

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

Meeting of September 15, 2010

The NJ Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, September 15, 2010, at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ.

Commission Members Present: Assemblyman John Wisniewski, Chairman
Senator Anthony Bucco
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. Paul Hartstein
Mr. Ronald Phillips
Mr. Richard Blohm
Mr. Daniel DeTrolio
Mr. Lewis Candura
Mr. Arthur Londensky
Mr. C. Kenneth Anderson
Mr. Arthur Mercurio
Mr. Fredrick Collender

Commission Members Excused: Senator Donald Norcross
Assemblyman David Rible
Mr. Fredrick Collender

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

Guests: David Kurasz, NJFSAB
Chuck Aughenbaugh, NJDFCA Stanley Sickels, NJFPPA
Tony Correia, NJ Career Fire Chiefs Bernie Cohan, EDIAFC
Francis W. Pagurek, State/County EMS Coordinators
Kelly Reilly, Asm. Rible’s Office James Yates, West Windsor Fire/EMS
John Lewis, Passaic Fire Dept. Patrick Bost, NJDHSS / PEOSH
Kathleen Conlin, SBHCS/OEM Pasquale Sarnella, Hoboken Fire Dept.

A. Call to Order

Chairman John Wisniewski 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 July 21, 2010 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 correspondence at this time, the meeting was moved to Public Comment I.

D. Public Comment I

Chairman Wisniewski opened the floor to any member of the public wishing to speak. Bernie Cohan from the International Association of Fire Chiefs implored the legislative members of the Fire Safety Commission to fill the IAFC’s vacancy on the Commission and to fill it with Stanley Sickels. Chairman Wisniewski answered that both he and Senator Bucco have written letters to the appropriate appointing authority recommending Mr. Sickels be added to the Commission in that seat. They are waiting for the appointing authority to move on it.

Chuck Aughenbaugh from the New Jersey Deputy Fire Chiefs Association expressed concern in regards to rumors that he has heard about State Police taking over the Fire Service Deployment Act. He asked whether these rumors had any basis in truth. Chairman Wisniewski said this could be addressed during the Division of Fire Safety report.

New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association President Stanley Sickels took a moment to thank out-going State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo for his many years of service and dedication to fire safety in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Sickels described Director Petrillo as a very accessible, helpful, courteous person and a true gentleman.

Mr. Sickels also recognized the American Fire Sprinkler Association and the New Jersey Association of Fire Equipment Distributors for their generous sponsorship of the New Jersey Fire Safety Poster Contest. Their generosity in providing the grand prize laptop computers for the seven division winners has been a vital part of the Poster Contest. Printed copies of the poster, courtesy of Atlantic City Electric, are available for Commission members at the meeting today.

Mr. Sickels also expressed disappointment in the administration's decision not to go forward with the fire sprinkler regulations. Countless people worked long and hard on these regulations and it is a shame to not have them go forward. Mr. Sickels added that people will die due to the lack of fire sprinklers, and that is a tragedy. He also cited the Seton Hall dormitory fire being the harbinger for fire sprinklers being mandated in all college dormitories; meanwhile many people are dying in residential homes every year and yet they are not sprinklered. Chairman Wisniewski said that he has legislation – to be introduced tomorrow – that will legislatively enact the fire sprinkler regulations. He invited the other legislative members to sponsor this legislation along with him. Chairman Wisniewski also spoke about the extremely miniscule cost of fire sprinklers in relation to the cost of a new home and its lifesaving ability. Commissioner Lewis Candura thanked Chairman Wisniewski for his efforts.

Commissioner Arthur Mercurio asked if any reasons, or any consultation, had been given for the administration's not adopting the fire sprinkler regulations. Chairman Wisniewski answered that it was his understanding that the administration felt it would be harmful to the homebuilders industry. Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo added that the reason the regulations were not adopted because the homebuilders industry has more money for more lobbyists than the fire service, and that's the bottom line. Commissioner Arthur Londensky added that this has set the fire service back 20 years, and the same thing is unfortunately happening with Codes and Standards.

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

E. Division of Fire Safety Activities

Chairman Wisniewski took a moment to thank out-going State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo for all his hard work and dedication to the betterment of New Jersey's fire service. He expressed his gratitude and urged Director Petrillo to not be a stranger to the Fire Safety Commission for years to come.

State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo thanked the entire Fire Safety Commission for their hard work and support throughout the years, and he looks forward to attending future meetings as a spectator. Director Petrillo took this opportunity to highlight the many changes and improvements that the Division of Fire Safety has experienced in the past several years.

