

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

Meeting of March 19, 2008

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The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ.

Commission Members Present: Mr. Charles W. Schilling, Acting-Chairman
Mr. C. Kenneth Anderson
Mr. Arthur Londensky
Mr. Richard Blohm
Mr. Paul Hartstein
Mr. Frederick Collender
Mr. John Lightbody
Mr. Gerard Naylis
Mr. Daniel DeTrollo
Ms. Kathleen O'Leary
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood
Mr. Lewis Candura
Mr. Steve O'Gorman

Commission Members Excused: Assemblyman John Wisniewski
Mr. Pasquale Intindola
Mr. Arthur Mercurio

DCA Staff Members Present: William Kramer, NJDFS
Charles Lavin, NJDFS
Charles Luxton, NJDFS
Lou Kilmer, NJDFS
James McIntyre, NJDFS
James McFadden, NJDFS
Heather Puskar, NJDFS
Jason Spiecker, NJDFS
Glenn Smyth, NJDFS
Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

Guests: Chuck Aughenbaugh – NJ Deputy Fire Chiefs
Rich Heimbach - Pequannock Fire Official
David Kurasz – NJFSAB
Bob Yaiser – Toms River Fire Dept.
Donald Scher – Hillsborough Fire Safety
Doris Flatley – Hillsborough V.F. Co. #2

Mark Ciarlariello – No. Plainfield Fire Dept.
Chris Veroda – Avenel Fire Prevention
Thomas P. Gerity – Old Bridge Fire Marshal
Bernie Cohan – FDIAFC
Nick Kikis – New Jersey Apartment Association
Helge Nordtveit – Cranford Fire Dept.
Stanley J. Sickels – Red Bank Fire Marshal
Daniel Mulligan – Ocean County Fire Marshal

A. Call to Order

In the absence of Chairman John Wisniewski and Vice-Chairman Pat Intindola, Acting Chairman Charles Schilling brought the meeting to order at 10:05 AM and pointed out the fire exits.

B. Approval of Minutes

With no discussion requested or necessary corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of January 16, 2008, were approved.

C. Correspondence

Commissioner Schilling noted that all correspondence and council meeting minutes are contained within the Commission packets.

With no further discussion on correspondence, the meeting was moved to Public Comment.

D. Public Comment

Chuck Aughenbaugh, President of the New Jersey Deputy Fire Chiefs spoke about the Highway Incident Traffic Safety guidelines, of which he obtained a boot-leg copy of. Mr. Aughenbaugh's organization has worked on this document for some time, and he has testified at the last two PEOSHA meetings on this topic. He thought all fire service organizations would have received a copy of this before it was put out. Mr. Aughenbaugh hopes that the Division of Fire Safety will look into the document carefully, take comments on it, and move forward from there.

Mr. Aughenbaugh brought up the topic of Life Hazard Use fees and what those monies were being used for. Mr. Aughenbaugh wrote to the Commission's Chairman regarding this matter, as he feels these fees should be going towards properly funding the Division of Fire Safety.

Mr. Aughenbaugh also spoke about the Fire Service Training Bill, which Assemblyman Wisniewski has re-introduced this year. He hoped that the Commission would support this bill as it moves forward.

Bernie Cohan, International Assn. of Fire Chiefs, spoke about the vacant position that the IAFC still has on the Fire Safety Commission. Mr. Cohan has been in contact with Assemblyman Wisniewski on this matter, and he and his organization are recommending that Stanley Sickels fill this position.

With no other members of the public wishing to speak, the meeting was moved to Division of Fire Safety Activities.

E. Division of Fire Safety Activities

Chief William Kramer reported that State Fire Marshal Petrillo was called away this morning to a staff meeting for DCA Commissioner Doria, so he would not be making the meeting today. Chief Kramer will be giving a report on Division of Fire Safety activities in his place.

Chief Kramer spoke about the Emergency Evacuation proposal. This has been submitted to the Commissioner's Office for approval and adoption. All comments on this proposal have been addressed, and hopefully it will be adopted shortly as this has been a long, on-going process. Commissioner C. Kenneth Anderson asked if it would help for the Commission members to correspond with DCA Commissioner Doria to help expedite the process of adopting this proposal. Chief Kramer doesn't foresee any problems with the Commissioner's approval, but said that it couldn't hurt to contact him on this issue.

Commissioner Gerard Naylis asked if the Emergency Evacuation proposal had been changed, since it was last submitted, based on the comments that were received. Chief Kramer said that changes had been made, but they are not substantial enough to warrant the proposal being re-done.

Commissioner Richard Blohm made a motion that the Commission contact the Commissioner and ask him to approve and adopt the Emergency Evacuation proposal as soon as possible. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawrence Wood and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Schilling spoke about the recent bulletin that had been sent out by the Division of Fire Safety regarding School Lockdowns. Chief Kramer spoke about this School Lockdown issue, and the complications that arise from it when the matters of fire safety and security collide. The Division of Fire Safety has worked closely with officials in Camden County and has made a lot of headway on this issue. The bulletin that the Division of Fire Safety, in conjunction with the Codes Council, basically outlines the issues facing school lockdowns (in regards to fire safety) and directs fire officials to work with their county to develop the appropriate policies. Commissioner Paul Hartstein also mentioned that it is important for the local fire officials and fire departments to be familiar with the policy in their area when responding to emergencies with schools involved.

Chief Kramer talked about the work that has been done in Camden County serving as a guide for the school lockdown issue throughout the State. Burlington and Gloucester Counties are currently working on adopting similar policies, and it also has the support of the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness. Commissioner Anderson spoke about getting the information to the Department of Education, as they have been very receptive to developing this type of policy. Commissioner Anderson suggested getting the documents that have been put together for Camden County to the Department of Education

Commissioner Hartstein made a motion that the Commission supports the school lockdown bulletin. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Arthur Londensky and passed unanimously.

Chief Kramer reported that, since the last Commission meeting, the Division of Fire Safety received 15,000 smoke detectors via the WABC-7 Operation Save-A-Life. Charlie Luxton is the lead-man for the Division on the distribution of these detectors, and if anyone needs to schedule a pick-up, contact Mr. Luxton and make arrangements with him to come during one of the pre-set times.

Chief Kramer spoke about the Highway Traffic Safety program that Mr. Aughenbaugh mentioned earlier in the meeting. Chief Kramer talked about the report on this program, which needs both State Police and local police support, and how it was drafted for the law enforcement community for feedback. Some fire service organizations were also selected to review the report, and the Division has no problem distributing (for comment) anyone who would like to see it. There is some confusion right now within State Police as far as how this process will move forward, and they are working on answering these questions and sorting this out.

Commissioner Blohm said that a copy of this report, without “draft” printed on it, is already circulating. Chief Kramer said he does not know where this “boot-leg” copy of the report came from, but the document is just a draft and the Division has no problem distributing the draft for comment upon request. Commissioner Blohm asked who and how the sampling of fire organizations was selected to review this report. Chief Kramer said he would inquire with Director Petrillo how the individuals reviewing the document were selected. He also answered that he does not know how the document was distributed without the draft watermark on it.

Commissioner Londensky asked why the New Jersey State Fire Police Association was not given a copy of this report to review. Chief Kramer said he did not know why. Commissioner Wood asked why the Commission was not given a copy of this report, and proceeded to talk about how the Commission is not given official documentation sometimes and does not know what is going on. Commissioner Blohm asked that all this type of information in future be disseminated to the Commission as a whole. Chief Kramer stressed that the issue of the Highway Traffic Safety report has been discussed at past Commission meetings, and should not have come as a surprise to any of the Commission members.

Chief Kramer spoke about the Safe-Cigarette legislation that takes effect in New Jersey on June 1, 2008. The Division has been working with the Division of Taxation and Department of Treasury to develop a system (involving law-enforcement authority) of checking that the actual cigarettes being sold in the State are complying with the new laws. The Division has also had significant contact with New York State on this issue, as New Jersey's model for this program has been modeled, for the most part, after the program they have had there. The Division does need a Unit to oversee this project, but the Governor's Office has not been overly supportive of this need. It will certainly be a challenge to implement this entire project, but the challenge will certainly be worthwhile. Commissioner Wood mentioned that a significant amount of counterfeit cigarettes have been entering the State, and asked if someone was looking into policing this and making sure these are fire-safe. Chief Kramer replied that this issue has come up in discussions with the Division of Taxation, and future discussions would include making sure the appropriate markings on the cigarettes are not counterfeit.

Chief Kramer spoke about the revisions to the 90-hour initial inspector's program to comply with the new International Fire Code. The people at Kean University are working on making the appropriate revisions. Commissioner Naylis asked what the timetable was on having this program ready and Chief Kramer replied that it was hoped they would be revised and ready for this coming fall. Commissioner Schilling asked what major changes were being made to the program. Chief Kramer answered that the current edition of the program is based on the 1996 BOCA, and it needs to be updated to comply with the 2006 New Jersey edition of the IFC. The format will most likely stay the same, but the content (chapter-by-chapter) will have to be examined and revised. The testing will also remain the same. Commissioner Anderson asked if there would be a program in place to update the training of existing inspectors. Chief Kramer said this is a separate issue, but there will be mandatory update courses for all working officials and inspectors. Everyone should be up-to-date on this by January 1, 2009.

Chief Kramer spoke about the Division's providing of the Firefighter I manuals and all the issues surrounding that matter. The Division is seeking permission from the DCA Commissioner to continue with his program. This would work by putting the contract out to bid and eventually ending up with a 3-year contract to provide the Firefighter I books. Commissioner Naylis asked what the time-frame on this would be. This proposal just went up to the Commissioner's Office this past week, and the Division is hoping that this will be resolved by the end of this calendar year. Commissioner Wood suggested that the Commission members urge DCA Commissioner Doria to approve this process to avoid future chaos with the Firefighter I programs.

Commissioner Blohm asked whether an individual could purchase the Delmar Firefighter I books on their own. Chief Kramer answered that they can. Chief Kramer also spoke about the potential regulation change that would be necessary if a vendor other than Delmar was awarded the contract to print the new books.

Chief Kramer reported that this year's New Jersey Weekend is full. The Division will be hosting almost 200 individuals at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, in May. Also, the spring semester is going very well and is currently at about 65% capacity. Chief Kramer believes that this spring's list of courses is probably the best that the Division has ever offered.

Chief Kramer also commented on the budget issues that the Division, as with all of State government, is having. There are certainly some significant challenges ahead, and those challenges will only get greater as time goes on.

Commissioner Blohm inquired about a recent news story that describes police officers (specifically in Franklin Township) pulling double-duty as firefighters. This is part of a new emergency services unit in the town. Commissioner Blohm feels that this is a problem because the police officers, if they are going to act as firefighters, should absolutely be trained and clothed as firefighters. Chief Kramer asked for a copy of this story and agreed that it needed to be discussed further.

Chief Lou Kilmer reported that there has been significant progress made with the new computer system of the Code Enforcement Unit. The Life Hazard Use building system, registration, and inspections system have all been completely revamped. The new computer system will certainly go a long way towards streamlining the way the Unit operates. Every fire official in the State will soon have access to the New Jersey portal. Information will start going out to the fire officials through this portal in the coming week. The Division is looking to obtain most, if not all, of the fire officials' email address throughout the State.

Commissioner Wood stated that the New Jersey portal is something that needs to be accessed (viewed) by the fire official. He wondered if the Division was working on a more positive means of communication where the Division can send bulletins, information, etc. out to the officials. Chief Kilmer said the Division is working on gathering e-mail addresses, and other means of reaching out, but it's a very time-consuming and labor-intensive process.

Chief Kilmer and Commissioner Schilling also discussed a code issue that involves stores that take up temporary residences. Places like Christmas stores, or Halloween stores, come and go so quickly that it makes it difficult to conduct inspections – and this needs to be controlled by some means.

F. Advisory Council Reports:

1. Codes Advisory Council

Commissioner Schilling said that a lot of what the Codes Council report was to include was covered in the Division of Fire Safety's report. However, he gave a report on the Subchapter #3 IFC regarding cooking tents.

Commissioner Schilling explained that there have been many comments submitted on the cooking tent separation requirements. The main comment is to leave the current code provision of 5 ft. separation in place for all tents. The current code does not address cooking tents separately as the IFC does. The IFC requires cooking tents to be separated by other tents, canopies and membrane structures by 20 feet. The council discussed this in detail when the original rules were drafted and decided the following. Cooking tents located next to cooking tents are exempt from separation requirements. Cooking tents located next to other types of tents with an occupancy load of 49 or fewer must be separated from those tents by 5 feet. If the occupant load is 50 or more, the separation space would go to 20 feet. After much discussion on this topic, the Codes Council decided to keep the 20 feet separation.

