about some standout speakers who had been getting rave reviews in the month and a half since the Conference wrapped. A robust discussion was held about how to expand the Conference, explore new partnerships (particularly with educators), and suggestions on new presenters.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference is already set for November 29-30, 2018 at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

The Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council is continuing to examine how to deal with and potentially combat the existing fireworks bill. Due to lack of supervising and its newfound availability, children statewide are suffering burns related to the fireworks and it is going unreported. Additionally, the Council will be more aggressively pursuing County Reports, with the secretary reaching out multiple times for each meeting to give the county every opportunity to participate as required.

The next meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council is scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup> at Monmouth County Fire Academy in Freehold.

## **G. Committee Reports**

### **1. Residential Sprinkler Committee**

In the absence of Commissioner Gerard Naylis, no official report was given.

## **H. Old Business**

A discussion was held in regards to the reorganization of the Fire Safety Commission, where the body would need to vote on the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. It was agreed upon to wait until the meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Wood made a motion suggesting the vote be held at that time. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Frederick Collender and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wood spoke about the 2019 Conference of the Eastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. New Jersey will be hosting this event and Commissioner Wood has expressed his gratitude for all the feedback he has already received in regards to putting it together. There is no exact location just yet, but it will be in May 2019.

### **I. New Business**

Commissioner Wood made a motion that two new members of the Training and Education Advisory Council – Tony Correia and Patrick Boyle - as submitted electronically to the Fire Safety Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kevin Bellew requested that an updated contact list of all Fire Safety Commissioner be distributed by the Secretary. Charles Lavin agreed to provide that list shortly after the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Kevin Krushinski announced that the refreshments provided at today's Fire Safety Commission meeting were sponsored by Beyond The Shore Vacations.

### **J. Public Comment II**

Anthony Correia spoke about the website [www.respondersafety.com](http://www.respondersafety.com) and specifically talked about highway traffic incidents and the increasing frequency of first responders being struck on highways. Mr. Correia emphasized that fire departments need to be involved with the TIMS training as offered by the state and be more aware in general when responding on New Jersey's roads. Chief Kilmer added that Mr. Correia could work with Jerry Clark on advertising the links with that information on the NJDFS website.

### **K. Adjournment**

Vice-Chairman Krushinski asked if anyone had any additional business they would like to bring before the Commission. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 11:11 am.

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**\* The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 10am. It will be held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ \***