

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

**Meeting of July 21, 2010**

The NJ Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, July 21, 2010, at the Toms River Fire Academy in Toms River, NJ.

**Commission Members Present:** Assemblyman John Wisniewski, Chairman  
Assemblyman David Rible  
Mr. Pasquale Intindola, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. John Lightbody  
Mr. Charles W. Schilling  
Mr. Gerard Naylis  
Mr. Armando Roman  
Ms. Kathleen O'Leary  
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood  
Mr. Roger Potts  
Mr. Daniel DeTrollo  
Mr. Lewis Candura  
Mr. Arthur Londensky  
Mr. C. Kenneth Anderson  
Mr. Arthur Mercurio  
Mr. Fredrick Collender

**Commission Members Excused:** Senator Donald Norcross  
Mr. Paul Hartstein  
Mr. Ronald Phillips

**DCA Staff Members Present:** Lawrence Petrillo, State Fire Marshal  
Lou Kilmer, NJDFS  
William Kramer, NJDFS  
Rick Farletta, NJDFS  
Craig Augustoni, NJDFS  
Charles Luxton, NJDFS  
Charles Lavin, NJDFS  
Jerry Clark, NJDFS  
Jim McFadden, NJDFS  
Josh Lazarus, NJDFS  
Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

**Guests:** Ronald McGowan, Wildwood Crest Fire  
David Kurasz, NJFSAB  
Ray Lonabaugh, NFSAB  
Irwin Kreisburg, NJDOL PEOSH  
Tom Pizzano, Sr., Codes Advisory Council  
James Yates, West Windsor Fire/EMS  
Rich Heimbach, Lincoln Park Fire Prev.  
Doug Foley, Toms River Dist. 1  
Gregory Shapiro, Asm. Wisniewski's Office

## **A. Call to Order**

Vice-Chairman Pat Intindola called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and began the meeting with the “Pledge of Allegiance”, pointing out the fire exits, and observing a moment of silence for all the firefighters that have lost their lives in the past year.

## **B. Approval of Minutes**

With no discussion requested or necessary corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of May 19, 2010, were approved.

## **C. Correspondence**

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

## **D. Public Comment I**

Vice-Chairman Intindola opened the floor to any member of the public wishing to speak. With no 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**

State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo began his report by thanking the Toms River Fire Commissioners and Academy personnel for their hospitality in hosting today’s meeting and providing the coffee and lunch.

Director Petrillo reported that, as of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the entire Division of Fire Safety staff is located at the DCA Building in Trenton. The move out of the Bordentown office was a relatively smooth transition thanks to the hard work and cooperation of Division staff. New phone numbers are posted on the Division’s website, which is also getting a major overhaul at this time. Director Petrillo also spoke about a recent visit from a group of fire safety officials from South Korea. The Division of Fire Safety hosted this group for a full day at their offices, talking mainly about fire reporting statistics and problems they have had with electrical fires. It was an interesting and informative experience for both parties.

Director Petrillo spoke about Executive Order #2 that had been issued by Governor Christie. It was summarized as mandating that there be a “common-sense approach” to regulations. The Division of Fire Safety will be taking a look at their regulations to see if they are business-friendly and, if they are not, seeing how they can be made business-friendly or eliminated entirely. This will be an ongoing project. The Division will be in contact with the Commission’s various Advisory Councils to work on looking at these regulations. Director Petrillo feels the Fire Safety Commission is a great forum for

examining these issues because there are representatives from the public and private sector.

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo asked State Fire Marshal Petrillo if the new DCA Commissioner, Lori Grifa, has any significant new policies on the way regarding the Division of Fire Safety. Director Petrillo said he has not spoken with Commissioner Grifa specifically about any changes in Division policy or staffing levels.

Assemblyman John Wisniewski arrived at the meeting, took over the duties as Chairman and thanked Vice-Chairman Intindola for filling in for him.

Chief William Kramer reported that the Highway Traffic Safety Guidelines that were adopted by the Attorney General's Office have been distributed and the Division of Fire Safety will be working to integrate them into the training curriculum. It will be important to integrate the Department of Transportation and New Jersey State Police into this training as well. Also, the Division of Fire Safety has been working with the Office of Homeland Security and Department of Education on school security issues. They are looking to amend the fire code to comply with replacing one school fire drill with a school lockdown drill. There have been at least six training sessions scheduled for schools by the Department of Education, all of which the Division of Fire Safety and local law enforcement will be involved in. Commissioner Gerard Naylis asked if it was mandated that local fire official and local fire department be present for training drills. Chief Kramer said it was not mandated, but the Division recommends they be involved. The training on school lockdowns that took place in Camden County with Chief Hartstein last year is still the model for these types of security drills. Commissioner C. Kenneth Anderson added that these training sessions, and more specifically the involvement of local entities, will really vary from town to town and it will take some time to become uniform.

Chief Kramer spoke about the Homeland Security Conference that had recently taken place at Kean University. He felt as though this was the best one ever and commended the Division of Fire Safety staff, and Kean University staff, that worked to put it together. The Conference was jam-packed with great speakers and presentations, and it felt like the program was too short because everyone was so good. Chief Kramer also reported that the Fire Department of New York has requested some training from the NJDFS's Arson Unit, which is a compliment to the respect that New Jersey's Arson guys have earned.

Commissioner Arthur Mercurio asked whether the Division of Fire Safety had been involved in the response to the recent Duck Boat accident that took place in the Delaware River near Philadelphia. Chief Kramer answered that the Office of Fire Department Preparedness has been involved in deploying fire service resources to several incidents recently – the Duck Boat accident, the Pemberton forest fires, and Hackensack garage collapse. As far as the Duck Boat incident, Chief Kramer felt that, despite tragically losing two people in the accident, it was a miracle that so many had been saved. The close proximity of the Coast Guard base and Philadelphia Marine Police helped the emergency response to this incident. Commissioner Mercurio said some of the local fire

departments were confused about their role in responding to the incident. Chief Kramer said this is why the Deployment Act was passed and why there are County Fire Coordinators... so there is no self-deployment. Local departments should take their cue to respond only through the system and their County Coordinator. State Fire Marshal Petrillo added that the Deployment Act has been an unparalleled success as it is, and any thoughts of changing it would surely hurt New Jersey's ability to respond effectively to emergencies.

Chief Kramer reported that the Division of Fire Safety's Logistics Support Vehicle is going to be outfitted with some new equipment. This is thanks to funding received from the Office of Homeland Security. The vehicle will now have computers, printers, cameras, a plotter, etc. This will allow for the vehicle to provide better support and coordination of resources at major incidents.

Chief Kramer announced that the Division of Fire Safety would be losing two long-time veterans from their staff. Gary Licknack, the Supervisor of the Certifications Unit, and Grace Forrester, the driving force behind many of the programs of the Training Unit, are both retiring this summer. Their professionalism and expertise will be sorely missed, and all of the Division of Fire Safety wishes them a happy retirement.

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo asked for more details on the Hackensack garage collapse. Chief Kramer said that Division of Fire Safety had presence there throughout the incident. Task Force 1 and the USAR team were among the resources responding to the incident. Emergency responders were set up into 6-hour tours due to the extreme heat. Fortunately no one was trapped in the wreckage and the duration of the incident was significantly shorter than originally anticipated. Commissioner Mercurio asked if the Division of Fire Safety had any presence at the New Jersey State Police's communication headquarters (the ROC). Director Petrillo answered that the DFS's Jim McFadden is stationed there.

Commissioner Anderson spoke about the Highway Traffic Safety Guidelines and the subsequent training that needs to be integrating regarding it. There is an Advisory Committee comprised of various stakeholders that was put together to work on the Guidelines last year. Commissioner Anderson suggested perhaps they could be of some assistance in putting together the training.

Chief Kilmer reported on the Division of Fire Safety's ongoing partnership with the Division of Revenue to recoup fees owed to the Division. This process is going extremely well as the Division has collected over \$1 million thus far. 65% of those monies will be going back to the towns in order to help fund their operations.

Chief Kilmer reported that the Code Enforcement Unit has gotten through its busiest time of the year – the 4<sup>th</sup> of July – and only experienced very few minor problems. There were no major incidents or injuries of any kind, and that is a tribute to the men and women who are out there enforcing the regulations. The Division is still working on its new computer system and has spent a lot of time recently in development sessions. The last

phase of the application development sessions will begin in August and everything seems to be on track.

