

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

Meeting of January 27, 2010

The NJ Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, January 27, 2010, at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ.

Commission Members Present: Assemblyman John Wisniewski, Chairman
Assemblyman David Rible
Senator Anthony Bucco
Mr. Pasquale Intindola, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Charles W. Schilling
Mr. C. Kenneth Anderson
Mr. Paul Hartstein
Mr. John Lightbody
Mr. Armando Roman
Ms. Kathleen O'Leary
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood
Mr. Roger Potts
Mr. Daniel DeTrolio
Mr. Arthur Mercurio
Mr. Lewis Candura
Mr. Arthur Londensky
Mr. Richard Blohm
Mr. Steve O'Gorman
Mr. Gerard Naylis
Mr. Ronald Phillips
Mr. Kenneth Swider
Mr. Fredrick Collender

DCA Staff Members Present: Lawrence Petrillo, State Fire Marshal
William Kramer, NJDFS
Lou Kilmer, NJDFS
James McFadden, NJDFS
Glenn Smyth, NJDFS
Charles Luxton, NJDFS
Charles Lavin, NJDFS
Jerry Clark, NJDFS
Heather Allen, NJDFS
Rick Farletta, NJDFS
Jason Spiecker, NJDFS
Jeffrey Silver, NJDFS
Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

Guests: Ronald McGowan, Wildwood Crest Fire
Allyson Kliefoth, DHSS
Ernest Bosch, CCFM
David Kurasz, NJFSAB

Chuck Aughenbaugh, NJ Deputy Fire Chiefs
Doris Flatley, Somerset Fire Academy
Donald Scher, Somerset Fire Academy
Kevin Krushinski, Sayreville Fire
Thomas P. Gerity, Old Bridge Fire Marshal
Chris Pujat, Monmouth County FM
Tim Smith, Monmouth County FM
Chris Weniger, Somerset County FM
John Yanko, Somerset County FM
Ray Lonabaugh, NFSA
Bernie Cohan, EDIAFC
Stanley J. Sickels, NJFPPA
Rick Silva, NJFPPA
Jonathan D. Magon, MCFPPA
David Locke, Plainfield Fire
David Matos, NJ Fire/EMS Institute
Pasquale Sarnella, H.F.D.

A. Call to Order

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

B. Bi-Annual Reorganization of NJ Fire Safety Commission

Chairman John Wisniewski designated Vice-Chairman Pat Intindola to preside over the nominations for the positions of chairman and vice-chairman of the Fire Safety Commission. Mr. Intindola opened the floor for nominations. Commissioner Gerard Naylis nominated Assemblyman John Wisniewski for the position of Chairman and Pat Intindola for the position of Vice-Chairman. These nominations were seconded by Commissioner Lewis Candura and the two candidates were voted in unanimously.

Chairman Wisniewski took a moment to welcome newly-appointed Commissioner Ronald Phillips to the Fire Safety Commission.

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo congratulated Chairman Wisniewski and Vice-Chairman Intindola on their re-elections and thanked them for all their hard work. He also thanked Assemblyman David Rible and Senator Anthony Bucco for their commitment to the Fire Safety Commission.

C. Approval of Minutes

With no discussion requested or necessary corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of November 18, 2009, were approved.

D. 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.

E. Public Comment I

Chairman Wisniewski opened the floor to any member of the public wishing to speak.

Chuck Aughenbaugh from the NJ Deputy Fire Chiefs Association spoke about the report on the Department of Community Affairs that had recently been released by Governor Christie's transition team. He spoke about how they too recognized the need for more staffing and commended the Division of Fire Safety staff on the job they have done while extremely shorthanded. Mr. Aughenbaugh urged the Commission to support the Division of Fire Safety in its effort to get to proper staffing levels and keep the money that the NJDFS generates toward its own operation.

Red Bank Fire Marshal Stanley Sickels spoke about an Executive Order that was issued by Governor Christie which puts a 90-day freeze on all new regulations. This includes the 2009 International Residential Code that includes the new residential sprinkler requirements. Mr. Sickels asked that the Fire Safety Commission take affirmative action and push for the 2009 IRC to be adopted and published as this is a public safety issue. He also inquired as to whether these regulations could possibly be exempt from the Executive Order because it affects public safety and health. Assemblyman Wisniewski suggested the Fire Safety Commission draft a resolution to the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs requesting that the 2009 IRC be granted such an exemption.

Bernie Cohan inquired about the status of the vacant position on the Fire Safety Commission that is designated for the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Chairman Wisniewski assured Mr. Cohan that he hears his request and continuously asks for this appointment to be made. But, unfortunately, the appointment has not yet been made.

Allyson Kliefoth spoke about a Fact-Sheet for Emergency Responders that is being put out by the Department of Health. It deals with issues of health and safety for emergency responders and she asked that the Fire Safety Commission take a look at the fact-sheet and give her any feedback they might have. Commissioner Richard Blohm offered the services of the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council, as they will be able to work together on making the document as informative and comprehensive as possible. The fact sheet is available for viewing online at the Department of Health's website.

Red Bank Fire Marshal Stanley Sickels also commented on the portion of Governor Christie's transition report that concerned the NJ Division of Fire Safety. He focused particularly on the suggested audit on safety and staffing levels at the Division. Mr. Sickels asked that the Commission not only support the NJDFS getting to proper staffing

levels, but also look into changing the dynamic where Division-generated funds are sent elsewhere to fund other Divisions and Departments. It is clear that the Division of Fire Safety is generating more than enough revenue to be self-sufficient and fully-functional. Assemblyman Wisniewski answered that this would be the ideal situation and we can look into it, but sometimes when a precedent is set (such as Division funds going to fund other areas of State government), it is often difficult to break an ongoing practice like this.

F. Division of Fire Safety Activities

State Fire Marshal Lawrence Petrillo spoke about Governor Christie Transition Report on the Division of Fire Safety. He was pleased to see how accurate the report was in identifying the hurdles that the NJDFS is facing – particularly in the areas of technology and staffing. These hurdles need to be removed for the Division of Fire Safety to be able to operate at optimal levels. Despite these obstacles, the NJDFS has been able to not only survive, but thrive under these adverse conditions. Director Petrillo sees this as a tribute to his staff who have consistently done a commendable job of making personal sacrifices, and doing more with less, to get the job done.

Director Petrillo reported that 2009 was a successful year for the Division of Fire Safety. They did over 22,000 initial inspections, which is a phenomenal number considering the lack of staffing and technology. The Division's good code enforcement has translated to an extremely low number of lives being lost in the buildings they inspect. The main issue now is trying to save lives and prevent incidents in non-life hazard uses, which is a daunting task. Also, the NJDFS Arson Unit did over 200 fire investigations in 2009 – including many that resulted in arrests and convictions.

“Fire in New Jersey – 2008” is now posted online and is an extraordinary document in terms of accuracy and usefulness of the data. New Jersey is now in the top five in the country in terms of fire incident reporting. The NFIRS Unit is already at 87% of fire departments reporting for 2009 and that number continues to grow as the data comes in. We are still seeing the main causes of fire as cooking, heating, and smoking. The smoking numbers have actually gone down, possibly thanks to the fire-safe cigarettes legislation that has gone into effect. Also, Director Petrillo cited fires starting in clothes dryers as a growing cause of fires in the home and the Division will be starting a public education campaign to combat this.

A meeting of the Peer Review Board was held recently and members of two local enforcing agencies were brought before the board regarding incidents with bonfires. One of the incidents, in Vineland, was particularly alarming and is available for viewing on youtube.com. The other incident, in Manasquan, was similar and resulted in a serious burn injury to a firefighter. The members of both the local enforcing agencies are facing sanctions in the form of suspension and/or revocation of certification.

Director Petrillo spoke about the freeze on all regulations – including the training regulations and re-adoptions. It is hoped these will be adopted once the freeze is over.

Commissioner Naylis asked if any of these regulations will be timed-out by the time the freeze is over. Chief William Kramer answered that they will not be affected.

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo asked State Fire Marshal Petrillo if he had been interviewed for the Transition Report and the answer was yes, he had been. Commissioner DeTrollo was surprised to read that the Division of Fire Safety does not prepare its own budget and Director Petrillo said that they are not given the opportunity to do so. Both Commissioner DeTrollo and Director Petrillo found the report to be accurate and somewhat favorable to the staff of the NJ Division of Fire Safety which had been somewhat disparaged, albeit unfairly, in the past.

Commissioner Lawrence Wood asked for some clarification on the NFIRS statistics from recent years – particularly the percentage of deaths that took place in one- and two-family dwellings. Heather Allen provided the answer that the majority of fire-related deaths have taken place in these structures, with many of the others taking place in vehicles or outdoors. Chief Kramer added that the 2009 statistics are still coming in, but the 2008 report shows a very clear picture of fire data and trends in New Jersey. Simply put, there are a very small number of fatalities that are NOT happening in residential buildings. Also, NFPA just released a national statistics report of the past five years and New Jersey's rankings (especially when considering it's high population and density) are extremely favorable in comparison to the rest of the nation.

Chief William Kramer spoke on the two bonfire cases that were brought before the Peer Review Board. In both cases, accelerants were utilized and led to an explosion. The fact that fire suppression forces are using accelerants (particularly gasoline) is extremely alarming. Sanctions are going to be levied against both the code enforcement people as well as the fire department. Commissioner Naylis asked whether criminal charges would be filed in these cases. Chief Kramer guessed that there would not be, but that is up to the local county prosecutor's offices.

Chief Kramer also followed up on the issue of the manifold failure issue. The Division of Fire Safety is still pursuing what they can on this issue, but it will certainly take time as there are several parties involved, including in other states.

Chief Lou Kilmer reported that the Code Enforcement Unit has been working on a number of advisory bulletins that will be sent out. There will be information on Oxford houses and retro-fit items coming out in the very near future. Also, there was a meeting held down in Cape May in December with the Bed-and-Breakfast industry and the report of the State Commission has been issued. Hopefully we have worked out our issues with those buildings going forward. Also, stemming from the group-home fire in Toms River back in July, the Division met with the Administrative Officers of the court in regards to training people in what to look out for inside these group homes. The training will be starting shortly and it will be extremely useful to have another set of eyes inside these buildings.

Commissioner Arthur Mercurio spoke about the problem of State Police officers who are stepping in and taking control of County Fire Academies. He urged the Division of Fire Safety to be strict and vigilant in making sure that these people are qualified to run a firefighting training center. Chairman Wisniewski asked that Commissioner Mercurio meet privately with Director Petrillo after the meeting to speak on specific incidents where this is potentially happening.

Commissioner Richard Blohm asked how many smoke detectors would be distributed this year and when that program would be starting. Director Petrillo said he would defer to Commissioner DeTrollo who will be covering that in the Public Education report.

G. Advisory Council Reports:

1. Codes Advisory Council

Commissioner Charles Schilling reported that the Codes Advisory Council has not met since the last Commission meeting due to a lack of an agenda. However, there is a Sub-Committee that is continuing to work on Sub-Chapter 4, which is an extremely important part of our fire code which has not been reviewed in a while. By the next Commission meeting, we should have some results from the findings of the Sub-Committee.

Commissioner Schilling also asked about the Highway Traffic Safety Guidelines and what the status of that document is. Director Petrillo said that nothing has been heard back from the Attorney General's Office. Chief Kramer added that we will have to get the ball rolling with this issue all over again with the newly-appointed administration. But this is a huge issue, and Chief Kramer is not sure why we can not get anyone in the law enforcement to make this a priority – particularly with the two recent fatalities at the Ben Franklin Bridge and Walt Whitman Bridge. Assemblyman Wisniewski asked that the Division of Fire Safety send a letter to the newly appointed Attorney General, as well as the new Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, bringing them up to speed on this issue and the urgency of it. Commissioner Anderson added that he made a motion at the last meeting to have this letter sent to the Attorney General, and Director Petrillo said this would be done once the new Attorney General and DCA Commissioner are in office.

Commissioner Naylis asked if the Codes Council was making any of the pervasive fire code issues – particularly the parts of the Code that were included that were not supposed to be. Chief Kilmer answered that many of the Advisory Bulletins that he reported on under DFS Activities will be addressing this topic specifically. The Division of Fire Safety and Codes Council will be reviewing these issues shortly, but the Advisory Bulletins should be sufficient in the interim. These bulletins will be out within the next couple days.

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 December 15th at the Dempster Training Center at 10:00 AM. Kent Neiswender reported on several projects including:

- The New Jersey Addendum is in final draft. It will not be printed. It will likely be distributed to EOs on a CD and posted on the Division website for download.
- The Division is validating the Firefighter I and II questions associated with the Jones & Bartlett test with the assistance of a Subject Matter Experts Panel.
- There are some quirks associated with the Fire Inspector Exam. The ICC Exam was selected for certification of new Fire Inspectors. The exam is based solely on the ICC Code and includes questions that require reference to the ICC Construction Code. Some of the correct answers for the exam are not the correct answers when considering the New Jersey modifications. The ICC exam will soon be “swapped out” for the 2009 International Fire Code Exam.

At the direction of the Council, I sent a memo to the Director outlining our concern. We request that a meeting of the Tier I Eligible Organizations that offer the Inspector course be convened. Some of the questions that should be discussed are: Does the test need to be changed? Should we develop a New Jersey test? Is the test the only thing that needs changing in this program?

The Proposal to amend the Fire Instructor Certification Standards was published in the November 16th *Register*. The revised wording for 5:73-5.2 (b) 2, refers to the NFPA 1401 Fire Instructor Professional Qualifications, 2002 edition and the IFSTA publication “Fire and Emergency Services Instructor,” 7th edition. The current NFPA 1401 Standard is the 2007 edition. The 7th edition of the IFSTA text is written to meet the NFPA 1401 Standard, 2007 edition.

At the direction of the Council, I submitted a request during the comment period to resolve the inconsistency mentioned and a similar problem at 5:73-5.3 (b) 3. This Proposal is in Appendix B of the Governor’s Executive Order 1 and is *not* frozen. The RIC Committee is still working on PowerPoints and instructor and student manuals for the Awareness and Operation modules.

Fire Officer Certification Standards. The Council considered the results of the October 30th meeting of T&E, Tier I EOs, Fire Safety Commission, and the Stakeholders with Civil Service and DOL representatives. The discussion extended well beyond our normal adjournment time and many points still had to be resolved. It was agreed to hold a special meeting devoted solely to this topic.

The members were asked to suggest available dates. From the returns and the fact that the Commission meeting was re-scheduled, we set January 20th for the meeting. Not everyone could attend and at the last minute some members had conflicts. We did not

have a majority of members at the meeting. However, based on all of the suggestions that have been made, those present came to a consensus on what proficiencies should be required for certification at Fire Officer I and what the Instructor criteria should be. The results will be sent to all members of T&E with the hope that they will be adopted at our regular February meeting.

Proposal Number: PRN 2009-355, was printed in the New Jersey Register, on December 7, 2009. It would readopt the Division's regulations including Standards for Fire Service Training and Certification. These regulations are scheduled to expire on December 11, 2010. The rules proposed for re-adoption are intended to continue in effect the technical and administrative provisions of the chapters. The Proposal is in Appendix A of the Governor's EO-1 and is frozen.

The next meeting of the Training and Education Advisory Council will be February 16th at the Dempster Training Center at 10:00 am.

3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that the NFIRS Unit is currently collecting data from fire departments for 2009 and is at 87% for the year. He reminded everyone that if their fire department is planning on applying for any kind of grants, funding, or AFG monies, they must be participating with reporting in the NFIRS system.

The next meeting of the Statistics and Information Advisory Council will be on February 2nd at the Monmouth County Fire Academy. A main topic of discussion will be data quality.

4. Master Planning and Research Advisory Council

Commissioner John Lightbody reported that the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council met on January 11th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

There was a lengthy discussion about what the Council had accomplished in 2009 and what its goals and focus would be going forward in 2010. Commissioner Candura attended the most recent meeting and spoke about the recent NJDFS report on high-rise buildings without standpipes as a good source of information. Commissioner Lightbody also reported on the group home fire in Toms River where there had been one fatality. A task force has been created to address the issue. A mock-up of the structure has been made to simulate the effects of smoke detectors and sprinkler system activation in the fire.

Commissioner Lightbody said that he and Commissioner Candura had been looking for a list of group homes from the State. He mentioned Chief Kilmer's report that there would be training for people to be on the look-out for them, and asked if code enforcement personnel would be able to go into these homes for inspections. In his experience, there

are many places in Ocean County that are being set up in an unsafe manner and this needs to be regulated.

Commissioner Lightbody also spoke about the growing issue of Recruitment & Retention in the volunteer fire service. He said that he and Commissioner DeTrolio's Public Education Unit would be working closely on this issue going forward. The changing economy, demographics, and people's likelihood/ability to volunteer is affecting the fire service and the issue is extremely important and needs to be looked into.

Commissioner Lightbody made a motion that a new member – Brian S. Kubiel – be added to the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Paul Hartstein and passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council will be on March 1st at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

5. Public Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Daniel DeTrolio reported that the Public Education Advisory Council had met on January 14th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. The kick-off to the WABC Operation Save-A-Life program was held recently at the ESPN Zone in Times Square. Through this program, the NJ Division of Fire Safety will receive roughly 15,000 smoke detectors – compliments of Kidde – for distribution throughout the state. There has not been any indication that carbon monoxide detectors will be included anytime soon, but we are certainly happy that Kidde has continued to be committed to the program.

Before leaving office, Governor Corzine did sign the Novelty Lighters Bill. Commissioner DeTrolio thanked the Commissioners and legislators who had worked hard on this bill and getting it passed.

The field is now set for the 2010 FIRE Bowl program. The competition will be split into two conferences – the “North” (Bayonne, Belleville, Paterson) and the “South” (Carteret, Camden, Freehold). The winner from each of the two conference will face off in a three-round live competition at the final even on May 20, 2010, at Kean University.

The Fire Safety Poster Contest has a due date of March 15th for this school year's submissions. Stanley Sickels raised the issue on what to do about computer-generated entries and what category they should be falling under. There have been discussions on this topic and possibilities could be creating a whole new division of the competition, or simply adding to the rules that these submissions are allowable.

The next meeting of the Public Education Advisory Council will be held on March 11, 2010, at the Middlesex County Fire Academy.

6. Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council

Commissioner Richard Blohm reported that the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council has been looking into the issue of rehab policies. There are people currently coming out of EMS training – sometimes as young as 18-years-old – who have the ability to diagnosis and recommend action for firefighters on a jobsite. This puts the firefighter's commanding officer between a rock and a hard place when deciding if the firefighter can continue working. There is a liability issue here, so the Council has been working on a set of guidelines (which is extremely difficult given all the variables) for deciding if/when a firefighter is in proper condition to continue his duties.

The next meeting of the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council will be today, January 27th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy at 1:30 PM.

7. Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council

Commissioner Paul Hartstein reported the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council met on January 13, 2010, at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. A lot of time was spent at the meeting evaluating and critiquing the recently-held Juvenile Firesetter Conference. There were about 105 attendees at the Conference. Lifetime achievement awards were given to Lisa Jones and Joe Erhardt for their tremendous work on the Council at in the area of Juvenile Firesetting Prevention. Bob Yaiser gave a presentation on working with local school districts.

Charlie Luxton spoke briefly about a Youth Fire Prevention Program, offered by NASFM, that New Jersey will be hosting for FEMA Region 2. It will be taking place on April 7, 2010 at the Bergen County Fire Academy. The details and registration information can be found on the NASFM website. Also, there is a Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Specialist I program being offered on March 24th and 25th in Atlantic City.

The next meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Council will be March 10, 2010, at the Burlington County Fire Academy.

G. Committee Reports

1. Residential Sprinkler Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis spoke briefly about the issue of residential sprinklers being an asset to the fire service – not an attempt to replace it. Sprinkler systems are not an all-encompassing fix that would allow towns and cities to reduce personnel or scale back its efforts in regards to their local fire department. Commissioner Blohm provided an example, illustration how some people think that less firefighters (or even firehouses) are required when sprinkler systems are present. This is simply not the case.

H. Old Business

Commissioner Lewis Candura provided the following letter to the Fire Safety Commission and requested it be added to the minutes under 'Old Minutes':

"Dear Chairman and fellow Commissioners,

I am sure that many of you are aware of news regarding status of the IRC adoption in New Jersey, but for those of you who are not, I regret to inform you that Governor Christie has issued a 90-day freeze on all new regulations, including the 2009 International Residential Code, which would require all newly constructed one- and two-family homes and townhomes built after January 1, 2012, to contain a residential fire sprinkler system. While the news of the freeze did not catch us by surprise, we were dismayed to learn that our life safety measure, which we have been fighting so hard to adopt, was included in this freeze.

Indications from the Christie administration lead us to believe the freeze on the fire sprinkler regulation is just temporary. This regulation freeze will allow the new administration time to review all of the regulations recently passed by the Corzine administration. The Christie administration exempted regulations from the freeze only if they will not:

- Adversely impact public safety or security;
- Adversely impact the public health;
- Prejudice the State of NJ with respect to the receipt of monies from the federal government or the ability to obtain any certifications from the federal government;
- Prevent the application of powers, functions and duties essential to the operations of the State agency in question; or
- Adversely impact compliance with any judicial deadline.

We have been informed that the Christie administration feels our regulation does not meet these requirements, indicating we still have work to do. We must educate the new administration on our regulation's benefits to be the winners after the 90-day regulation freeze is over. Some of the key messages which we will highlight in our conversations with the Governor's office include:

- * This is a life-safety measure which will not only protect residents of the State, but first responders who put their lives on the line.
- * Neighboring states such as Pennsylvania recently adopted the IRC code, including the residential fire sprinkler requirement. California and New Hampshire have also adopted the code.
- * By adopting this regulation, residential fire sprinklers will help to take some of the burden off of local jurisdictions and their fire service infrastructure, which should lead to lower property taxes.

I can assure you that we can overcome this 90-day stay and to make residential fire sprinklers in New Jersey a reality. However, we need the widespread support of the fire

services to accomplish this. Using your strong voices to contact and convince the Christie administration to adopt the life- and property-saving sprinkler code in New Jersey will be invaluable in our drive to protect the State's residents. Let me know if you would like to help.

Sincerely,
Lewis Candura"

Commissioner Lawrence Wood brought up a list of regulations from PEOSHA that pertain to the fire service that he had requested. State Fire Marshal Petrillo answered that the Division has been in contact with PEOSHA and suggested having a staff member of theirs attend the next Commission meeting. The regulations, however, are available online in the New Jersey Addendum manual. Commissioner Blohm also requested that the Division of Fire Safety invite representative from the Department of Labor and Department of Health to Fire Safety Commission meetings. This would assist in getting immediate answers to questions in regards to labor or health. Commissioner Wood added that the DCA Commissioner should always be invited to all meetings in hopes of them making it to one or two a year.

I. New Business

Commissioner Gerard Naylis made a motion that the Fire Safety Commission – by way of a Resolution – convey to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and DCA Commissioner that the proposed residential sprinkler regulations are vital to public safety and should be published and adopted in a most timely manner. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Roger Potts and passed unanimously. Assemblyman Wisniewski designated Commissioner Naylis to oversee the drafting of this document – along with Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Candura, as well as Stanley Sickels.

State Fire Marshal Petrillo announced that the annual meeting of the Fire Coordinators is scheduled to take place this Saturday (Jan. 30) at the ROC in West Trenton, NJ. All Commissioners are invited to attend. The Acting-Director of Homeland Security and Deputy Director of OEM are scheduled to be in attendance.

Commissioner Naylis brought up the area in Governor Christie's Transition Report that dealt with the amount of money the State is spending on postage. He suggested that the NJDFS take the lead and move toward sending more and more of its documents electronically. Chief Kramer answered that the Division of Fire Safety does try to do as much of its correspondence electronically as possible – but there are certain things that, according to legislative mandates, much be send to its recipients as a certified mailing.

Commissioner Kenneth Swider raised an issue where certain phone companies had been turning off service to apartment buildings without notifying the management. This was creating a definite safety hazard because this included the main emergency line out of the building, leaving the apartment complex with no connection to emergency services in the event of an incident. Commissioner Swider inquired as to whether this was legal and

what could be done. Chairman Wisniewski referred Commissioner Swider to State Fire Marshal Petrillo and suggested that they work on the specifics of this issue and report on it at the March meeting.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion that a letter from the Fire Safety Commission to Governor Christie be drafted in support of getting the Division of Fire Safety be brought up to proper and adequate staffing levels. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Naylis and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Arthur Mercurio inquired as to how well-known the Fire Safety Commission is to legislators throughout the State. It was his feeling that the Commission to more to raise its profile in State government by reaching out to and working with them.

J. Public Comment II

Chuck Aughenbaugh spoke about the Highway Incident Safety Guidelines and it was his thought that there were certain diagrams within the document that could potentially be holding it up. Mr. Aughenbaugh's organization has written to the Attorney General multiple times to push for these guidelines to be moved forward. Chairman Wisniewski agreed that everyone is anxious to move the guidelines forward, and he suggested not taking any more aggressive steps than the letter to the Attorney General that was approved under 'Public Comment I'. Mr. Aughenbaugh also made the suggested that all the legislative members sign any letter that is sent from the Fire Safety Commission – as they will carry more weight that way.

David Kurasz offered his services in regard to the Resolution that the Commission would be drafting to push for the publishing and adoption of the residential sprinkler regulations. Chairman Wisniewski thanked Mr. Kurasz and referred him to Commissioner Naylis.

Red Bank Fire Marshal Stanley Sickels spoke about the NFIRS Unit possibly compiling some statistics in regards to incidents in sprinklered buildings as opposed to unsprinklered ones. This information could prove to be very valuable when analyzing fire-related deaths and how often they occur in each type of building. Also, Mr. Sickels spoke about using the commentary that was received regarding the residential sprinkler proposals as a basis for the Resolution that is to be sent to the Governor on this issue.

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 11:58 AM.

*** The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be on March 17, 2010 at 10am. It will be held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ. ***