Director Petrillo highlighted the strides made in Fire Code Enforcement. The Division has expedited rebates to the local enforcing agencies, as well as provided support to them in real-time with more advanced electronic communication. Also a new fire code was adopted a few years ago and the transition, thanks to Division staff, was second to none. New Jersey has benefited greatly with the adoption of this new code. The Division has also held Fire Officials accountable and will hopefully continue to do so. Terrorism-awareness training has also been developed for Fire Officials. Because of this, New

Jersey's Fire Officials and code enforcement people have access to all types of buildings and can be the eyes and ears able to identify the tell-tale signs of terrorism.

In the area of public education, the Division of Fire Safety has partnered with NJFPPA and NJ Safe Kids to bring the "Fire Is" message from Dr. Frank Field to New Jersey's schools. That program will be coming out this October. The Division has also established the New Jersey FIRE Bowl which has flourished over the past six years. The FIRE Bowl not only introduces students to the inner-workings of the fire service and instills life-long fire safety messages – it also gets young people excited for potential careers or future involvement with their local fire departments.

Director Petrillo spoke about the advancement of the Division's Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Unit. Through the yearly conferences and courses, the Juvenile Firesetter Unit has been able to bridge the gap between the fire service, law enforcement, and public health. The Division of Fire Safety has also been able to stay in close touch with the State's fire service through the online State Fire Marshal Message, Fire Focus newsletters, and the vast amount of information that the NFIRS Unit provides in its annual Fire in New Jersey report.

In the area of firefighter training, the Division of Fire Safety has been able to provide each and every firefighter recruit with comprehensive, uniform Firefighter I training manuals. Director Petrillo feels this is a vital way to not only save municipalities and local departments money, but also have a fire service that operates on the same page. The Division, through the past several years, has added new technology to allow online registering and offer courses online. The Division has also developed new training courses in Maritime Firefighting and Foam Firefighting, as well as a Terrorism Awareness course for firefighters. The Division also established an annual Homeland Security Symposium, which brings hundreds of firefighters from around the state together to get the most up-to-date information regarding homeland security.

Director Petrillo spoke about the Division of Fire Safety's excellent emergency response capabilities through the Fire Service Deployment Act. He addressed Chuck Aughenbaugh and said he had not heard the rumor that State Police would be taking that over. Under the Fire Service Deployment Act, New Jersey has one of the best fire coordination systems in the entire country. The Division of Fire Safety has coordinated response to dozens of large-scale emergencies throughout the past few years.

The Division of Fire Safety also established a K-9 Arson Investigation Unit that is well-respected, on both a regional and national level, and they have been responsible for several arrests and convictions throughout the past few years. Also, the Division of Fire Safety authored and was the driving force behind the Highway Traffic Safety Guidelines that were recently adopted. State Fire Marshal Petrillo also spoke about fighting to get the fire service involved in homeland security at the state level and succeeding. Every fire department now has a computer to receive and exchange information on homeland security issues, and there is a permanent Division of Fire Safety representative at the Regional Operations and Intelligence Center (ROC). The Division has also been able to

secure millions in federal funds to equip New Jersey's fire service to address large-scale flammable liquid fires stemming from terrorist attack. This equipment is ready for action in both the northern and southern parts of the State.

Director Petrillo also thanked his tremendous staff for all their support and hard work throughout his years as State Fire Marshal. He insisted that he was just the manager who puts together the lineup while they stepped up and hit the ball out of the park. Director Petrillo wished his successor, whoever that may be, well and added that whoever it is will have a tremendous staff at their disposal. He thanked the Fire Safety Commission once again and urged them to keep up the good work.

Chief Kramer reported that the Division of Fire Safety's fall training semester has commenced and, with the assistance of Kean University, has gone to 100% online registration. The transition has been remarkably smooth thus far. Also in regards to training, the Division has partnered with the Department of Education and local officials to host several sessions in several towns working on the implementation of the new school security legislation. These exercises are going extremely well and will continue to happen throughout the State. Also, the proposal that was forwarded through the Codes Council in regards to school fire drills has been approved to appear in The New Jersey Register.

The Division of Fire Safety participated in a demonstration of the South Neptune System at NewStar in Gloucester County. The company was looking to upgrade its in-house fire protection capabilities, so a demonstration was held and it went extremely well. Chief Kramer also gave an update on the issue of the LDH appliance failure that took place in Sussex County. The Division had attempted to find a federal agency with authority on this issue, but unfortunately none has claimed jurisdiction. The Division is now going through the process of getting the appliance examined by a metallurgist so a detailed formal report can be put together. Commissioner Lawrence Wood asked if the Division has been in touch with the manufacturer at all. Chief Kramer answered that the company, located in Pennsylvania, had not been responsive to the subpoena issued. The Division has also been in contact with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office on this issue. However, the manufacturing company has recently been sold, which complicates matters further. Director Petrillo added that there is a Bulletin on the Division's website to make the fire service aware of the issue.

Chief Kramer also addressed the issue of water utility problems, particularly in Bergen County. The Division of Fire Safety has reached out to the Board of Public Utilities, who will be resuming monthly meetings on this specific issue in the near future. Commissioner Wood asked if a representative from BPU could be invited to the next meeting. Chief Kramer said the Division will get a representative from the Board of Public Utilities at the November meeting to report on this matter. Commissioner Ronald Philips added that he has been in contact with the Board of Public Utilities Reliability Commissioner who has been helpful with the water issue in Bergen County.

Chief Lou Kilmer reported that the Division of Fire Safety's partnership with the Division of Revenue and Penn Credit has been going extremely well. The partnership has been successful in getting rebates to the LEAs quickly, as well as in greater amounts. The Code Enforcement Unit has also been spending a lot of time working on the new computer system that is being developed. We are still about a year and a half away from rolling out the new computer system, but it is moving along.

Chief Kilmer also spoke about assisting the local enforcing agencies in regards to shared services. Many fire officials have been required to pick up additional neighboring towns, and the Division is working to provide assistance to fire officials in those cases. Chief Kilmer also spoke about the extremely low amount of incidents as compared to the hundreds of permits that are issued. This is a testament to the dedication of the fire officials throughout the state and Division staff.

F. Advisory Council Reports:

1. Codes Advisory Council

Commissioner Charles Schilling reported that the most recent meeting of the Codes Advisory Council was cancelled. However, the Codes Council has a full agenda leading into the next meeting. Commissioner Schilling also expressed his disappointment on the outcome of the residential sprinkler regulations, but he thanked all the individuals and committees and councils who put in so many hours to try and get them adopted.

The next meeting of the Codes Advisory Council will be on October 20th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy at 9:30 am.

2. Training and Education Advisory Council

Commissioner C. Kenneth Anderson submitted the following report for the Training and Education Advisory Council:

The Training and Education Advisory Council met on August 17th at the Dempster Training Center at 10:00 am.

Kent Neiswender reported on several projects including:

- There are 3500 Firefighter I texts in stock
- Department of Treasury has extended the Jones and Bartlett contract for two years
- The Kean University waiver is in place; including two temporary positions
- The Section will get a new phone number
- The Fall Catalog is now on line and registrations are being accepted
 - A class on the Highway Incident Safety Guidelines is being presented three times
 - The All Hazards Planning Section Chief course is being offered
- All CEU registration will be on-line
- A purchase order is being processed for Pro Board and IFSAC seals

- Implementation will require IT updates to the computer system

A meeting had been held by the staff with representatives of some colleges relating to how the college's courses might qualify students to be certified as Fire Inspectors. Many County Colleges are now teaching the Division's Fire Inspector Course for credit as well as qualification to take the exam for certification.

The Council is still concerned about training Fire Inspectors on the New Jersey Code and using the national examination. Also, considering the Pro Board and IFSAC certifications, the question is asked if the Division's programs should also be ACE approved for college credit. A Committee was appointed to consider the various ramifications of such a program.

The Driver/Operator proposed course information was considered. What will a program do for insurance costs? If it's positive, that would be a good selling point. VFIS and JIFs have their own programs. Would that be a problem? What do the EOs think? A meeting of Tier I EOs will be convened by the Staff. Because of the cost and budget problems, would the career (and even the volunteer) fire departments be interested? Maybe we should develop Guidelines (as we are doing for RIC) rather than a certification program.

A question was raised about Division approval of live fire training courses in Wildwood during the Firemen's Convention week. This was a mystery to the staff. Upon investigation, it was resolved that the HOT acronym stands for Hands On Training, not "hot" as in live fire.

At the last Commission meeting, a concern was expressed about the qualifications of administrators of the Eligible Organizations. It appears that some counties have appointed directors who are not certified Fire Instructors; in the case cited, a retired State Police. It was suggested that T&E look at this.