Chief Kramer spoke about Bulletins that have been sent out recently. The two most important of these are regarding the enforcement jurisdiction of one- and two-family homes, and another clarifying the retro-fit versus the maintenance portion of the fire code (what can be cited and what can not). There has not been a lot of feedback from the fire service on these Bulletins, so hopefully they have cleared things up and we can move forward. The Division and the Codes Council has been working together to draft more and more of these Bulletins to provide guidance at the local level.

Commissioner Charles Schilling asked for an update on the fire-safe cigarette program. Chief Kramer explained how cigarette manufacturers are required to get their products certified (using test data, etc) up to fire-safe standards. The enforcement power of these new regulations is held by the Department of Treasury. By now New Jersey should be selling only fire-safe cigarettes but unfortunately a number of counterfeit cigarettes do find their way into the State.

State Fire Marshal Petrillo announced that there would be a County Presidents Meeting at Middlesex Fire Academy on Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. This meeting will include a presentation on the Division's new computer system. All Commission members are invited to attend.

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

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

Commissioner Charles Schilling reported the Codes Advisory Council met on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy

Commissioner Schilling reported that the Codes Council has been working on revising or upgrading a couple of the Inspection Forms. These forms are the ones concerning fire sprinkler systems and kitchen systems reporting. Several comments were made by the Council, all of which are in the Codes Council minutes which are contained in the meeting packets. The changes and updates to these forms should make things a little easier for inspectors.

Commissioner Schilling spoke about the issue of Vacant Buildings. He stated that, in the economic conditions we are currently in, vacant buildings are becoming more and more common. The issue of how to classify, inspect, and identify these buildings are becoming a bigger and bigger issue. Commissioner Schilling spoke about issuing permits for these types of structures, but they will try to keep in mind the Executive Order from Governor Christie that Director Petrillo spoke about earlier. These vacant buildings are a safety issue for firefighters and citizens alike. Chairman Wisniewski suggested that the Codes Council look into the system used by FDNY to identify vacant buildings.

Commissioner Schilling spoke about the GAMIN'RIDE mobile video game structures. Michael Whalen and Amy Frank from the Division of Codes and Standards are currently in the process of drafting regulations to cover these types of units that are travelling throughout our State. The Department should have draft rules for review by the next Codes Advisory Council meeting. Commissioner Schilling also mentioned the issue of fire protection equipment being inspected by in-house employees. Chief Kramer reported that the Department is working out some final wording on this and should have something ready by the next Codes Advisory Council meeting. Commissioner Gerard Naylis asked if licensed electricians were required if a building was simply replacing smoke detectors. State Fire Marshal Petrillo answered that it would probably fall under ordinary maintenance, and this should be discussed between the building owner and fire official and common sense should prevail.

The increasing popularity of solar panels being installed in New Jersey is becoming a cause for concern. There is a very specific firefighting strategy and tactics that needs to be followed in regards to these solar panels. In other words, they can not be touched. Chief Kramer said the Division of Fire Safety has information and a training program up on the website for fire departments to check out. Director Petrillo added that solar panels are a fast-growing and evolving technology, so it has become more and more difficult to identify these structures. He feels solar paneled structures of all kinds should be placarded, and it needs to be done sooner than later. Commissioner Schilling said there would be more and more dialogue from the Codes Advisory Council on this issue.

Commissioner Schilling reported the Vacant Building Sub-Committee and Subchapter 4 Sub-Committee have submitted minutes in the Commission's meeting packets. Commissioner Schilling also thanked Commissioner John Lightbody for raising the question about the residential sprinkler regulations to Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno at a recent dinner event. He was told that the rule requiring residential sprinklers in one- and two-family homes would not be included in the new code.

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

Commissioner C. Kenneth Anderson reported that the Training and Education Advisory Council met on June 15th at the Dempster Training Center at 10:00 am.

Kent Neiswender reported on several projects including:

- The Office of Training and Certification moved to Trenton in June 3rd.
- New Jersey Weekend was a success. There will be 240 spaces in 2011.
- Grace Forester is retiring on September 1st.
- The conversion to Jones and Bartlett texts is completed. The State Treasurer has renewed the contract and 2700 books have been ordered.
- The Fire Instructor revisions were adopted.
  - Drill Ground Certificates have been sent to holders of the pervious special certificates
- The Developmental Disabilities Awareness CD will be sent to all EOs. The course

may be placed on the Rutgers server since firefighters can't access NJLearn until they are certified.

