

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

Meeting of May 16, 2018

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ.

Commission Members Present: Mr. Pasquale Intindola, Acting-Chairman
Asm. Anthony Bucco
Sen. Sam Thompson
Mr. Stanley Sickels
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood
Mr. Steve O’Gorman
Mr. Kevin Bellew
Mr. Daniel DeTrolio
Mr. Gerard Naylis
Mr. Roger Potts
Ms. Kathleen O’Leary
Mr. Arthur Londensky
Mr. Raymond Heck
Mr. Charles Siedenburg

Commission Members Excused: Mr. Kevin Krushinski, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Richard Blohm
Mr. Armando Roman
Mr. Fred Collender

DCA Staff Members Present: Richard Mikutsky, NJDFS Director
Lou Kilmer, NJDFS
Rick Farletta, NJDFS
Frank Clark, NJDFS
Chris Michallis, NJDFS
Charles Lavin, NJDFS
Jerry Clark, NJDFS
Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

Guests: Rich Silvia, NJFPPA President
Ronald McGowan Jr, Wildwood Crest Fire
Marc Kiempisty, Joshua Marcus Group
John Garton, NJLWD/PEOSH
John Hund, NJ State FMBA
Ed Donnelly, NJ State FMBA
Alden Blackwell, Tenafly FD

A. Call to Order

Acting-Chairman Pat Intindola called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM. He led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence, and pointed out the fire exits.

At the onset of the meeting, Chief Louis Kilmer introduced newly-appointed Director of the NJ Division of Fire Safety, Richard Mikutsky. The Fire Safety Commission welcomed Director Mikutsky and congratulated him on the appointment.

Acting-Chairman Pat Intindola also welcomed a newly-appointed Fire Safety Commissioner – Senator Sam Thompson. He will be filling the position on the Commission formerly held by Senator Bucco.

B. Approval of Minutes

With no discussion requested or additional corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of April 4, 2018 were approved.

C. Correspondence

Acting-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 items, the meeting was moved to Public Comment I.

D. Public Comment I

David Kurasz from the NJ Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board announced that May 19th was National Fire Sprinkler Day and they would be out promoting sprinklers with the trailer and on social media. Also, the one- and two-family residential sprinkler bill was re-introduced last week and they are looking to rally support behind this bill.

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

Director Mikutsky began his report by thanking the Fire Safety Commission for their support, and asked them to bear with him as he learns the ins and outs of the NJ Division of Fire Safety. In just a few weeks, Director Mikutsky had learned the surprisingly large amount the NJDFS does across the state and how dedicated its staff is. Director Mikutsky especially thanked Chief Kilmer for all of his help and guidance throughout the process of getting acclimated to the NJDFS and Department of Community Affairs.

Chief Kilmer reported on NJDFS activities and began by speaking about the new Fire Code becoming effective on July 1st. Chief Kilmer also noted the delivery of Code books

and the ICC confirmed that they will be ready the first week of July. Subchapter 3 is effective July 1st, with the exception of the 10 year sealed battery and propane tank labeling. Subchapters 1, 2 and 4 are already effective. Chief Kilmer noted that those are live and online on the Division website now. Chief Kilmer noted everyone who has a red binder will receive updates, however the ICC book will need to be purchased from them.

New Fireworks regulations are scheduled for publication July 2nd in the New Jersey Register. Chief Kilmer assured the Division would send a guidance document to LEAs to provide for the public comment period until September. The vast amount of correction is grammatical in nature. However, the amount of room on the solar signage is insufficient to hold all its information and will need to be amended.

Chief Kilmer noted a statewide survey of high rises to determine if they have cladding similar to the Grenfell fire in London will be conducted of all LEAs - including what high rises are registered.

Chief Kilmer spoke about the new training regulations and once again emphasized that they are all voluntary. Also, the 2017 NFIRS report is in full progress. Chief Kilmer noted the report is evolving beyond simply an arithmetical compilation of incidents but a broader view of the state fire service. Chief Kilmer stated that fire fatalities have been reduced every year from a time where triple digit fatality years were not uncommon. 2018 notwithstanding, there is a clear downward trend and the Chief credited the Commission and all their work towards this. He further accounted that rigorous inspections and other programs are also responsible.

Chief Kilmer reported on the Division of Fire Safety's ongoing work with inspecting buildings and facilities at numerous farms throughout New Jersey. There have been issues with workers being housed in hazardous conditions, and the NJDFS has been aggressively working with farm owners to get them up to code.

Commissioner Wood inquired about the junior firefighter program versus the Department of Labor regulations. Chief Kilmer responded that the issue may require a legislative change. Commissioner Wood agreed that the interpretation of DOL rules is the problem. Senator Sam Thompson volunteered the Office of Legislative Services to consider the matter for the Commission.

Mr. Sickels noted a spelling error of the word "cladding" in the minutes. Acting-Chairman Intindola moved that they remain approved as amended.

F. Advisory Council Reports:

1. Codes Advisory Council

Commissioner Stanley Sickels reported that the Codes Advisory Council had met on April 18th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy, and the minutes of that meeting are contained in the meeting packets. Commissioner Sickels began his report by noting that

many of the pending items on Codes Advisory Log have been included in the New Code revisions. Commissioner Sickles noted the Fire Protection Color Tag System proposal had been approved at the previous meeting.

Commissioner Sickles spoke about a proposed expansion of the NJDFS's responsibility for investigating community impact of large loss fires. This is being discussed by the Codes Advisory Council as well. Commissioner Sickles also spoke about a proposal for a timber high rise in Newark, and cautioned that a noncombustible high rise already had great potential for a major fire emergency. Commissioner Sickles also gave update on the Codes Council's work on the school lockdown and solar signage issues.

Commissioner Gerald Naylis inquired about the status requiring fire officials to be certified in order to do inspections. Chief Kilmer answered that it is on the list of legislative action requests he had submitted to DCA Commissioner Oliver. Commissioner Naylis commented that certification, as opposed to licensing, did not require legislative action. Commissioner Naylis noted instances where violations have stood over thirty years uncorrected. Assemblyman Anthony Bucco volunteered to craft legislation on this should it be needed.

The next meeting of the Codes Advisory Council is scheduled for June 20th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville at 10:00am.

2. Training and Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Lawrence Wood reported that the Training and Education Advisory Council had met on April 17th at the Dempster Training Center in Lawrenceville, and the minutes of that meeting are contained in the meeting packets. Commissioner Wood began his report by noting that Kean University was working on adding online course training for the coming fall semester.

Commissioner Wood spoke about the formation of a Strategic Planning Committee. The Training and Education Advisory Council is also working on holding an online Adobe Connect meeting to answer time constraints placed on meeting schedules of the Council members.

Commissioner Wood noted the carcinogen reduction guidelines for firefighters and said the recommendation should be shared with all firefighters. Fire Officer requirements are also being looked at with emphasis being placed on having more participation by career departments.

The next meeting of the Training and Education Advisory Council is scheduled for June 19th at the Dempster Training Center in Lawrenceville at 10:00am.

3. **Statistics and Information Advisory Council**

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that the Statistics and Information Advisory Council is continuing to press departments to submit their data in a timely basis. They are also pushing hard for better quality of the reports and the data. As reported, the Fire in New Jersey 2016 report is nearly complete and data is being compiled for the newly-formatted 2017 report.

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

Commissioner Raymond Heck reported that he was still in the process of taking over the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council from former Chairman John Lightbody. Commissioner Heck said he would be holding his first meeting the following week, and would be reporting on it at the July Commission meeting.

Commissioner Heck nominated Ray Van Marter and James Stoltz for appointment to the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council. Commissioner Gerard Naylis made a motion that these appointments be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stanley Sickels and passed unanimously

5. **Public Education Advisory Council**

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo 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 the 13th Annual New Jersey FIRE Bowl would be concluding at its State Championship event on May 24th. The competition will feature Nicholas Oresko School (Bayonne) and Helen A. Fort Middle School (Pemberton Twp). Mr. Lavin said that all Fire Safety Commission members were invited and encouraged to attend the program – which will be held at Kean University’s Little Theater and begin at 11:00 AM.

Charles Lavin reported that, as of yesterday, the smoke alarms from the Operation Save-a-Life program had been received. Approximately 5,000 10-year sealed-battery smoke alarms are being housed at the NJDFS storage facility in New Lisbon. There will be two smoke alarm distribution events – June 27th at Middlesex County Fire Academy and June 29th at Kean University.

Jerry Clark reported that the State Fire Safety Poster Contest is nearing completion for the 2017-2018 school year. State winners will be selected later today and would be awarded their prizes in June at their respective schools. The winners (along with honorable mention selections) would then be featured in the 2019 NJ Fire Safety Calendars.

6. Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council

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

7. Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council

Commissioner Kathleen O’Leary reported that the Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council met on March 10th at the Burlington County Fire Academy in Westampton. The minutes of that meeting are contained in the Commission packets.

Commissioner O’Leary reported that a Youth Firesetter Program Manager class took place on March 15th and 16th at Monmouth County Fire Academy. Charles Lavin added that he is discussing a Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist course with Joe Ehrhardt and Helge Nordtveit for the fall; and/or possibly a Specialist course in Cumberland County at some point in the near future.

Commissioner O’Leary said the 16th Annual Youth Firesetter Intervention Conference is already set for November 29-30, 2018 at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. Charles Lavin reported that, although nothing has been set in stone, the planning committee will be meeting on May 22nd to go over the details and direction of planning the Conference. Charles urged anyone with input or ideas to send them his way. Charles added that he is also in talks with NFPA about holding a Mid-Atlantic Regional Safety Summit (in New Jersey) on November 28th, leading into the Conference. He will report further on both events at the September meeting.

The next meeting of the Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council is scheduled for September 12th at the Wildwood Crest Fire Department.

G. Committee Reports

1. Residential Sprinkler Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis said that, with the new legislation being introduced this session, he is hopeful that the new administration will support it and we can finally get it passed. Assemblyman Bucco reported that the new Sprinkler Bill has yet to come to the Floor for a vote.

H. Old Business

Commissioner Sickels inquired as to whether the cladding issue would be addressed on the forthcoming high-rise survey. Chief Kilmer answered that it would.

I. New Business

Chief Kilmer ask the Fire Safety Commission about the law requiring fire extinguishers – whether they would like to see it fully repealed, left alone, or left up to the municipality.

All Commissioners, with the exception of Commissioner Sickels, voted in favor of fully repealing it.

Commissioner Kevin Bellew under Old Business requested that another email be sent out relative to the new ICC Code books. Also, Acting Chairman noted that the Fire Safety Commission was overdue to hold a vote on Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Commissioner Sickles noted that there was not enough notice and made a motion that the voting be held off until discussions can be had leading up to the next meeting.

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

J. Public Comment II

With no additional members of the public wishing to comment at this time, the meeting was moved to adjournment.

K. Adjournment

Acting Chair Intindola called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner DeTrollo made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Naylis and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:37 am.

*** The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be on Wednesday, July 18, 2018 at 10am. It will be held at the Surf City Fire Department in Surf City, NJ ***