

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**  
***FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMISSION***  
**MEETING MINUTES**

October 09, 2025  
Tele-conference  
Gaithersburg, Maryland

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Commissioner Anita Powell, Chair  
Commissioner Mike VanBrocklin, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Jane Callen  
Commissioner Robert Ford  
Commissioner Matthew Green

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Fire Chief Corey Smedley  
Battalion Chief Ashley Robinson

**OTHER:**

Marcine D. Goodloe  
Captain Nicholas Wagner

**100 – CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Anita Powell called the meeting to order at 1902.

**101 – REPORT OF THE COMMISSION CHAIR**

Chair Powell acknowledged that a meeting was scheduled with the Fire Chief that she decided to postpone so that an agenda could be prepared. Chair Powell also stated that she had asked for commissioners to be involved in making the agenda and she stated that she did receive several comments from commissioners. A meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

Chair Powell had a meeting with the two new public commissioners to discuss some questions they had about the commission and the annual report. Commissioner Green agreed to chair the committee and will offer updates. Chair Powell has also asked that all requests of Battalion Chief Robinson be sent to the chair initially, with a carbon copy to Chief Robinson.

Chair Powell asked for an update on the updated policy (Policy 03-07AM Procedures for Amoss, EMST, and ESPP Funds) involving grant funding for the volunteer fire departments that Chief Kelley referred to at the last meeting. Chief Smedley stated he would offer a response during his report.

Chair Powell closed her report by telling the other commissioners about the upcoming Burtonsville Fire Department's open house.

**102 – REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner VanBrocklin went to the Emergency Preparedness Fair that the Office of Emergency Management hosted on September 13, 2025. Commissioner VanBrocklin stated it was a good event. He also mentioned having a "Fire 101" class that would teach him more about the fire department would be helpful. Chair Powell clarified that Commissioner VanBrocklin did have an orientation, and he was

requesting more information. Chief Smedley offered to have an introductory email of the new commissioners sent to fire department personnel, similar to what is done with newly hired employees. Chief Smedley wants the commissioners to learn more about MCFRS whenever possible so they can get our message out to the community.

Commissioner Callen agreed with Chief Smedley and stated she would be an ambassador for MCFRS, especially during the budget period, as long as she is well informed about the details of the budget process because she feels she is not as “conversant” in the subject matter as would be optimal. She requested a meeting with the Fire Chief in order to walk her and the other commissioners through the key elements of the budget.

Chair Powell asked if there was a published brochure about the Fire and Emergency Service Commission (FESC). Battalion Chief Robinson responded that there is a website dedicated to FESC, in addition to what is written in Chapter 21. Chief Powell asked that there be a flyer/brochure to be made so they can have something to pass out when they go to community events. Chief Smedley asked that the topic be added to the agenda for the Chief to Commission meeting.

### **103 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion passed to approve the September 2025 meeting minutes.

### **104 – FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT**

Fire Chief Smedley highlighted two recent promotions at the Chief Officer’s level. Assistant Chief Kelly Mullendore will lead Special Operations, which falls under the Operations Division. Battalion Chief Shantell Brown will be with Administrative Services, Labor Relations. There will be three more battalion chief promotions by June 2026. Chief Smedley has met with all candidates, learned a lot about each of them and will use that information to make an informed decision about upcoming promotions.

Chief Smedley explained that for the Assistant Chief promotion, a new process was developed to choose the correct person. An advisory panel of five people was organized, with Division Chief Howard (Division of Administrative Services) as the chair. Dr. Parker (DEI Officer), a university professor (leadership), Talent Acquisition Manager (Montgomery County HR), and a community business owner all served as part of the panel.

The Fire Chief explained that the Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC) is a division under the police department and there are currently over forty sworn firefighters assigned to the PSCC that dispatch fire/rescue/EMS-related calls. MCFRS is transitioning to all civilian positions. There have been several meetings regarding the transition that have included Chief Smedley, as well as the Police Chief, Chief Yamada. Further, presentations have been made to Mr. Madaleno, Chief Administrative Officer, and Dr. Earl Stoddard, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer. The transition will take place within one to two years. There will still be a fire department presence; however, approximately forty personnel will be transferred out of the PSCC.

There was discussion with the MCVFRA about doing targeted employment within the volunteer system to hire for the PSCC. The volunteers know and understand how the fire department works, the language used, they enjoy volunteering in the county, and they may enjoy working at the PSCC. Chief Smedley also strongly stated and made clear that career firefighters were not being replaced by volunteers, but that the center is going civilian and it would be a good opportunity for those volunteers interested in working at the center.

Commissioner Dempsey expressed his concern about fire department personnel leaving PSCC. Chief Smedley understood the concern and offered that he came from two previous jurisdictions that were fully civilianized within the communications center. Chief Smedley also stated that he would be doing a tour of

Prince George's County's communication center to look at their model which uses their volunteer contingent within their center. Chief Smedley chose the Prince George's' model because they are our biggest mutual aid partners and run approximately 30,000-40,000 more calls annually than MCFRS. There is not a final plan in place yet; however, there are discussions occurring to make sure that whatever transitions occur, and the staffing model (rank and number of sworn fire department personnel) chosen, will leave the PSCC with a level of competence that elevates the center and other initiatives within MCFRS.

Vice-Chair VanBrocklin asked if the forty uniformed personnel will be redeployed within MCFRS or be part of a budget cut. Chief Smedley fervently and clearly stated that MCFRS is not losing jobs/positions and expressed that the resources are needed and it has been communicated. Currently, MCFRS is working through where the personnel are best placed, while also maintaining the confidence of PSCC.

MCFRS is creating a Joint Operations Center (JOC), which will consist of Emergency Management (OEM), Police, and Fire/Rescue. Chief Smedley explained that there are no other JOCs in the area that support all three divisions of public safety. It is anticipated that some of the personnel leaving PSCC will go to work in the JOC. Commissioner Ford asked if the JOC would only be staffed during emergencies. Chief Smedley answered that the center would be staffed 24 hours, 7 days a week, due to the collaborative effort and all resources used among the three public safety divisions to mitigate working incidents quickly. Chief Smedley also offered that now that there is a proof of concept, a supplemental appropriation request has been submitted.

Chief Smedley spoke about Command Competencies and invited commissioners to go to the command lab to see what is involved when command staff report to larger significant incidents within the county. Chief feels that if the commissioners see how an incident is played out in a simulated/controlled environment, they will better understand our apparatus, how much apparatus we need and what it is used to protect the residents. Further, Chief recognizes that commissioners would have a better understanding of the department in order to speak to others about what we do and why the fire department needs certain funding.

MCFRS has received the FY 2027 budget guidance (but still in the preliminary stages), and MCFRS has been asked to reduce their budget by 3.5%, which is approximately \$11M. The Fire Chief explained that there are a lot of needs within MCFRS; for example, if MCFRS needs to put an additional ambulance in service (for 24 hours) due to ongoing medical surges, it would take ten people to staff the unit, costing \$2M. Not only would the Fire Chief have to find \$11M in savings but would also need to find \$2M to staff the ambulance. The Fire Chief offered that staff will be looking at what is truly needed versus what is liked – and the priority is to have what is truly needed.

The Fire Chief let the Commission know that AT719 moved to Station 1 on October 5, 2025. Staff are monitoring the call load to see if any changes need to be made. The Fire Chief stated that he has requested dates to meet with the Union and the MCVFRA to discuss other proposed apparatus/personnel deployments/changes (e.g., Laytonsville Volunteer Fire Department daywork personnel, and the Hillandale Volunteer Fire Department T724 movement). However, no other changes will take place until discussions have occurred. Discussions regarding the redeployment of Rescue Squad 3 are on hold until a rescue squad plan for the entire county can be put into place.

Commissioner VanBrocklin asked if there were any external factors within the county that drive the changes, where the Fire Chief gave examples such as the federal government (e.g. job loss, decreased revenue, more resources needed from the fire service) and property development within the county. The examples relate to having the correct apparatus resources where they need to be. Chair Powell asked why AT719 was moved to station 1, where Chief answered that the apparatus was moved due to data of response times, call demand, and the amount of unsprinklered high rise structures in the area.

Fire Chief stated that he will be meeting with the International Association of Fire Chiefs to learn more about the federal legislation initiatives being worked on for the fire service.

The Fire Chief is going to the Volunteer and Combination Officers Section Symposium, sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs. The Chief is excited about learning about resources and education by other officers that come from a volunteer or combination system. He wants to take that knowledge and work to enhance the system in place within MCFRS and continue to work in partnership.

The Fire Chief acknowledged movement among the Assistant Chiefs: Safety/Wellness (Assistant Chief Adam Jones) is moving to the Office of the Fire Chief in order to elevate Safety and Wellness. The Fire Chief wants to make sure that the importance of safety resonates within MCFRS. Assistant Chief Baltrotsky is moving from Tech Ops to PSCC (ECC); Assistant Chief Alan Butsch is moving from CMF (fleet) to Tech Ops; Assistant Chief Dan Ogren is moving from PSCC to Duty Operations Chief (DOC) B-shift; and Assistant Chief David Pazos is moving from DOC B to CMF. All movements will take effect on October 19, 2025.

Finally, the Fire Chief offered that Policy 03-07AM, Procedures for AMOSS, EMST and ESPP funds has been sent to OLR for review and then MCVFRA for their 30-day notice and opportunity.

### **200 – BUSINESS ITEMS**

- FCGO 25-10 October Breast Cancer Awareness Month – Approved Apparel. Chair Powell indicated the FCGO already went out to the field but still needs to be approved. Commissioners Ford and Callen moved to approve the FCGO and it unanimously passed. Commissioner Callen asked why the FCGO was sent to the field prior to the Commission voting on it. Chair Powell explained that the commissioners received an email that it was already October and the apparel was to represent Breast Cancer month, which is October. Commissioner Callen stated that the commission should have received the notification in September in order to vote so that the commission would not “be in this quandary.”

### **300 – DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Dempsey directed a comment to Chief Smedley about a long-standing issue with FROMS enforcing requirements that are not part of the approved policy. Chief Dempsey did provide the policy number. Chief Dempsey stated he would put some bullet points together for the Fire Chief and all other commissioners to review ahead of the next FESC meeting in order get others familiar with the topic. Chief Smedley offered that stakeholders need to meet together, or a grievance should be pursued.

### **301 – OLD BUSINESS**

- Discussion about the 2024 annual report –Commissioner Green offered that the committee should concentrate on the 2025 annual report moving forward. Commissioner Green stated that there was not enough information to put together reports for 2023 and 2024, to which Chair Powell agreed. Commissioner Green also requested help from other commissioners. Chair Powell stated that Commissioner Green has a template to work with. Chair Powell also asked which commissioners would like to help, with no response from the other commissioners. Chair Powell stepped up to assist Commissioner Green.

302 – NEW BUSINESS

None

400 – Resource Group Comment

None

500 – Public Comment

None

600 - Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Chair Powell, seconded by Commissioner Green. The meeting was adjourned at 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anita Powell".

Anita Powell, Chair

Written and posted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ashley Robinson".

Ashley Robinson, Battalion Chief  
Montgomery County Fire Rescue Service