IMS All Hazards Position Training. The Operations Section Chief 5-day class was scheduled with enrollment of 17. The prerequisite requirements are extensive. Only nine attended the class. One objective was to hold the class and get a pool of candidates for the Train-the-Trainer. Then the course could be offered by New Jersey instructors in various timeframes (daily, evenings, weekends, etc.).

Notwithstanding the low numbers, the Planning Section Chief course will be offered next semester. A more extensive explanation of the prerequisites will be sent to the EOs.

The Driver/Operator Committee presented additional proposed course information. Council members are to provide feedback.

We would like to get information about the things we are working on out to the fire service so they can respond. I have spoke to Jerry Clark about this and will be submitting information to him for future issues of *Fire Focus*.

The Standards establish the Jones and Bartlett text as the text for Firefighter I. Several EOs use the State Police Books for Hazmat Awareness since completion of the State Police Courses is a prerequisite to being admitted to the Hazmat Technician course. The Firefighter I exam questions for Hazmat come from the Jones and Bartlett test bank, the PTS test bank, and the old program. One school of thought is that hazmat questions are hazmat questions. Another is that the answers are course specific. This will be monitored.

The next T&E Council meeting will be August 17th at the Dempster Training Center at 10:00 am.

State Fire Marshal Petrillo reported that the Division of Fire Safety has submitted a purchase request to enable them to provide national accreditation to firefighters both in IFSAC and Pro-Board. Hopefully this request will be approved, and as soon as it is the Division will then be able to issue those certifications to new firefighters.

Commissioner Arthur Mercurio brought up the issue of retired State Troopers taking over as administrators at New Jersey's county fire academies. He has knowledge of a few specific cases and feels this practice is not right. Commissioner Mercurio said the fire service in these areas is feeling slighted and he does not feel it's ethical. A lengthy discussion took place on this issue and it was generally agreed that this practice would not fly if the situation were reversed. Both Chairman Wisniewski and State Fire Marshal Petrillo said they would look further into the specifics of this situation and see what needs to be done. Director Petrillo felt that this could be something for the Training and Education Council to look into as well.

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

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported the Statistics and Information Advisory Council met on June 8<sup>th</sup> at the Monmouth County Fire Academy. Currently, for the year 2009, there are 690 out of 730 fire departments reporting for a total of 94%. However, for 135 of these fire departments that are listed as reporting there is only partial data. The Division's NFIRS Unit is continuing to work diligently on these numbers and they are projected to go up as data comes in. So far for 2010, there are 570 out of 729 fire departments reporting for a total of 78%. Obviously it is still very early for the 2010 numbers. Commissioner Naylis insists that these percentages are incredibly high for a State that is both heavily populated and does not have mandatory reporting. New Jersey is beating out several States where conditions are more favorable to high reporting numbers.

The Statistics and Information Advisory Council has been using all the data collected to examine where we should be going policy-wise. One of the points that will be looked at are ignition sources, and in particular the impact that fire-safe cigarettes. Data from New York seems to indicate that there has been a reduction in cigarette-caused fires, and hopefully this is the case in New Jersey as well.

Commissioner Naylis spoke about the issue of Federal Grants being held up for fire departments who are not participating in the NFIRS program. For example, the City of Paterson is having \$4.5 million for a firehouse held up because of a lack of reporting data. Also, the City of Newark is missing out on \$360,000 to buy equipment. These are significant sums and they will not be released until the NFIRS reporting is done. There are 39 departments state-wide in similar situations. Chairman Wisniewski requested the data on these departments and it was submitted by Commissioner Naylis.

Commissioner Naylis made a motion that former Division of Fire Safety employee Ronald Svrcek be added to the Statistics and Information Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner DeTrollo and passed unanimously. Mr. Svrcek's resume was submitted to the Commission.

State Fire Marshal Petrillo spoke briefly about the South Koreans ability to compile statistics in real time, so their data is always available and complete. Hopefully New Jersey will get to this point somewhere down the road.

The next meeting of the Statistics and Information Advisory Council will be on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Monmouth County Fire Academy in Freehold, NJ.

