

MINUTES

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 22, 2026
6:00 P.M.

Regional Fire Operations and Training Center
Board Room
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors was called to order on January 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

INVOCATION: Chaplain Emily McColl offered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Director Munzing led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Clerk of the Authority Maria D. Huizar provided the roll call.

Present:

Phil Bacerra, Santa Ana, Chair
David Burke, Cypress
Sergio Farias, San Juan Capistrano
Robert Frackelton, Villa Park
Shari L. Horne, Laguna Woods
Lisa Landau, Seal Beach
Mike Munzing, Aliso Viejo
Nitesh Patel, La Palma
Dave Shawver, Stanton
Mark Tettemer, Lake Forest
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange

George Brietigam III, Garden Grove
Victor Cabral, San Clemente
Betty Franco Martinez, Irvine
Shelley Hasselbrink, Los Alamitos
Kelly Jennings, Laguna Niguel
Austin Lombard, Tustin
Bradley McGirr, Rancho Santa Margarita
Bob Ruesch, Mission Viejo
Joshua Sweeney, Laguna Hills
Connor Traut, Buena Park

Absent:

Chi Charlie Nguyen, Westminster
Mike Frost, Dana Point

Janet Nguyen, County of Orange
Tara Campbell, Yorba Linda

Also present were:

Acting Fire Chief TJ McGovern
Assistant Chief Baryic Hunter
Assistant Chief Sara Kennedy
Assistant Chief Matt Olson
Assistant Chief Stephanie Holloman
General Counsel David Kendig

Deputy Chief Robert C. Cortez
Assistant Chief Jim Ruane
Assistant Chief Rob Capobianco
Assistant Chief Mike Summers
Clerk of the Authority Maria D. Huizar

Director Shawver arrived 6:04 p.m.

REPORTS

A. Report from the Budget and Finance Committee

Budget and Finance Committee Chair Lombard reported at its January 14, 2026, meeting, the Committee reviewed and approved the following reports to be forwarded to the Board of Directors for approval of the recommended actions: Annual Grant Priorities for 2026; FY 2024 Grant for Urban Area Security Initiative; and FY 2025/2026 Mid-Year Financial Report.

B. Report from the Acting Fire Chief

Acting Fire Chief McGovern welcomed newly appointed Directors Lisa Landau, Seal Beach, and Sergio Farias, San Juan Capistrano. He provided an update to the Operations report highlighting the response time of 8 minutes 26 seconds occurring 90 percent of the time. An accomplishment which overreaches a recommendation by Citygate's ultimate benchmark. He reported on off-duty firefighter John Rowlands response to a cardiac incident saving a life with assistance from Fire Station 59. He introduced Sara Kennedy, newly appointed Assistant Chief of Business Services, Assistant Chief Mike Summers of EMS/Training, and both promoted Division Chiefs Ryan Bishop to Division 5, and Mike Morgenstern to Division 4. Lastly, 7-year K9 employee Freedom was awarded a certificate of recognition for his valiant work with OCFA's investigations team. Acting Chief McGovern thanked the employees, Local 3631 and especially the Board of Directors for their support throughout the years.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brad Stephens, President of the Orange County Fire Authority Managers Association, introduced himself to the Board of Directors and as the newly elected President for the Managers Association, he summarized the various roles the managers he represents serve in OCFA.

1. PRESENTATIONS

A. Oath of Office for newly appointed Director:

Clerk of the Authority Maria Huizar administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Directors Sergio Farias, City of San Juan Capistrano, and Lisa Landau, City of Seal Beach.

B. Recognition of outgoing Director:

Chair Bacerra and Acting Fire Chief McGovern presented a recognition to former Director Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach, and Director Troy Bourne, San Juan Capistrano, (unable to attend), acknowledged for their service on the Board of Directors from their respective cities.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Director Frackelton and second by Director Hasselbrink, approved Agenda Item Nos. 2A – 2F (Directors C. Nguyen, Frost, J. Nguyen and Tara Campbell absent, with an abstention from Director Farias).

A. Minutes for the Board of Directors Meeting

The record will show that any Director not in attendance at the meeting of the Minutes will be registered as an abstention, unless otherwise indicated.

Action: Approve the Minutes for the November 20, 2025, Regular Meeting as submitted.

B. Annual Grant Priorities for 2026

Action: Approve OCFA's Annual Grant Priorities for 2026.

C. FY 2025/2026 Mid-Year Financial Report

Action: Review and direct staff to return to the Board of Directors on March 26, 2026, for approval of the budget adjustments discussed herein for the FY 2025/26 budget.

D. Proclamation for National Burn Awareness Week

Action: Approve proclamation designating February 1-7, 2026 as Burn Awareness Week.

E. FY 2024 Grant for Urban Area Security Initiative

Action: Approve a Budget Adjustment in Fund 121 to increase revenue and expenditures by \$629,920.

F. Approval of Acceptance of City of Irvine Purchase Offer for Temporary Construction Easement

Action: Approve and authorize acceptance of the City of Irvine's offer to purchase a Temporary Construction Easement at fire station 28.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Director Traut expressed heartfelt appreciation to Director Kalmick for his service to the Board. He noted Director Kalmick's prior experience as a firefighter and the valuable insight he brought from the beginning of his tenure. Director Traut commended his leadership and active participation on numerous committees, emphasizing his dedication and strong work ethic. He further stated that Director Kalmick's contributions extended beyond the City of Seal Beach and that he would be greatly missed.