The Code defines what facilities are required for the various Tiers of EOs and requires the instructors who teach the courses to be certified by the Division. Nothing is said about the administration of EOs. At T&E we considered, should the Code say something? What are the ramifications if the facility is a Public Safety Training Academy with Police and Fire divisions? What if the EO is a section of the Fire Marshal's Office and the FM is not a certified instructor? Some members of the Council have taught at EOs where administrators were not Fire Instructors, but have not encountered problems in offering quality training. Most EOs are ultimately under the direction of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Few Freeholders are Fire Instructors.

The conclusion was that it's a jurisdictional problem – not a State problem. We cannot change political policy. If a standard was developed for "Administrator," the AHJ would create some other title. If there is a problem at a specific EO, it should be handled at the local level.

The Council offered thanks to Grace Forester for all the work she has done for the Council and wished her a happy retirement.

The Annual Report on the work of the Council was prepared and sent to the DCA Commissioner and Chair of the Commission as required by the Commission By-laws. A file containing the report was e-mailed to the members of the Commission and the Council.

The next T&E Council meeting will be October 19th at the Dempster Training Center at 10:00 am.

Commissioner Richard Blohm asked about challenges to questions from the Firefighter I curriculum. Chief Kramer explained that there is a process in place to review any challenge as far as test questions go. A committee then decides whether to reword or remove the question based on the challenge. When specific issues arise, they should be forwarded to Kent Neiswender at the Division of Fire Safety's Training and Education Unit.

3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported the Statistics and Information Advisory Council met on August 3rd at the Monmouth County Fire Academy. The Division of Fire Safety's NFIRS Unit is continuing to finalize the 2009 Fire in New Jersey Report. Additional resources were recently found to provide additional photographs in the report at no additional cost. In 2010, fire deaths continue to occur predominantly in one- and two-family residences, and it is Commissioner Naylis's belief that this will continue until the need for residential sprinklers is recognized and regulations adopted.

The Statistics and Information Advisory Council continues to work on the issue of data quality. Reporting percentages are still very strong moving into 2010, but Commissioner Naylis warned that resources need to be dedicated to NFIRS reporting to keep these numbers as high as they have been.

The next meeting of the Statistics and Information Advisory Council will be on October 1st 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 July and September. The main topic of discussion continues to be on the issue of residential sprinklers in one- and two-family dwellings. Commissioner Lightbody stated that the Council has been strongly in favor of Residential Sprinkler Regulations and will also be strongly in favor of the legislation for residential sprinklers that Assemblyman Wisniewski is proposing.

Commissioner Lightbody spoke about the importance of promoting the dangers of fire in residential homes, and how lives can be saved with the implementation of residential sprinklers. Commissioner Lightbody feels the general public is largely unaware of the dire need for residential sprinklers, how they work, and how easy and affordable they would be to have in their own homes. The Fire Safety Commission should make it their mission to educate the public on this. Commissioner Lightbody spoke about a recent event where the Toms River Fire Department honored '21 Plus' for taking the initiative and sprinklering their buildings through a grant from the Division of Developmental Disabilities. The event was successful and should get the ball rolling even further in making the public aware of how sprinklers work. Many people who attended the event found the side-by-side demonstration to be extremely eye-opening.

The Master Planning and Research Advisory Council has also been taking a long look at the issue of shared services. They are currently in the process of putting together a survey to send out to the state's fire departments, which would be geared toward examining shared services across the board. The survey would look at personnel, jurisdiction, redundancy of equipment, etc. The Master Planning and Research Council is also turning its focus on recruitment and retention. A survey and/or study are in the process of being put together on this issue as well.

Commissioner Arthur Mercurio asked Chairman Wisniewski if he, or any of the other legislative members of the Fire Safety Commission, had been consulted before the administration decided not to adopt the residential sprinkler regulations. Chairman Wisniewski said it was his understanding that the Department of Community Affairs had originally recommended that the regulations be adopted. Chairman Wisniewski said ultimately the decision was made by the Governor and his Council. He received a letter simply stating that the regulations were not going to be adopted at this time. Chairman Wisniewski added that he would look toward the November meeting to have a Resolution drafted that states the Fire Safety Commission is in support of residential sprinkler legislation. Commissioner Wood echoed the sentiment that the public needs to be educated about fire sprinklers, and recommended that a program could be put together outlining the facts on residential sprinklers. Chairman Wisniewski agreed that the common citizen's notion about fire sprinklers is outdated. They consider them ugly, expensive, and impractical. The Fire Safety Commission needs to look at how to effectively change this perception.