Commissioner Naylis asked out exemptions for fully-suppressed building of not having to have fire extinguishers from being required. Michael Whalen answered that the exception allows for fire extinguishers not to be installed in certain areas if a quick-response sprinkler system is installed. Fire extinguishers are still required over cooking suppression and other special hazards. Commissioner Naylis also asked how we are handling Appendix B, and Mr. Whalen answered that Appendix B was not adopted.

Chief Kilmer asked that the Commission give its support the Codes Council in urging the Commission to adopt the entire code. Commissioner Londensky made a motion that the Commission supports the Codes Council on this issue. The motion was seconded by Commissioner John Lightbody, and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Schilling also spoke about the issue of occupant loads. Currently, fire officials are having problems with posting proper occupant loads using the existing text and table requirements. A sub-committee of the Codes Council has been formed to look into this issue, and Commissioner Schilling will have more on this at the next Commission meeting.

2. Training and Education Advisory Council

Commissioner C. Kenneth Anderson gave the following report of the Training and Education Advisory Council:

The Training and Education Advisory Council met on February 19th at the Dempster Training Center at 10:00 am.

The Firefighter II Standard has been adopted. The Application for Certification is being updated. A scheme to separately track test results of those who take the challenge test and those who attend the class is being devised. EOs will be responsible to qualify applicants for the challenge test. There is no provision for those taking the challenge test to also complete the practical skills test.

The process for preparing and RFP in a timely manner so texts will be available to EOs at the beginning of 2009 is of concern to the Council.

The Division is working with Treasury to get funding for Kean College to redo the Fire Inspector course. This will be required when the Code revisions and update are adopted.

The adoption of the revisions to the Fire Instructor standards is on hold until the Drill Ground Instructor program is ready. T&E had asked that an RFP be issued to prepare the curriculum in accordance with an outline that it approved. However, a committee is now preparing the curriculum, student handout, and instructor guide.

The Fire Officer program is being taught as recommended by the Committee following the critique of the pilot offerings. Amendments to the standard are needed to officially add the modules on Building Construction and Strategy and Tactics. A draft has been prepared and is being reviewed by the Council.

It has become the norm for Fire Officer classes to cover the information required for certification through Fire Officer II. It is very difficult to separate the materials between Level I and Level II. The standards have a provision for certification of certain firefighters at Level I by passing a challenge test. If that person wants to obtain Level II certification, the full course will have to be completed.

The Division sent a notice to the fire departments about qualifications for Incident Management Level certifications. It noted that the I-200 course work had to be classroom based; not on-line. That generated a flurry of e-mails. First, that the National Fire Academy now requires students to complete an on-line I-200 course to be eligible to attend a resident course. That's not so. Second, if NFA accepts the on-line course, somebody should review why New Jersey doesn't; and T&E might be that "somebody." Director Petrillo, replied that he had a bias on classroom vs online training but a comprehensive comparison of the content, delivery and if the product will provide the level of education needed to perform the job would allow an objective opinion.

The T&E members observed that the general quality of on-line and distance-learning courses has improved in recent years. Such courses have the possibility of even providing group exercises. A committee has been appointed to review on-line courses.

The RIT Committee reviewed its Awareness and Operations Modules for RIT Training. The Council accepted this report. The Committee is working to finalize these modules, prepare information on RITs for the Officer Course, and consider an Advance RIT (or Technician) Module.

For several reasons, a Committee was formed to look at Driver/Operator Safety Training. Robert Hill of the Gloucester County Academy who has offered such training is Chair. The study will look at safe driving, positioning of apparatus, aspects of the CDL licensing requirements, etc.

Several of the proposed training bills proposed in the Legislature had been distributed to the Council. T&E supports mandatory Firefighter I certification and ProBoard Accreditation of the certification programs. There was a lot of discussion on what is now A-2129 which mandates basic training for newly-appointed entry-level career firefighters and supervisory training for full-time firefighters promoted to various officer levels. Generally, T&E believes the training should specified in the bill should be in line with the various standards we have developed.

A question was asked about the desirability of a CEU requirement for firefighters. The recommendations of the training subcommittee of the Governor's Fire Service and Safety Task Force included such a requirement. We were reminded that Governor Corzine asked the Director for a report on the future of the Division and the fire service. By motion, the Council asks the Director to request the Governor to release that report so we will all have the benefit of those specific recommendations.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to add Michael Daley to the Training and Education Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Naylis and passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be April 15th at the Dempster Training Center at 10:00 am.

3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council

Commissioner Naylis reported that the Statistics and Information Advisory Council met on February 25th. The Council is proud to report that the 2006 Fire In New Jersey report is now on the Division of Fire Safety website, and it is chock-full of information. This report can be downloaded and used for informational purposes.

For 2006, 96% of New Jersey's fire departments participated in the NFIRS program. This number is tops in the nation, including states where this reporting system is mandatory. The statistics indicate a decrease in fire-related deaths in the State over the past few years, and that number has decreased significantly over the past 25 years.

Commissioner Naylis commended Heather Puskar and the Division's NFIRS Unit for the tremendous work they continue to do. The next meeting of the Statistics and Information Advisory Council will be April 21st.

4. Master Planning and Research Advisory Council

Commissioner John Lightbody reported that the Master Planning and Research Council has moved their meeting to this coming Monday. The change was made to accommodate Division of Fire Safety staff, so that they may attend.

The Master Planning and Research Advisory Council distributed to the Commission a brochure that they had been working on in recent months. The brochure (contained in all

packets) outlines a plan of attack to promote public education in a given town, its cost factors, and how to best cooperate with the municipalities.

The brochure talks about doing more with less in regards to an inspections program. In this program, the State would (through an advanced computer system) serve as the hub to distribute vital information to the municipalities, and vice-versa. This plan would serve to save towns money, as well as lessen the workload of the State's inspectors. Members of the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council have looked into the technological side of this program, and are continuing to research it. This will maximize the sharing of information and resources. The Master Planning Council is also working on a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate and thoroughly explain this program.

5. Public Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo reported that there had not been a meeting of the Public Education Advisory Council since the last Commission meeting. The Public Education Council will be meeting again on May 8th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

Charles Lavin reported that the New Jersey FIRE Bowl would be taking place on May 13, 2008, at Midtown Community School in Bayonne, NJ. All Commission members will be receiving invitations in the near future for the event. This year, the FIRE Bowl includes three school districts: Bayonne, Belleville, and Carteret.

6. Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council

Commissioner Richard Blohm reported that the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council met on January 24th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. Commissioner Blohm submitted the following report on that meeting:

The township of Dunellen had a civilian fire fatality where one firefighter sustained second-degree burns of between 6% and 8% of his body.

NFPA 1851 2008 Edition states that an employer cannot use PPE over 10 years old; this is a standard, not a requirement.

It appears that we are nearing closure on results from the Training and Education Council with regard to RIT awareness. Commissioner Anderson, along with members of the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council, reported significant progress in this area.

According to our representative from the Forest Fire Service, the Department of Homeland Security has provided money which is to be utilized by county OEMs for Incident Management Teams.

The next meeting of the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council will be March 19th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

7. Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council

Commissioner Paul Hartstein reported that the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council met on March 12th at the Burlington County Fire Academy. Commissioner Hartstein was unable to attend the meeting, and called on Commissioner Kathleen O’Leary to give a report on this meeting.

Commissioner O’Leary reported on the progression of the Juvenile Firesetter program in Essex County, as well as the Ocean County Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I program that was recently held in Toms River. This program was well-attended, with 24 students, with a good mix of people in attendance from several different agencies.

The Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council is planning on hosting a Bic Play Safe, Be Safe program on Thursday, June 19th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. Approval is still pending from the Department of Community Affairs, and more details on this program will follow.

Commissioner O’Leary reported that a Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I course is being planned for Bergen County in May. Exact dates have not yet been set for that course. Also, the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist II course will be offered at the Wildwood Convention Center on September 10th and 11th.

G. Committee Reports

1. Residential Sprinkler Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that the Residential Sprinkler Committee had no news to report at this time.

2. Signal Booster Codes and Ordinances Committee

Commissioner Lawrence Wood reported that himself and Red Bank Fire Marshal Stanley Sickels have been working on looking into the matter of signal boosters. Mr. Sickels reported that some fire departments around the country were using, or taking steps towards using, signal boosters for firefighters in high-rise buildings – but it is not the standards. They are continuing to work on gathering information on this from a wide range of associations.

3. Furniture Flammability Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that the Furniture Flammability Committee has found that, initially, the Committee would be hard-pressed to make any kind of unilateral statement in regards to changing all furniture stores to H-type use groups. The Committee has studied a report by Bob Davidson for the National Association of State Fire Marshals, as well as other documents on furniture flammability and mattress fire safety.

Commissioner Naylis said the Committee is in the process of gathering detailed information from around the country about fire incidents involving furniture, as well as furniture stores and warehouses. The Committee will continue its research.

H. Old Business

Commissioner Gerard Naylis spoke about a memo (contained in all Commission packets) that was distributed by Assemblyman Wisniewski regarding a retreat for the Fire Safety Commission's 25th Anniversary this coming August. During the Retreat, the Commission will have a chance to collectively review its past accomplishments, as well as future goals.

The memo on the Retreat asks that each Advisory Council Chairman create a list of their Council's three greatest accomplishments and three goals for the future. At the Retreat, these lists can be discussed to give the Fire Safety Commission a better sense of direction heading into its next 25 years of service. Any and all questions regarding the Retreat should be directed to Commissioner Naylis. All Commissioners were asked to look at their calendars and examine their availability for August 2008.

In addition to the Retreat, we are also working on a commemorative event to recognize 25 years of the Fire Safety Commission. This will hopefully take place in October (possibly Fire Safety Week) in Trenton.

I. New Business

Mr. Chuck Aughenbaugh spoke about the proposed layoffs by Governor Corzine of State workers. He asked that the Commission be provided with detailed information of how the layoffs will effect the fire service, and where the funds generated (through fees) by the Division of Fire Safety were exactly going. Commissioner Anderson responded that the money generated by the Division does not go directly to the Division – it goes to the State as a whole. Commissioner Wood added that the people who pay these fees should be made aware of this fact, and made aware of where this money is going.

Red Bank Fire Marshal Stanley Sickels spoke on the topic of the installation of fire sprinklers to protect balconies in multi-family dwellings. Mr. Sickels noted that this code change was originally presumed to be adopted by the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs. He recently discovered that this requirement would not be adopted and will be referred back to the Codes Advisory Council. The Codes Council has already taken a formal position to require sprinklers to protect balconies, originally at the November 2006 Commission meeting. Commissioner Arthur Londensky made a motion that the Commission draft a letter to Commissioner Doria and urge him to adopt this requirement. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Candura and passed unanimously. Mr. Sickels provided the Commission with additional information to assist in drafting this letter.

Commissioner Londensky expressed his concern about the recent Resolution passed by Hackensack against retro-fitting high-rises with sprinklers. No where in the Resolution was the safety of emergency responders addressed, and the Hackensack Fire Department was never even made aware of the City Council drafting such a Resolution.

Commissioner Londensky urged members of the fire service to keep an eye open in their own towns. Commissioner Lewis Candura echoed these comments and said that there should be more of an outcry by both the fire service, and the public in general, when a Resolution like this comes out. There is a misconception about both the dangers, and the cost, of retro-fitting these high-rise buildings. The bottom line is that sprinklers save lives. Commissioner Schilling added that the Department of Community Affairs has already planned on hiring a private company to research the cost factor of a program such as this.

Chief Kramer recognized that at the recent International Association of Arson Investigators Conference in Atlantic City, three members of the Division of Fire Safety were presented with awards. They were: Rich Farletta and Rod Meyer for Fire Investigator of the Year. Also, Charlie Luxton was given the President's Awards for his work in the Juvenile Firesetter programs throughout the State.

Commissioner Lightbody noted that a meeting regarding residential sprinklers in one- and two-family homes will be taking place on March 27th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy at 10 AM

J. Adjournment

Commissioner Schilling asked if anyone had any additional business they would like to bring before the Commission. There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 12:19 PM.

*** The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be on May 21, 2008 at 10am. It will be held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ. ***