



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

Committee Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2022

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: *This meeting was held remotely*

The Public Safety & Health Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Vice-Chair Morson and Committee Member Reps. Berns, Campbell, Coleman, Fedeli, Pavia, and Pierre-Louis. Chair Stella, Reps. Campbell and Pierre-Louis were excused. Also present were President Curtis and Reps. Brittany Dube, Emergency Response Specialist; Chief Trevor Roach, Fire Dept; Walter Seely, Fire Dept.; Jody Bishop-Pullan, Health Director; Joseph Gaudett, Emergency Communications Director; Tim Shaw, Police Chief; Louis DeRebuis, Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare; and Neil McMillan, Director - Science & Research Health, Safety & Medicine Division International Association of Fire Fighters.

Chair Stella called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. PS31.030	REVIEW: Health Risks related to use of PFAs (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) in Public Safety Agencies PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and all Other Safety Equipment, as well as to the Environment. 09/06/22 – Submitted by Reps. Stella and Curtis	HELD 6-0-0

Chair Stella explained that he submitted this item because he attended a fire training and this issue continued to be raised.

¹Mr. McMillan and the committee discussed his [PowerPoint presentation](#) and it included the following:

- Hazards of PFAS
- Why Fire Fighters are concerned
- PFAS in turnout gear
- Where and why reductions in Fire Fighter exposure should occur
- PFAS Classifications

²Chief Roach agreed with the presentation and added that cancer is the number one cause of death amongst firefighters and they are doing everything they can to keep their cancer

¹ Video Time Stamp 00:03:00 Mr. McMillan Power Point Presentation

² Video Time Stamp 00:30:00 Chief Roach and discussion

rates down. They have policies and procedures to follow to encourage a safe environment. If PFAS free protective gear becomes available they agree to switch and the cost would be around \$1.5 million. President Anderson, from the local 786 let Chief Roach know that they are expecting PFAS free equipment within that the next 5 to 6 years.

Rep Berns suggests the Board communicate to the Mayor and her Administration to look into alternative protective clothing for our firefighters and alternatives to any other sources or internal sources that are purchased and/or maintained by the department that may have PFAS.

A motion to hold this item was made seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0. (Reps. Stella, Morson, Berns, Campbell, Garst and Pavia in favor)

2. PS31.031 REVIEW: Supervisory Coverage at the 911 Dispatch Center during Midnight and Weekend Shifts as a result of Civilian Grievance. **REPORT MADE**
10/10/22 – Submitted by Rep. Stella

Director DeRubeis and Chief Shaw discussed the following:

- Questions and concerns were raised regarding this subject and a plan has been put in place
- At no time did they fill there was a safety issue for the City
- A reasonable solution has been made that won't compromise the safety of our first responders or citizens
- Supervisory coverage was negotiated in the Police Union Contract years ago
- Unfortunate reallocation of resources came up and had to be addressed (supervisors needed in other areas)
- There will be 21 shifts a week (3 daily)
- Sergeant in the main building for 10 shifts and Civilian dispatch for others
- Regarding the Civilian grievance; it was discussed with Human Resources and the police union

Chair Stella adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chair Stella

This meeting is on [video](#)