The next meeting of the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council will be on November 1st at the Middlesex County Fire Academy at 10:00 am.

5. Public Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo reported the Public Education Advisory Council met on September 9th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. The minutes are in the Commission meeting packets.

Commissioner DeTrollo spoke about the New Jersey FIRE Bowl program for the coming 2010-11 school year. With school districts having budget issues to varying degrees, it is the Division of Fire Safety's hope that the level of participation in the program will continue to expand or – at the very least – remain the same as last year. Several new school districts have inquired recently about entry into the FIRE Bowl competition. The Division's Public Education Unit will have a clearer picture of this year's program as it gets nearer to the holiday season.

Commissioner DeTrollo presented a copy of the winning poster of the NJ Fire Safety Poster Contest for 2010. Copies have been distributed throughout the State and some have been made available at the meeting today. Next year's theme is "Smoke Alarms – A sound you can live with." Applications have been mailed to all school principals, art instructors, and fire officials. They are also available online for download at the Division of Fire Safety website. Commissioner DeTrollo also pointed out that the United State Consumer Product Safety Commission is beginning a poster contest this year that focuses on Carbon Monoxide awareness. Cash prizes are awarded for this nation-wide contest. Details can be found at www.challenge.gov/cpsc

Commissioner DeTrollo added that Charlie Luxton still has some smoke detectors left from last year's WABC Operation Save-A-Life program, and to contact him if detectors are needed. There has been no indication yet regarding this year's Save-A-Life program, but the Division generally doesn't receive word until on or around December 1st.

The next meeting of the Public Education Advisory Council will take place on November 4th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy at 10 am.

6. Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council

Commissioner Richard Blohm noted that the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council would be meeting today, September 15th, at the Middlesex County Fire Academy at 1:30 pm. Commissioner Blohm then asked that Tony Correia, James Yates, and Francis Pagurek use the remainder of his time to report on the Statewide Incident Rehabilitation Guidelines for Emergency Medical Services.

These Guidelines basically stem from the issue of an EMT having the authority to allow (or not allow) a firefighter to return to the fire scene based on their current health condition. The Guidelines are geared toward setting up some definitive parameters for when a firefighter can and can not return to active duty on a fire scene. It is fact that firefighters are highly susceptible to heart attack, and using the guidelines could go a long way towards heart attack prevention.

The Rehabilitation Guidelines introduce the idea of implementing "Emergency Incident Rehabilitation Tags". These tags would contain all of a firefighter's vital information, including blood pressure, potential symptoms found in a medical screening, as well as the treatment they have received (hydration, nutrition, etc.).

Mr. Correia and Mr. Yates stressed that the report being presented are simply guidelines – not laws or regulations of any kind. The goal of the Guidelines is firefighter health and safety and returning him/her to active duty as soon as possible. These guidelines could serve as a tool for fire departments to use when developing a rehabilitation policy with local EMS squads. Mr. Correia and Mr. Yates provided several real-life examples where these practices have identified symptoms and prevented further injury (or even death) to a firefighter stemming from work on a fire scene.

Commissioner Lawrence Wood asked if these Guidelines addressed the issue of cyanide. He talked about this being a newly identified problem where firefighters inhale cyanide that is contained in smoke and presents additional dangers. Mr. Correia answered that the cyanide information is not in these Guidelines, but it is something they have gotten several comments on and will be looking into.

Commissioner Blohm asked if the Fire Safety Commission could adopt the Statewide Incident Rehabilitation Guidelines for Emergency Medical Services, and forward them to the Division of Fire Safety for review. It was decided that the Fire Safety Commission examine the complete report and possibly draft a Resolution in support of the Guidelines at the November meeting. State Fire Marshal Petrillo agreed that the Division of Fire Safety would take a long, hard look at these Guidelines, because as staffing levels decrease and the demands of the job increase, it is vital to keep firefighter health and safety as a top priority.

7. Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council

Commissioner Paul Hartstein reported that the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council met on September 8th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. The minutes from that meeting are contained within the Commission packets.

Commissioner Hartstein reported that approval for the 8th Annual Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Conference had not been obtained from the Department of Community Affairs. In lieu of the Conference, the Division of Fire Safety and the International Association of Arson Investigators has put together a two-day course entitled “Behavior Change... It’s Not In A Video”. The workshop will feature Don Port and Niki Pereira and take place on December 2-3, 2010 at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

Commissioner Hartstein reported there will also be a JFIS program taking place in Atlantic City on October 18-19. This will be put on in conjunction with the Atlantic City Fire Department with grant monies received from NASFM. The program will be hosted by Atlantic Cape Community College. Commissioner Kathleen O’Leary also introduced information on an upcoming ‘Women in the Fire Service’ Conference, which is coming up in November.

