



New Mexico Fire Service Council



P.O. Box 27111, 13 Bataan Blvd., Santa Fe, NM 87508

Members of the council represent the following organizations:

- Metro Fire Chiefs Association
- New Mexico Fire Marshals Association
- New Mexico EMT Association
- Fire and Emergency Managers Affiliate of NM Counties
- New Mexico Fire Chiefs Association
- New Mexico Professional Fire Fighters Association
- New Mexico State Fire Fighters Association
- NM Governor's Office
- NM Senate
- NM House of Representatives

Meeting Minutes

August 12th, 2025

10am

Location: State Fire Marshals ABQ Office, Oso Grande Building, 725 6th street NW Albuquerque, NM 87102

I.	<p>Meeting Called to order at 10:05 by Chair Greg Perez.</p> <p>Roll Call:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greg Perez, Council Chair—Metro Fire Chiefs Association - Present 2. Eloy Vasquez (stand-in for M. Lambert)– NM Fire Marshals Association – Present via Zoom 3. Jaime Gonzales – Fire & Emergency Managers Affiliate of NM Counties - Present 4. Tomi DeSoto – NM EMT Association - Present 5. Kevin Hope – NM Fire Chiefs Association – Present via Zoom 6. Bert Quintana – NM Professional Fire Fighters Association - Absent 7. John Standefer – NM State Firefighters Association - Present 8. David Vega – Governor’s Appointee – Present via Zoom 9. Carla Williams – Senate Appointee - Absent 10. Ramon Vilorio—House of Representative Appointee – Present via Zoom
II.	<p>Approval of agenda for August 12th, 2025 <i>(emailed prior to meeting)</i></p> <p>A motion to approve the agenda for August 12th, 2025, meeting was made by Councilor John Standefer and a second by Councilor Jaime Gonzales. All members voted in favor of approval of the agenda. Agenda passed.</p>
III.	<p>Approval of minutes from January 7th, 2025 <i>(emailed prior to meeting)</i></p> <p>A motion to approve the minutes from January 7th, 2025, meeting was made by Councilor Jaime Gonzales and a second by Councilor Tomi DeSoto. All members voted in favor of approval of the minutes. Minutes passed.</p>
IV.	<p>Public Comments <i>(Limited to 3 minutes per speaker, sign up with the secretary prior to start of meeting)</i></p> <p>No Public Comments</p>
V.	<p>Old Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update on Proposed Rule Making Process proposed to the State Fire Marshal on Policies and Procedures for Complaints, Hearings, and Line of Duty Deaths – SFMO Randy Varela <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Deputy Fire Marshal Anthony Leyba stated after review of the policies, a few minor wording changes were proposed for the rules. Chair Greg Perez stated he met in Santa Fe with the Fire Marshal, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Deputy Fire Marshal, and Legal Council to review the policies last Wednesday, August 6th. Fire Marshal Varela stated after the council approves the changes, the policies are to be sent to the AG’s office for further review before final approval. b. Complaints document changes were reviewed. Councilor Jaime Gonzales made a motion to extend the time to review the document and vote via email by this Friday with a second by Councilor John Standefer. Roll call vote of all councilors present were in the affirmative. Motion passed. c. Appeal document changes were reviewed. Requested to change term “calendar days” to “business days” in all documents for consistency. Councilor John Standefer made a motion to approve the appeals document with changes and second by Chair Perez. Roll call vote of all councilors present were in the affirmative. Motion passed.



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	<p>d. Line of Duty Death document changes were reviewed. Chair Perez made a motion to extend the time to review the document and vote via email by this Friday with a second by Councilor Tomi DeSoto. Roll call vote of all councilors present were in the affirmative. Motion passed.</p> <p>2. Discussion – website update – Councilor Gonzales and Councilor Lambert</p> <p>a. Councilor Gonzales stated she will schedule a discussion with Fire Marshal Varela.</p>
<p>VI.</p>	<p>New Business</p> <p>1. Baby Box Program Presentation – Chief John Wickerson, Espanola Fire Dept.</p> <p>a. Chief Wickerson stated the Safe Haven Baby Box Program came to New Mexico in 2022 with the first box installed in Espanola. Stated currently 22 boxes are installed at fire departments across the state with 2 more that will be installed by the end of the month. Chief Wickerson stated three babies have been saved since 2022 due to the Safe Haven Baby Box program. Stated when a baby is surrendered, CYFD is required to investigate. Chief Wickerson is part of a group that is working to change legislation that will protect the mothers that surrender their child. Chief Wickerson asked the council for support for the change in legislation. Stated there have been 63 box surrenders and 153 handoffs nationwide since the Saven Haven Baby Box program was started.</p> <p>2. Status of council members and replacements; Expectations of members – Chair Perez</p> <p>a. Chair Perez stated he sent out an email asking council members if they will be continuing on the council. Chair Perez stated he would like to have council members have an alternate when they are unable to attend meetings. Fire Marshal Varela stated he will verify with legal if council members are allowed to have an alternate.</p> <p>3. Admin Code updates – SFMO Randy Varela</p> <p>a. Deputy Fire Marshal Leyba stated Admin Code 10.25.10 is being updated. DF Leyba stated areas that reference Public Regulations Commission will be changed to the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. DF Leyba stated Insurance Services Office will be changed to VERISK. Definition of Fire Admin buildings is updated to reflect the office must have a different physical address from the fire department and will be funded as a main station. DF Leyba stated reporting has changed from NFIRS to NERIS. DF Leyba stated minimum water source has changed from 30,000 gallons to 40,000 gallons with 250 GPM pump, six-inch piping, and a fire hydrant. DF Leyba stated fire apparatuses are required to be housed in a heated building to protect from the elements. DF Leyba stated skill task books replaced position task books throughout the document and to assist in making sure training hours are met. DF Leyba also state it will be changed that approval of purchase for emergency medical supplies will be needed. DF Leyba stated fire protection funds may be used for minor hydrant maintenance and testing. DF Leyba stated another addition is requiring departments to utilize an electronic records system to record fire department records such as trainings, meetings, and calls for service. DF Leyba also stated the equipment inventory list cost of a single item that must be recorded has moved from \$250 to \$1500.</p> <p>4. SFMO Yearly report and Updates – SFMO Randy Varela</p> <p>a. Fire Marshal Randy Varela stated an annual update will be emailed statewide. FM Varela stated NM is 100% enrolled with NERIS and stated the fire fund for FY26 has increased. FM Varela stated they have \$5 million dollars to redo the student staging building at the Fire Academy and to update the propane props. FM Varela stated they received \$35 million dollars for the fire academy in Santa Fe and stated the building will only be for the Fire Marshal’s Office and not shared with other state agencies. FM Varela stated they are looking at a completion date of March 2028.</p>
<p>VII</p>	<p>Announcements</p> <p>1. Council Member Announcements</p> <p>a. Councilor Gonzales – Fire Truck Pull September 20th in Valencia County</p> <p>b. Councilor DeSoto – NM Fire and EMS Expo October 8th thru 12th</p> <p>c. DF Leyba stated they will be sending out a survey in regard to the memorial on the artwork and design.</p>



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VII	<p>Adjourn -</p> <p>1. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilor Tomi DeSoto and a second was made by Councilor Jaime Gonzales. All members voted in favor of adjournment. Meeting adjourned by Chair Greg Perez at 11:57 hrs.</p> <p>2. Next meeting TBA.</p>
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Prepared by Councilor T. DeSoto

Minutes Approval

Minutes Approved on _____
Date

NM FSC Chair Signature

NM FSC Secretary Signature