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

Commissioner John Lightbody reported that the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council met in May and July, but he apologized that the minutes were not within the Commission packets. This is due to the retirement of the NJDFS liaison Gary Licknack, who Commissioner Lightbody said has agreed to stay on as secretary of the Council.

Commissioner Lightbody spoke about the residential sprinkler regulations. Back in May it seemed as though everything was going smoothly to adopt these regulations. Since that time, everything seems to have fallen apart. Commissioner Lightbody said he was recently told flat-out by the Lt. Governor that the residential sprinkler regulations would not be included in the new code. The reason that was cited was the economy, but Commissioner Lightbody was surprised that loss of life could have a dollars and cents value.

Commissioner Lightbody urged the Fire Safety Commission not to give up on the residential sprinkler issues. We have come too far to quit now, and maybe it's time to draw a new roadmap for how we could get there. Commissioner Lightbody suggested compromising with the powers that be to get the sprinkler regulations passed eventually. Commissioner Anderson and Chairman Wisniewski shared separate editorials with the Fire Safety Commission that appeared in regional newspapers. These editorials implored Governor Christie to pass the residential sprinkler regulations.

Commissioner Lightbody added that the Master Planning and Research Council has also been concentrating on areas such as Shared Services, Shared Resources, and Recruitment and Retention. Sub-committees have been set up to focus on all of these issues. Commissioner Lewis Candura asked if there had been anything further on the recent death that took place in the group home. There was a simulation of the incident in Maryland to examine what would happen if fire sprinklers had been present. The sprinklers extinguished the fire effectively in all cases where they were present. Commissioner Lightbody said there are tapes of the simulation but they can not be released yet being this is a criminal case.

The next meeting of the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council will be on September 13<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy at 10 am.

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

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo reported the Public Education Advisory Council met on July 14<sup>th</sup> at the Camden County Fire Academy in a joint meeting with the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council. The minutes are in the Commission meeting packets.

Commissioner DeTrollo spoke about the New Jersey FIRE Bowl Championship that took place on May 20<sup>th</sup> at Kean University. The event was extremely well-attended by students, the fire service, and the various FIRE Bowl sponsors. Commissioner DeTrollo congratulated all of the students who competed and especially Carteret Middle School and Public School #14 of Bayonne (who were crowned the champions). It is the hope of the Public Education Advisory Council that this program can be expanded for the sixth straight time in 2011. Prospective districts are already popping up.

Commissioner DeTrollo also reported about the Fire Safety Poster Contest. All seven division winners were honored at a luncheon at the Springfield Fire Department on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. All the winners received Dell laptop computers and printers. The overall winner, Katie Boyle, is having her poster printed by Atlantic City Electric. The Division of Fire Safety should be receiving roughly 4,500 posters in August for distribution throughout the State. Commissioner DeTrollo thanked the NJ Fire Prevention and Protection Association for hosting the luncheon – and also the American Fire Sprinkler Association – NJ Chapter, and the Nation Association of Fire Equipment Distributors for stepping up at the last minute to provide the computers for the contest winners.

The theme for the 2010-2011 Poster Contest is: “Smoke Detectors: A sound you can live with.” Computer-generated posters WILL be allowed into the competition in all divisions. This information will be printed on the official Poster Contest rules.

The next meeting of the Public Education Advisory Council will take place on September 9<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy at 10 am.

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

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

#### **7. Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council**

In the absence of Commissioner Paul Hartstein, Charles Luxton of the Division of Fire Safety provided a report on the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council. Mr. Luxton reported that they had met on July 14<sup>th</sup> at the Camden County Fire Academy in a joint meeting with the Public Education Advisory Council. Mr. Luxton thanked the Camden County Fireman’s Association for a barbecue lunch at this meeting.

Mr. Luxton spoke about a report on the topic of Juvenile Firesetting that was done back in 1987. The original report was requested by the New Jersey Senate and Mr. Luxton asked what would need to be done to get another report done. Assemblyman Wisniewski suggested the possibility of getting a Resolution done by both houses to request a new report. Assemblyman Wisniewski requested a copy of the 1987 report for his review.

Mr. Luxton spoke about a “Parents Legal Responsibility” brochure that outlines the responsibilities of parents of a child involved with a firesetting incident. This brochure has been printed in other states and the Council is looking into tailoring one for New Jersey.