The next meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council will be held on November 10th at the Burlington County Fire Academy at 10 AM.

G. Committee Reports

1. Residential Sprinkler Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis stated that the Residential Sprinkler Committee will be looking forward to the introduction of Assemblyman Wisniewski's upcoming legislation.

Commissioner Paul Hartstein added that New Jersey's fire service had tremendous representation at the recent 'Red Tape Panel'. He felt as though an outstanding case was made in favor of residential sprinklers to DCA Commissioner Grifa and Lt. Governor Guadagno, who were in attendance. It was his feeling at the meeting that the fire service had their support on the residential sprinklers issue, so he was extremely disappointed to get the letter announcing that the regulations would not be adopted.

H. Old Business

With no old business to discuss, the meeting was moved to New Business.

I. New Business

Chairman Wisniewski opened up a discussion on Assembly Bill 2032. The Bill, which was introduced by Assemblyman Gordon Johnson, would permit certain members of Junior Firefighters Auxiliaries to perform non-hazardous support duties at fire scenes. The Fire Safety Commissioners discussed the legislation at length and the various issues that could arise if it were passed, some providing specific examples from their respective counties. Copies of the Bill were not available at the meeting and the Commission decided to review the exact language before making a decision and/or drafting a Resolution in regards to this Bill. The Bill will be distributed to the Fire Safety Commission following the meeting for the review of all members.

Chairman Wisniewski led a discussion on the Fire Safety Commission meeting schedule for 2011. Many ideas were floated including moving the regular meetings from the third Wednesday of every odd-numbered month to the third Thursday of every odd-numbered month. Several of the Commissioners, including Chairman Wisniewski, were in favor of Thursday meetings going forward. This would exclude the November meeting in Atlantic City because of scheduling issues at the League of Municipalities. It was also suggested that a meeting be held annually in Trenton to be closer to the DCA Commission and legislators that could potentially attend. Commissioner Paul Hartstein added that Chief Johnson from Wildwood offered to make arrangements for the September 2011 meeting in Wildwood prior to the Firefighter's Convention. Commission Secretary Charles Lavin agreed to put together a proposed meeting schedule for 2011 and distribute it for a discussion at the November meeting.

Commissioner Steve O'Gorman brought up, in regards to recent headlines, the issue of underground gas pipeline leaks and explosions. He asked if efforts in training and inspections have been stepped up at all. Commissioner Gerard Naylis mentioned that

there is a Pipeline Safety Coalition program being held in October. Chief Kramer added that the Division will check with BPU on that issue.

Commissioner C. Kenneth Anderson made a motion that the Fire Safety Commission support the legislation pending in Congress that would allocate the 700-MHz D-Block spectrum to provide a sufficient, appropriate, dedicated, and contiguous band of spectrum that is able to accommodate the everyday needs of firefighters, law enforcement, and emergency medical personnel, as well as provide maximum capacity during times of emergency, special events, and critical incidents and that letters be sent to the New Jersey Congressional delegation requesting their individual support of this legislation by becoming sponsors of the respective bills. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wood and passed unanimously.

J. Public Comment II

New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association President Stanley Sickels noted that the NJFPPA has made arrangements for the next Fire Safety Commission meeting in Atlantic City. The meeting will be held in Exhibit Hall A of the Atlantic City Convention Center at 10 AM. Attendees will not be required to purchase a badge for the League of Municipalities to attend the Fire Safety Commission meeting. Mr. Sickels also inquired about the issue of identification cards for first-responders, and whether it was still being worked on. State Fire Marshal Petrillo answered that there is a committee out there that is still working on identification cards, but not much progress has been made recently. No guidelines have been set by the federal government in regards to these cards. Mr. Sickels added that he raised this issue because of recent incidents where unauthorized people have gained access to fire scenes. Chief Kramer added that certain counties have made their credentialing systems, but there has been no standardized guidelines put together. Mr. Sickels also asked if subordinate organizations (first-aid squads, etc.) - who are part of the fire department - are required to participate in NFIRS reporting. Commissioner Naylis answered that if they are a part of the fire department they should be participating in NFIRS.

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 12:04 PM.

*** The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be on November 17, 2010 at 10am. It will be held in Exhibit Hall A @ the Atlantic City Convention Center in Atlantic City, NJ. ***