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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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Department of Fire Services

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STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

December 18, 2014

Perry Jameson, Publisher
Quincy Quarry
675 VFW Parkway, #165
West Roxbury, MA 02467

Re: Public Records Request
Incident Date: September 30, 2014
Location: 1305 Hancock Street, Quincy, Massachusetts
Our Case No.: 2014-117-1192 (Trooper Berteletti - FIU)

Dear Mr. Jameson:

Pursuant to your public records request dated September 30, 2014, enclosed please find all documents responsive to your request that are in the possession of the Massachusetts State Police, Fire, and Explosion Investigation Unit, a division of the Department of Fire Services. Photos taken at the scene of this fire can be obtained by contacting the Massachusetts State Police, Crime Scene Services Unit, (Administrative Assistant, Tracey Smith), directly at (978) 318-1850.

Please note that certain information regarding personal injury, dates of birth, social security numbers, phone numbers etc., which relate to a specifically named individual, the disclosure of which may constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, has been redacted pursuant to M.G.L. c. 4, § 7, cl. 26(c). If you wish to challenge this response to your public records request, you may appeal to the Supervisor of Public Records, following the procedure set out in 950 CMR 32.08.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (978) 567-3181.

Very truly yours,

Steven P. Rourke, General Counsel

SPR/ml
Enclosures

Administrative Services • Division of Fire Safety
Hazardous Materials Response • Massachusetts Firefighting Academy



Massachusetts State Police
ACISS Case Master Report 2014-117-1192

Date Initiated 09/30/2014

Primary Information

Agency: **Massachusetts State Police**
Bureau: **Division of Investigative Services**
Division: **Investigative Services 1**
Unit: **Fire & Explosion Investigation**
Squad: **Fire Investigation Southeast Team**
Lead LEO: **Berteletti, Thomas (msp2708 / Fire Investigation Southeast Team / Massachusetts State Police)**
Backup LEO: **Fagan, Michael (msp2857 / Fire Investigation Southeast Team / Massachusetts State Police)**
Type Of Case: **Fire Investigation**
Case Sub Type: **Assit MA FD**
Case Description: **Fire Investigation-1305 Hancock Street, Quincy**
Case Priority: **Medium**

Authorized Operators

Name
Fagan, Michael (msp2857 / Fire Investigation Southeast Team / Massachusetts State Police)

Case Status

Case Status: **CLOSED**
Case Status Date: **12/03/2014**
Disposition Code: **UNSOLVED**
Disposition Date: **12/03/2014**
Dissemination: **Chain of Command**



Massachusetts State Police

ACISS FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT 2014-117-1192

Report Date: 09/30/2014

Primary Information

Occurrence From: 09/30/2014 03:15
Occurrence To: 09/30/2014 07:30
Reporting LEO: Berteletti, Thomas (msp2708 / Fire Investigation Southeast Team / Massachusetts State Police)
Backup LEO: Fagan, Michael (msp2857 / Fire Investigation Southeast Team / Massachusetts State Police)
Approval Status: Approved
Approved Date: 12/02/2014
Approved By: Peters, Michael (msp2253 / Fire Investigation Southeast Team / Massachusetts State Police)
Discovered/Reported: Civilian
Reason: Assit to Other Agency
Requester: Quincy Fire Department
Cause Of Fire: Incendiary
Injuries/Fatalities: None

Response Information

Time Call Received: 09/30/2014 01:00
Time Dispatched: 09/30/2014 03:15
Time Arrived: 09/30/2014 03:45
Time Completed: 09/30/2014 06:45
Arrival On Call: YES
Smoke Detectors: NO

Property Information

Property Description: 1305 Hancock Street
Property Use: Government
Mobile: NO
Single/Multi Story: Multi-Story

Physical Evidence Information

Photo: YES
Photo Other Agency: MSP Crime Scene

Fire Origin Information

Area/Origin	Description
Interior	first floor BC corner room

Subject #1 - INTERVIEWEE #1 - Southwick, Scott

Primary Information

Race: WHITE
Record Type: PERSON



Massachusetts State Police

ACISS FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT 2014-117-1192

Report Date: 09/30/2014

Subject #1 - INTERVIEWEE #1

Primary Information - Continued

Subject Name:

Sex:

Birth Date:

Age:

Juvenile:

Record Status Information

Record Origination Operator: Berteletti, Thomas (msp2708 / Fire Investigation Southeast Team / Massachusetts State Police)
Record Origination Date: 09/30/2014 11:33
Last Update Operator: Peters, Michael (msp2253 / Fire Investigation Southeast Team / Massachusetts State Police)
Last Update Date: 12/02/2014 13:58

Reporting LEO	Date	Supervisor	Date
Berteletti, Thomas (msp2708 / Fire Investigation Southeast Team / Massachusetts State Police)		Peters, Michael (msp2253 / Fire Investigation Southeast Team / Massachusetts State Police)	12/9/2014

Narrative begins on the following page.

I. INTRODUCTION:

1. On Tuesday, September 30, 2014, at approximately 1:00 AM, the City of Quincy Fire Department (QFD) received a report of a fire at 1305 Hancock Street in Quincy. This building is commonly known as the Old City Hall and is located in front of the Quincy City Hall. The report was received by phone from an unidentified caller. An alarm was struck and a working fire response was dispatched. QFD Chief Joseph Barron assumed command upon arrival and throughout the incident. The weather at the time of the fire was overcast with temperatures in the 50's.

2. The site of the alarm was a City of Quincy municipal building that was under renovation. For the purpose of this report, the A side of the building will be the side that faces Hancock Street. Arriving fire personnel discovered smoke venting from a B side window for the first floor. This window was located by the BC corner of the building. Fire personnel forced entry into the structure through the A side entry door and discovered fire in a room on the first floor by the BC corner. Suppression operations were immediately begun and the fire was quickly extinguished. The fire did not extend to any additional properties. There were no known injuries related to this incident.

3. On Tuesday, September 30, 2014, at approximately 3:15 AM, Trooper Thomas Berteletti of the Massachusetts State Police (MSP) Fire and Explosion Investigation Section (F&EIS) was advised of the incident and a response was requested. Tpr. Berteletti arrived on scene at approximately 3:45 AM and met with Chief Barron, QFD Lt. Gerry Ceurvels, Quincy Police Department (QPD) Det. Sgt. Rich Gilmore, QPD Det. Tom Pepdjonovic and QPD Det. David Pasino. MSP F&EIS Tpr. Michael Fagan with AK-9 Damian joined the investigation at a later time. The scene was photographed by MSP Crime Scene Services Section (CSSS)- Boston, Tpr. Sidney Chambers. An investigation into the origin and cause of this incident was initiated at approximately 4:00 AM. As a result of this investigation, the cause was ruled incendiary. No possible suspect has been identified at this time. This case will be closed at this time pending any additional discoveries.

II. FINDINGS:

A. BUILDING INFORMATION:

1. The site of the fire was a three-story steel and masonry framed building. The exterior walls were masonry with a gable style roof. There was additional steel framing that was recently added to the C side of the building. The new steel frame was not secure and allowed access to the interior of the main building. This building was being renovated for use by the City government.

2. The building was being renovated by Nauset Construction Corporation of Needham Heights. The construction foreman was identified as Scott Southwick. Southwick was at the property, at the time of the scene examination. Southwick was interviewed at the property at the time of the scene examination.

3. The specific room of origin was in the process of being renovated prior to the fire and it was also being used for storage of construction supplies and tools.

4. QPD Det. Pasino advised Tpr. Berteletti that on Monday morning, September 29, 2014, there was a report of a theft from the building over the weekend. It was reported that copper pipe had been stolen at some time over the weekend.

B. VICTIM INFORMATION:

1. There were no known injuries related to this incident.

C. WITNESS STATEMENTS:

1. QPD Detectives interviewed party that was located sleeping in the cemetery next to the building. The party was transported to the hospital for evaluation. He stated that he did not see anyone in the area of the building on morning of the fire. Please see QPD's report regarding this party.

2. Scott Southwick of Nauset Construction Corporation was identified as the foreman for the project at this property. He was interviewed at the property at the time of the scene examination. Southwick stated that the room of origin was being used for storage of construction supplies and tools. Southwick was escorted into the building to visually inspect for any possible missing property. He noticed that the oxy-acetylene torch and twin line hose were left wrapped around the oxy-acetylene cart at the end of the day on Monday. The cart was located in the steel framed addition to the C side of the Old City Hall building. Southwick noticed that the twin line hose was dangling into the basement through a hole in the floor by the C side entrance to the effected building. Southwick believed that someone must have moved the torch and hose. Southwick suspected that who ever moved the hose and torch must have started the fire.

3. First arriving fire personnel discovered heavy fire located in the first floor, BC corner room and extending into the second floor. Fire personnel immediately began suppression operations. The fire was quickly extinguished.

D. FIRE SCENE EXAMINATION:

1. On Tuesday, September 30, 2014, at approximately 4:00 AM, an examination of the fire scene was conducted by Lt. Ceurvels and Tpr. Berteletti. Tpr. Fagan with AK-9 Damian joined the investigation shortly after. The scene was photographed by Tpr. Chambers. Entry into the building was made while fire personnel continued overhaul operations. The scene examination concluded at approximately 6:15 AM.

2. External examination of the fire site was conducted beginning on the A side and moving clockwise around the building. Damage was observed on the B side in the area of the window for the first floor BC corner room. This damage consisted of soot deposits and discoloration of the masonry exterior wall around and above the window. There was additional damage observed in the C side area of the building where the new steel frame was constructed. This damage consisted of the melting of plastic sheeting used to enclose the area.

3. Internal examination was conducted beginning in areas of least damage toward areas of heaviest damage. The lowest and most substantial damage was located in the first floor BC corner room, specifically at the C side wall of the room. Investigators delayered the debris in the room and located

the torch head for the oxy-acetylene system. Fragments of the twin line hose were also located in the debris. Additional fragments of the twin line hose were located outside the room of origin leading back to where the hose dangled down into the basement.

4. Tpr. Fagan worked the scene with AK-9 Damian. AK-9 Damian alerted to an area and the substance was identified as "liquid nail". The substance was stored in bulk in the room and known to contain chemicals that AK-9 Damian would alert to. A sample of the substance was not secured. AK-9 Damian did not alert to the presence of any other ignitable liquids.

5. It was later determined that a plastic tool storage container was located in the suspected area of origin. It was also determined that the tool storage container had locks affixed to the exterior. Investigators formed the opinion that the most probable cause of the fire was the result of an unidentified party attempting to defeat the locks on the tool storage container by using the oxy-acetylene torch and igniting combustible material.

6. QPD personnel secured items from the fire scene for fingerprint analysis. Please see QPD's report regarding this evidence.

E. SAMPLES AND ANALYSIS:

1. No samples were removed from the fire scene for lab analysis.

F. SECURITY:

1. The building was not equipped with any entry alarm system at the time of the fire. The building was not completely secure due to the on going construction and there was open access through the C side of the building.

G. FIRE PROTECTION:

1. The structure was equipped with a temporary fire alarm system but the system did not operate properly.

III. CONCLUSIONS:

1. Based upon the information developed through the investigation. It is this officer's opinion, that the origin of this fire was in the first floor BC corner room by the C side wall. It is further concluded that the cause of this fire was incendiary in nature. At the time of this report, no possible suspect has been identified.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. This officer respectfully recommends that this case:
Be closed at this time pending any further discoveries.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas M. Berteletti #2708
Mass. State Police, Trooper
Fire Marshal's Office