



**SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

To: Linda Wong, Clerk, Budget and Finance Committee, Board of Supervisors  
From: Mark Corso, Deputy Director, San Francisco Fire Department  
Date: February 1, 2021  
Re: Request for amendments to legislation for item #7 on February 3<sup>rd</sup> Agenda

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The San Francisco Fire Department is respectfully requesting a couple of amendments to legislation on the upcoming Budget and Finance Committee agenda on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. The item is number seven on the agenda (Accept and Expend Grant - Federal Emergency Management Agency - Hiring of New Firefighters - \$13,760,604) and is file number 201428.

The Fire Department requests two main changes to the legislation – changing the start date for the grant from March 10, 2021 to February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and making the approval retroactive.

As background, the Fire Department applied for and was awarded a FEMA grant in order to hire 36 new firefighters. This grant funding is replacing hiring funds that were eliminated as part of budget reductions during the budget process last year. The Department was notified of this grant approval in the Fall of 2020. As Fire began the planning/hiring process for these new members, given social distancing and other COVID-19 protocols during the pandemic, the Department realized that it would be unable to have one class of 36 new recruits, but rather needed it needed to reduce the size of the class in order to accommodate the current health and safety guidelines. As such, the Department discussed with FEMA whether it could stagger the hiring of these new members to accommodate these requirements, which was not a problem for the grant requirements. In addition, given the fact the Department was hiring less people in the academy class, the ramp-up to the academy was shorter and the Department could then start the class a little sooner. Starting the class sooner would allow the recruits to graduate in June and be available for field operations our busy summer months. This is also was not a problem per the FEMA guidelines, so the Department is working to formalize that change in the FEMA grant system.

The Department is requesting to move the start date up to February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, in the grant legislation to correspond to the beginning of the recruit class, modifying the previous start date of March 10<sup>th</sup>. If approved, the Department is requesting to add retroactive to the language as well, as full approval would occur after the February 8<sup>th</sup> date.

I have attached the legislation with the proposed revisions that has been reviewed by our Deputy City Attorney. I will be present at the meeting on Wednesday to answer any questions about the proposed changes.

Please let me know if there are any questions or if any additional information is required in advance. All supporting documentation is attached. I may be reached at 415-558-3417 or at [mark.corso@sfgov.org](mailto:mark.corso@sfgov.org). Thank you for your consideration.