Director Horne expressed appreciation for Local 3631 and its efforts to improve working conditions and advocate for members' rights, including matters related to pay, safety, and proactively addressing concerns before they escalate. She also commented on matters involving the Quick Reaction Force and efforts to schedule a special meeting that did not occur due to lack of a quorum, characterizing the outcome as unfortunate.

Director Jennings echoed prior remarks regarding Director Kalmick's leadership and commitment to the OCFA Board of Directors. She also thanked Chair Bacerra for his leadership over the past year and congratulated staff members on their recent promotions.

Director McGirr spoke about Director Kalmick's kindness and depth of involvement, recognizing the many contributions he made to the Board of Directors and the OCFA.

Director Frackelton reflected on Director Kalmick's leadership and the value he provided to the Board. He also requested that teleconferencing options for Board Members be considered and agendaized for discussion at the February Board meeting.

General Counsel Kendig advised that pursuant to the Rules of Procedure, requests made during Board Member Comments will be agendaized at the following meeting for direction by a majority of the Board.

Director Brietigam stated that he had anticipated Director Kalmick serving as Chair of the Board and noted that his absence from the December special meeting was due to a family illness.

Director Tettermer thanked former Director Kalmick for his service and requested that the Standards of Coverage for the Air Operations program be considered for placement on the February Board of Directors agenda.

Director Sweeney recognized former Director Kalmick for his many years of service, including as a Fire Reservist, and described him as consistently supportive of firefighters and a person of integrity and strong character. He stated that Director Kalmick's legacy is preserved through the respect he earned from the Board. Director Sweeney also acknowledged Chair Bacerra's leadership, expressing appreciation for his service as Board Chair over the past year.

Director Shawver stated that it had been a true pleasure to work with Chair Bacerra and Director Kalmick. He noted Director Kalmick's genuine care for both the people and the organization of

OCFA and thanked him for the opportunity to serve together. He also expressed appreciation for Chair Bacerra's service during the past year.

3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Bacerra recited the process of the Election of Chair and Vice Chair.

Approved by consensus, Chair Bacerra opened the nominations for Chair of the Board. He proceeded to nominate Director Sweeney for Chair; seconded by Director Patel.

There were no other nominations.

Director Sweeney accepted the nomination.

Chair Bacerra closed the nomination period, and requested the Board to vote. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Bacerra opened the nomination for Vice Chair.

Director Sweeney nominated Director Patel, seconded by Director Shawver.

There were no other nominations. Director Patel accepted the nomination. Chair Bacerra closed the nomination period, and requested the Board to vote. The vote was unanimous.

Chair Bacerra turned the meeting over to newly appointed Chair Sweeney.

Chair Sweeney thanked former Chair Bacerra for his service. He spoke of his goals; to continue to support the firefighters, strength and readiness, and maintain the fiscal discipline.

Chair Sweeney asked former Chair Bacerra and Acting Chief McGovern to the podium to recognize Chair Bacerra for his exceptional leadership as Chair in 2025. He addressed the Chair's accomplishments, committees he served on, and various achievements through his leadership. Acting Fire Chief McGovern shared the appreciation and support of the past Chair and thanked him for his leadership over the course of 2025.

Chris Hamm, President of Orange County firefighters Local 3631, thanked Chair Bacerra on behalf of Local 3631 for his leadership and support through 2025.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION (6:53 p.m.)

CS1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION pursuant to paragraph (2) and (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code: Two (2) Cases

CS2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT/EMPLOYMENT, pursuant to Section 54957(b)(1) of the Government Code: Title: Fire Chief / Interim

CS3. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR pursuant to section 54957.6 of the Government Code:
Chief Negotiators: Board Chair Bacerra, Board Vice Chair Kalmick, Budget and Finance Committee Chair Lumbard, and Immediate Past Board Chair Shawver
Position: Interim Fire Chief

CS4. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS pursuant to section 54957.6 of the Government Code:
Negotiators: Peter Brown, Liebert Cassidy, Stephanie Holloman, Assistant Chief/Human Resources Director; and Robert C. Cortez, Deputy Chief/ Administration & Support Bureau
Employee Organizations: 1. Orange County Professional Firefighters Association, IAFF - Local 3631
2. Chief Officers Association (COA)


RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION 8:40 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT

General Counsel Kendig reported the following Board of Directors: Brietigam, McGirr, Cabral, Franco Martinez, Frackelton, Burke, Sweeney, Wagner, Lumbard, Landau, Patel, Hasselbrink, Jennings, Farias, Ruesch, Tettermer, Traut, Horne, Munzing and Bacerra voted unanimously (Directors Shawver, J. Nguyen, C. Nguyen, Campbell and Frost absent), to appoint Acting Fire Chief TJ McGovern to be the Interim Fire Chief of the Orange County Fire Authority. He noted otherwise there was no reportable action.

Interim Fire Chief McGovern thanked the Board for their support.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Sweeney adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Orange County Fire Authority Board of Directors will be on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.



Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority