SOUTH KING FIRE & RESCUE

SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Station 68
March 17, 2011

Commissioner Gates called the meeting to order at 1700 hours with Commissioners Thompson, Fossos, Rickert and Freitas present. Board Secretary Lauri Perry recording. Commissioner Gates noted that at the table there are Public comment Signup Sheets for anyone to fill out if they would like to make public comments, please turn them into the Executive Assistant.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Fossos.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Freitas had no comments.

Commissioner Rickert had no comments.

Commissioner Fossos had no comments.

Commissioner Thompson had no comments.

Commissioner Gates had no comments.

At 1701 hours Commissioner Gates announced that the meeting will recess and reconvene into Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. The Executive Session will begin at 1705 hours for approximately 45 minutes, reconvening at 1750 hours. The following individuals will be attending the Executive Session the Board of Commissioners, Chief Church, A/C Plumlee, Board Secretary & Attorneys; we will be meeting across the hall.

At 1750 hours Commissioner Gates announced that Executive Session was extended until 1800 hours.

At 1757 hours Executive Session adjourned.

At 1800 hours the Special Meeting reconvened.

DISCUSSION ON USE OF DEPARTMENT FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT POLICY AND POSSIBLE FINAL ACTION ON POLICY

Chief Church noted that after quite a bit of work with his staff and legal team, we drafted a revised policy for your consideration. This is a revision to SOG C-12 under Personal Property in Stations, sub paragraph B. Chief Church read the proposed change - It is the policy of South King Fire & Rescue to prohibit all employees in fire department facilities or on fire department time, or fire

department business, from carrying in any manner any firearm, rifle or handgun. This policy applies whether such person has license or permit to carry such firearm or not, and whether such firearm is concealed or not. Firearms stored in privately owned vehicles shall not be displayed, handled or shown. Commissioner Fossos made a Motion to adopt the revised Policy C-12 Use of Department Facilities and Equipment as read by the Chief. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rickert. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gates read the following statement: At a recent meeting of the South King Fire & Rescue Board of Commissioners, the Fire District Facilities Use Guideline as it applied to firearms was questioned by a fire commissioner and subsequently by members of the public. Since that meeting South King Fire & Rescue has reviewed its long standing guideline of prohibiting firearms in fire stations, or apparatus, or fire department property.

South King Fire & Rescue's paramount concern is the safety of our employees, public officials, and members of the public. To that end, we have for many years maintained a policy prohibiting the possession of firearms on our property by employees or visitors. We feel our policy is a good one that promotes workplace safety. However, we have taken a very close look at our policy and the issue of firearms on our property. We have concluded that our current policy is legal, but have decided to defer to the policies of the City of Federal Way and the City of Des Moines. We have revised our policy accordingly, but will monitor whether the revised policies, as applied over time, adequately protect the safety of our employees, public officials, and members of the public. If not, we will revisit the issue in the future and revise our policy accordingly.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Gates reported that we have received three (3) public sign-up sheets for individuals that would like to make comments.

Jim from Des Moines commented that basically now, he just wanted to say thanks for redoing the policy and correcting it. He added that he is a Vietnam Vet; he has gone to war for this Country, etc and etc. and he believes it is his right and always has been his right to protect himself at all times. He is in the end stages of heart disease and he believes it is his right that anywhere he goes to protect himself for what time he has left. It is the principal of the thing, that if he wants to bring his grandson to a fire station, he believes it is his right to protect himself and his family anywhere he goes for safety. He appreciated us reviewing the policy and making the changes, as State preemption dictates.

Nick from Federal Way expressed his appreciation for reviewing the policy and correcting it to be more in line with State preemption. Firearms are obviously a passion of ours and make sure cities and municipalities follow state law, we all want to follow the law. He has a couple of daughters that attend Decatur High School and he doesn't want to have to be unarmed and unable to protect them if they are to tour a firehouse or any other public building. He showed a picture of him, Jim and the Attorney General at the last downtown open carry with Seattle Police right there and there were no hassles the picture sums it up. He will give the picture to Secretary.

Jerry Galland commented that he appreciates and he likes the new format for the agenda, the public has no input at all, they are here to listen to what you have to say. Once again you put it down where you allow the public to come in but you really don't want to hear from us.

Meeting adjourned at 1808 hours.

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CHAIR/COMMISSIONER VICE CHAIR/COMMISSIONER

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COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER

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COMMISSIONER

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BOARD SECRETARY

SOUTH KING FIRE & RESCUE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER