



# San Francisco Fire Chiefs' Association

<b>President</b>	Matthew Schwartz
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Marc Kasper
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June 17, 2022

Budget and Appropriations Committee  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: File #220679, Administrative Code – Deputy Fire Chiefs

Dear Committee,

The Executive Board and Members of the San Francisco Fire Chiefs' Association oppose File #220679, Administrative Code – Deputy Fire Chiefs as it is currently proposed.

We feel the addition of a Deputy Chief of Emergency Medical Services or Community Paramedicine will improve the command structure of the San Francisco Fire Department, however, the language as it is written is vague and does not allow a merger of equals. As it is written, this allows the appointing officer to appoint whomever she or he pleases and not from the current command ranks of H-40, Battalion Chief, and H-50 Assistant Chief. Any appointment from outside of these ranks to Deputy Chief is also a violation of past practices.

Rules and Regulations of the Department clearly delineate responsibilities and roles of the Deputy Chief of Operations and Deputy Chief of Administration. Specifically, Articles 502 Absence of the Chief of Department, 503 Policies and Practices, 602 Assumption of Command and 603 Policies and Practices. Any Deputy who is not cross trained as a Firefighter/EMT would be unable to meet the standards as set forth in the Department's Rules and Regulations. Currently, the Department has numerous qualified members from both the H-40 and H-50 ranks who are cross-trained as Firefighter/EMTs and Firefighter/Paramedics who could fulfill this role.

To truly have a merger of equals and have a qualified Deputy Chief who could serve in a Command role should we have to forego normal operations, we, The Executive Board propose the following addendum to File #220679, Administrative Code – Deputy Fire Chiefs "the Chief of the Fire Department to appoint three Deputy Chiefs" to File #220679, Administrative Code – Deputy Fire Chiefs.

While we commend the Administration and City's efforts to improve our Command Staff and Department structure, the language as it is written would violate past practice, does not allow a merger of equals and is not in the best interest of the City and County of San Francisco.

In solidarity,

The Executive Board of the San Francisco Fire Chiefs' Association, Matthew Schwartz, Michael Thompson, Marc Kasper and Patrick Rabbitt