

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

**Meeting of September 14, 2017**

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Thursday, September 14, 2017 at the Wildwood Crest Fire Department in Wildwood Crest, NJ.

**Commission Members Present:** Assemblyman John Wisniewski, Chairman  
Mr. Kevin Krushinski, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Stanley Sickels  
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood  
Mr. Roger Potts  
Mr. Pasquale Intindola  
Ms. Kathleen O’Leary  
Mr. Steve O’Gorman  
Mr. Kevin Bellew  
Mr. Armando Roman  
Mr. Fred Collender  
Mr. Gerard Naylis

**Commission Members Excused:** Assemblyman Anthony Bucco  
Mr. Richard Blohm  
Mr. Daniel DeTrollo  
Mr. John Lightbody  
Mr. Arthur Londensky

**DCA Staff Members Present:** Lou Kilmer, NJDFS Acting Director  
Rick Farletta, NJDFS  
Frank Clark, NJDFS  
Tim Weiss, NJDFS  
Britton Schulmeister, NJDFS  
Charles Lavin, NJDFS  
Craig Augustoni, NJDFS  
Rod Meyer, NJDFS  
Jerry Clark, NJDFS  
Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

**Guests:** Tony Correia, NFFF/NJFEMSI  
John Garton, NJDOL/PEOSH Ronald McGowan Jr, Wildwood Crest Fire  
Pat Bigoss, Camden Co. College David Kurasz, NJFSAB  
Nick Lombardi, Piscataway Dist 1 Rich Silvia, NJFPPA  
Artie Hayducka, Piscataway Dist 1 Jerome Inderwies, Lower Twp. Fire Safety  
Ronald Harwood, Wildwood City Fire Donna Blackley, Lower Twp Fire Safety

Brian Murray, Vineland FD	Edward McDermott, Piscataway Fire Prevention
Stan O'Brien, Jackson Dist 4	Vinny Corsaro, Jefferson Twp. Fire Bureau
Robert Griffith, Tri-County Fire Co.	Jim Burleigh, Bellmawr Fire Dept.
John Tracy, Avalon	Tom Simpson, Harrington Park
Lisa Jasleh, Avalon	Josh Lazarus, NJDFS (ret.)
Richard Dean, Avalon	Thomas Scalera, Plainfield
Bryant Curry, Bradley Beach	Michael Wendl, Wildwood Crest
Dominick McClain, NWFD	Mark Allen, Wildwood FD
Joshua Carter, NWFD	Jim Granel, Wildwood FD
Daniel Dunn, Wildwood Crest	Dave Bannon, Wildwood FD
John Turner, Quinton Fire Co.	John Medina, West Caldwell FD
Helen M. Graham, Rio Grande FC	Alden Blackwell, Tenafly FD
Francis Ellis, NJFSAB	Daniel Speiger, Wildwood City FD
Steve Dyl, Kearny FD	Matt Levine, North Brunswick FD

**A. Call to Order**

Chairman John Wisniewski called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM. Chairman Wisniewski 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 July 19, 2017 were approved.

**C. Correspondence**

Chairman Wisniewski 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**

Chairman Wisniewski opened up the meeting to any members of the public wishing to address the Fire Safety Commission.

With no members of the public wishing to speak at this time, the meeting was moved to Division of Fire Safety Activities. Chairman Wisniewski noted that there will be a second public comment period at the end of the meeting for anyone to remark on what was discussed throughout the meeting.

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

Acting Director Louis Kilmer began his report by talking about the proposal out in the New Jersey Register for the NJDFS to increase their fees by 29%. This would be the first fee increase since 2003 and the amount of the increase was determined by the cost of living change since that time. Only one negative comment has come in to date, and there were several positive comments. The fee increase will be split with Local Enforcing Agencies at the same rate the current fees are split – allowing them to bolster staffing and ensuring necessary inspections get done.

Chief Kilmer reported that most of the Division of Fire Safety's regulations expire on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The high-level alarm, contractor certification and residential disability ID emblems were re-adopted on August 7<sup>th</sup> with one minor change (address of NAFED office). The fire service incident management system regulations came out as a proposal on August 7<sup>th</sup> and the comment period ends on October 6<sup>th</sup>. The one major change here has to do with incident time-keeping – the start time will change from time of arrival to time the call was received. Chief Kilmer also spoke about the solar panel signage proposal that was put out on August 7<sup>th</sup> with the comment period ending on October 6<sup>th</sup>. As far as this signage, the law was very specific as to what can be done so the Division of Fire Safety was somewhat restricted on what could be done (i.e. adding it to another sign, etc.).

Chief Kilmer spoke about the readoption of the Fire Code Enforcement section of the code. Changes include the allowing for electronic record-keeping, not requiring certified mailings, etc. This proposal came out on August 21<sup>st</sup> and the comment period runs until October 20<sup>th</sup>. There were also significant changes to the Standards for Fire Service Training and Certification – including the addition of approximately 60+ voluntary certifications. The certification fees would also be raised to \$90. The major proposal, Chief Kilmer was pleased to report on, was the Fire Code (5:70) will be moving to the 2015 International Fire Code. This will come out in the New Jersey Register on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Many of the items that the Codes Advisory Council has been working on for the past several years are included in this proposal. The comment period on this will run until November 17<sup>th</sup>. Chief Kilmer stressed the importance of the fire service getting behind this and showing support.

There will be a proposal on LPG cylinder markings in the upcoming New Jersey Register on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The comment period on that will run until November 17<sup>th</sup> as well. There will be a proposal establishing rules on the marking and clearing of fire hydrants in the same New Jersey Register, with the comment period ending on November 17<sup>th</sup> as well.

The annual NFIRS report – Fire in New Jersey 2016 – should be coming out within the next couple weeks. Chief Kilmer stressed the importance of strong participation from all fire departments throughout the State, and the NJ Division of Fire Safety will soon be interviewing applicants for an additional field person for the NFIRS Unit. Chief Kilmer also spoke about the upcoming Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference that is slated for

November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> at Middlesex County Fire Academy – as well as a new Public Education-themed New Jersey Fire Safety Summit that is set for November 29<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton Raritan Center in Edison.

Chief Kilmer spoke about the newly released 2018 New Jersey Fire Safety Calendars that are now available. Seven thousand copies were generously printed by Atlantic City Electric and will be distributed to each of the county poster contest coordinators by Jerry Clark in the near future. Chief Kilmer also announced that, based on a suggestion at a prior Commission meeting, a wide variety of training opportunities from around the State are listed on the NJDFS website. Also, the fall registration period for Kean opened on Monday and Chief Kilmer noted there are a lot of additional training opportunities focused on the new 2015 Fire Code.

Chief Kilmer reported that the NJ Division of Fire Safety has been working on many initiatives with the American Red Cross. The Red Cross is urging fire departments to make people aware of the services they provide to people that are displaced by fire. This will be added to the Inspector and Fire Officer class, just making fire personnel aware how to get a hold of them. Chief Kilmer also spoke about a recent suggestion from Cape May County that would see the providing of online approval for a local course offering. The Division is now in the final stages of testing that and it should be in place shortly. Also in regard to training, Chief Kilmer was disappointed to have the course brochures sent out the day before registration is to begin. He has spoken to the staff at Kean and the brochures will be sent out with more lead time in the future before registration for the semester is to begin.

Chief Kilmer announced the retirements of Jeffrey Silver from the Arson Unit and Senior Planner Jim McFadden. They are both long-time Division of Fire Safety employees and everyone at the Division wishes them well. Mr. Silver has been replaced by Joe Jackson who had been added to the Arson Investigations Unit. The NJDFS has also been successful in continuously replacing inspectors and the Department has recently approved the hiring of more per-diem inspectors.

The NJ Division of Fire Safety has budgeted for the replacement of emergency communication radios for both NJDFS staff and the County Coordinators. Carbon monoxide regulations are now in place and the NJDFS is in the process of putting out a guidance bulletin on this. The RIMS system continues to be stable and the users group has been extremely helpful in developing the system.

Chief Kilmer spoke about the new legislation (signed July 1) that allows for some types of fireworks to be sold in New Jersey. The Division of Fire Safety is meeting on a regular basis to make minor modifications to the Fire Code to account for this law. These should be ready to present to the Fire Safety Commission at the November meeting. The Division of Fire Safety is also currently working with the State Courts System on solving a problem concerning the inability of fire code issues to be brought into municipal courts.

Commissioner Stanley Sickels asked if a copy of the list of high-rise buildings throughout the State was available as per a request made at the previous meeting. Chief Kilmer said that unfortunately the focus in recent months has been mainly on the Fire Code and he was unable to get that together. Commissioner Bellew asked what would drive implementing a new survey of high rise buildings throughout New Jersey and Chief Kilmer answered that this could be done through the NJDFS. Commissioner Wood suggested using the local enforcing agencies to identify the high-rises out there. Chief Kilmer agreed that this would be the first step and then follow up with NJDFS staff to make sure all are accounted for and correct. Chairman Wisniewski asked that the current list, which is now several years old, be distributed so that we can begin working on fine-tuning it and have some progress to report at the November meeting.

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

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

Commissioner Pat Intindola reported that the Codes Advisory Council met on August 16<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville. The minutes of that meeting are contained in the meeting packets.

Commissioner Intindola said the Council spoke about the need for some kind of guidance document on the new Carbon Monoxide Regulations. This is currently being worked on by the NJDFS and should be distributed in the near future. Also, Commissioner Intindola spoke about the Propane Cylinder Marking proposal being in the August 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the New Jersey Register and was encouraged to here Chief Kilmer's report on the adoption of many of the items the Codes Council has worked on for a long time.

The Codes Council also discussed the need to update the regulations for consumer fireworks given the legislative changes that were made in July. A fireworks committee was formed to work on these and will be reporting at subsequent meetings. Commissioner Stanley Sickels added that a conference call had been scheduled with this committee, members of the industry, and NJ Division of Fire Safety personnel.

Commissioner Stanley Sickels spoke about the need for studies to be done in the wake of large-loss fires to examine the effects and suggest courses of action from a codes perspective. The Codes Council discussed how to achieve this and suggested that either the NJDFS budget to contract with an agency that does these investigations/reports, or have NJDFS staff lead the investigation and have appointed volunteers/council members/etc. assist in the process. These reports would not be geared towards assigning blame or determining cause and origin, but to see where we stand code-wise and whether there needs to be improvements/changes to procedures/etc.

Commissioner Gerard Naylis asked if the Codes Council had been looking into requiring fire code inspections to be done by certified fire inspectors – and no longer just by people designated by municipal authority. He asked what specifically would need to be done to require this. Commissioner Naylis also asked about the inspections being forced upon

non-owner occupied one- and two-family homes with the requirement of an annual fee. Considering the State only inspects multiple-dwellings every five years, this seems to simply be a case where the municipality is forcing people to unnecessarily pay an annual fee. Commissioner Sickels echoed Commissioner Naylis's comments on requiring certified inspectors, and provided examples from the local level. He suggested working on draft legislation with Chairman Wisniewski on these matters. Commissioner Intindola agreed to put these items on the agenda for discussion at next month's meeting.

The next meeting of the Codes Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville.

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

Commissioner Lawrence Wood reported that the Training and Education Advisory Council had met on August 15<sup>th</sup> at the Dempster Training Center in Lawrenceville. The minutes of that meeting are contained in the meeting packets.

Commissioner Wood began his report by speaking about the proposed training regulations that were published in the New Jersey Register on August 21<sup>st</sup>. The proposed regulations and new certifications were discussed – particularly the change to time-keeping and the Incident Management subchapter. Over 60 Training and Education items were discussed.

Commissioner Wood also spoke about the Training and Education Advisory Council's work in the area of junior firefighters. There has been much discussion on what junior firefighters are permitted to do and what they are not. NJDFS staff has been in contact with the NJ Department of Labor on this. Commissioner Wood also reported that the Training and Education Council held electronic votes for On-Line Firefighter 1 Lectures and the recommendations of the Hazardous Materials Committee.

## **3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council**

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that the NFIRS Unit is on the cusp of completing and releasing the "Fire in New Jersey 2016". He also reminded everyone present to be mindful that the end of the year is coming quickly and urged everyone to get their data submitted in a timely manner.

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

In the absence of Commissioner John Lightbody, no formal report was given.

## **5. Public Education Advisory Council**

In the absence of Commissioner Daniel DeTrolgio, no formal report was given.

The next meeting of the Public Education Advisory Council is scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup> at the Monmouth County Fire Academy in Freehold at 10AM.

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

In the absence of Commissioner Richard Blohm, no report was given.

Commissioner Gerard Naylis commented that the US House of Representatives had recently passed the Firefighter Cancer Registry Bill, which now moves onto the US Senate. This bill was co-sponsored by NJ Congressman Bill Pascrell. It is critical to support this bill as there are still so many first responders suffering from the effects of September 11<sup>th</sup> and they are battling tremendous odds.

**7. Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council**

Commissioner Kathleen O’Leary reported that the Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council met on September 7<sup>th</sup> at the Monmouth County Fire Academy in Freehold. The minutes of that meeting were not available at the time of the meeting, but will be distributed as soon as possible.

Commissioner O’Leary reported that there will be a Youth Firesetter Program Specialist course has been set for November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at the Monmouth County Fire Academy in Freehold. In regards to smoke alarms, Commissioner O’Leary that two smoke alarm distribution events were held in June (one Northern NJ, one Central NJ) where the bulk of the 5,000 alarms were given out. A limited number are still available for departments that have not claimed their supply for 2017, and they can be obtained by making arrangements with Charles Lavin via email.

Commissioner O’Leary reported that registration for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference is ready for launch. A preview of the full program was sent out in late August and the registration officially opened on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The program and registration form is available at [www.keanfiresafety.com](http://www.keanfiresafety.com) under the Community Risk Reduction banner. Charles Lavin distributed hard copies of the color program at the meeting and asked that all Commissioners spread the word. The theme this year is “Moving Traditional Approaches into the Future”

The Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council also continued to work towards getting all counties statewide to report on their youth firesetting incidents, as well as the potential for a database that will allow for information to be shared between county programs.

The next meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council is scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Monmouth County Fire Academy in Freehold at 10AM.

## **G. Committee Reports**

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

Commissioner Gerard Naylis expressed that he is eagerly awaiting the next administration coming in the new year and the potential for working with them towards a residential sprinkler bill.

## **H. Old Business**

Commissioner Lawrence Wood raised a concern about a recommendation made at the last meeting to table the discussion on mandating firefighter fitness standards, and suggested that the minutes from the prior meeting be amended. After a brief discussion, it was determined that no correction to the minutes was necessary.

## **I. New Business**

Commissioner Stanley Sickels asked about the regulations that say the Department of Community Affairs is the sole authority over Class F rooming houses in the construction code. Commissioner Sickels asked if that would apply to the fire code as well, and Chief Kilmer replied that no, the local enforcing agencies would still have jurisdiction. A discussion followed as to how to deal, code-wise, with these facilities that house people who are being treated for addiction. Michael Whalen from DCA's Codes and Standards said that they are in the process of answering the comments on this now.

Commissioner Pat Intindola made a motion that a letter be sent from the NJ Fire Safety Commission to the Senate President and Assembly Speaker in support of Assembly Bill 5076, which would see four seats from the public added to the Commission. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Stanley Sickels and passed unanimously.

Chairman John S. Wisniewski and Acting Director Lou Kilmer made a special presentation to Cape May County, presenting a plaque acknowledging the achievement of having 100% of the county's fire departments participating in the NFIRS reporting for 2016. The award was accepted by Cape May County Fire Marshal Conrad Johnson, who accepted on behalf of all the fire departments, chiefs, and officers; as well as the late Al Beers, a huge influence on making the fire service in Cape May County as successful as it's become.

## **J. Public Comment II**

Tony Correia, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation advocate, echoed the sentiment of Commissioner Gerard Naylis on actively supporting the federal Firefighter Cancer Registry Bill. Mr. Correia also expressed the need to be proactive about firefighter health and fitness, and offer classes that emphasize these areas in every single semester. Mr. Correia also encouraged anyone and everyone to attend the Annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the National Fire Academy on October 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Correia suggested the NJDFS utilize social media to reach the public on several different areas.



Chief Kilmer commented that this is something that has been looked at but ultimately the Department of Community Affairs determines the approval process through their public information officer.

NJ Fire Prevention & Protection Association President Rich Silvia publicly complimented the NJDFS Community Risk Reduction Unit (Charles Lavin and Jerry Clark) for their exemplary work in running the NJ State Poster Contest and producing the newly-released 2018 New Jersey Fire Safety Calendars. Mr. Silvia also announced that the annual NJFPPA Dinner is scheduled for November 30<sup>th</sup> and anyone can go on [www.njsfppa.org](http://www.njsfppa.org) for more information.

Chairman Wisniewski closed the meeting by thanking Ron McGowan and Lew Ostrander for putting today's meeting together and providing the refreshments. The NJ Fire Safety Commission and members of the public present collectively congratulated Mr. Ostrander on his upcoming retirement.

#### **K. Adjournment**

Chairman Wisniewski asked if anyone had any additional business they would like to bring before the Commission. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 11:24 am.

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**\* The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 10am. It will be held at the Atlantic City Convention Center in Atlantic City, NJ \***