There was a discussion on the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Conference, which is tentatively scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. So far permission for the Conference has not been granted by the Department of Community Affairs. Hopefully now that the budget is passed, the conference will be approved and finalized plans can be made for the Conference.

The next meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council will be held on September 8<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy at 10 am.

## **G. Committee Reports**

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

Commissioner Gerard Naylis expressed his extreme disappointment that the residential sprinkler regulations (among others) still have yet to be adopted. He could not understand why or how saving lives through sprinkler regulations could be held up for economic reasons. Commissioner Naylis suggested the possibility of meeting with Governor Christie and/or his staff on this issue. This regulation is of the utmost importance, and the Commission should not go back on or compromise their stance on this issue.

Assemblyman Wisniewski said that he has re-sent the Residential Sprinkler Resolution that the Fire Safety Commission endorsed to the Governor's Office and the Attorney General's Office. Chairman Wisniewski is also having an op-ed piece put into all the newspapers state-wide. It is his hope that these steps will reinvigorate the debate on this topic and urge the Governor to adopt these regulations. Chairman Wisniewski said that the Fire Safety Commission needs to educate and advocate for this policy by getting all levels of government involved. There is obviously a lot of public good that can be done with fire suppression systems, and the Commission needs to keep working toward the goal of getting the regulations adopted.

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo also expressed disappointment that the residential sprinkler regulations have not been adopted. He stated that, unfortunately, it usually takes a tragedy to get any movement on this sort of thing. This is a chance to be proactive and adopt regulations that will save lives *before* the tragedy occurs. Commissioner Lewis Candura added that over the life of a 30-year mortgage, the cost of a fire sprinkler system is relatively minute. Commissioner Wood spoke about people being at risk, and firefighters being at risk, because of the lightweight construction. Now is the time to progress with advancement in policy, and get these regulations passed one way or another. Chairman Wisniewski said that we, as advocates for fire safety and the fire service, need to do a better job of educating the general public on the benefits of fire sprinklers and these regulations. Commissioner Arthur Londensky suggested the possibility of passing legislation that allows individual municipalities to pass these regulations in their towns – as has been done in other states.

## **H. Old Business**

Commissioner Gerard Naylis spoke about the report that was discussed to be put together for the legislature that explains what the Fire Safety Commission is and what it does. Commissioner Naylis suggested drafting this report specifically for the new Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs. Chairman Wisniewski feels it is a good idea to get this report to the legislators, and that they would be extremely

receptive to it. The Commission needs to educate the legislature, as well as the public, on what it does and why it exists. This will help to raise the Commission's profile and allow it to get things done more readily in the future.

Commissioner Naylis encouraged all the Advisory Councils to submit reports to himself or Commissioner Anderson so that the information can be included in the report to the legislators.

Commissioner Lawrence Wood asked about the previous issue regarding communication with the Board of Public Utilities on water supply. State Fire Marshal Petrillo answered that there was nothing specific to report, but the Board of Public Utilities does have regulations that require notification of a shut-down of water supply. They will be investigating internally as to why it had not been done in Bergen County. Commissioner Wood suggested inviting a representative from the Board of Public Utilities to the next meeting, and Director Petrillo agreed to do so.

### **I. New Business**

Commissioner C. Kenneth Anderson spoke about the upcoming Mid-Atlantic Association of State Fire Commissions Conference. It is scheduled to take place September 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> in Hartford, Connecticut. In previous years, Commissions Anderson and Mercurio have attended these Conferences regularly despite the fact that the Department of Community Affairs no longer covers expenses. Commissioner Anderson also distributed a report from the 2009 Mid-Atlantic Conference via email and encouraged all Commissioners to take a look at it.

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

Ray Lonabaugh from the National Fire Sprinkler thanked Assemblyman Wisniewski and the Fire Safety Commission for drafting and the Resolution in support of the fire sprinkler regulations. He also suggested sharing information with the Pennsylvania Fire Sprinkler Coalition, and Assemblyman Wisniewski said he would appreciate any and all help on this issue.

Michael Whalen from Codes and Standards announced that Commissioner Charles Schilling had recently received the "Industry Advancement Award" at the National Fire Sprinkler Association Seminar in Atlantic City. The entire Fire Safety Commission offered their sincere congratulations and a round of applause.

### **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 12:07 PM.

**\* The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be on September 15, 2010 at 10am. It will be held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ. \***