



City of Cambridge Police Department

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RECEIVED
97 JUN 12 AM 10:01
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Ronnie Watson
Police Commissioner

June 11, 1997

Harold F. Murphy
Superintendent

David J. Degou
Superintendent

Michael D. Giacoppo
Deputy Superintendent

Yvonne M. Hall
Deputy Superintendent

Thomas F. O'Connor
Deputy Superintendent

Gloria A. Pimentel
Deputy Superintendent

Lt. Steven Williams
Community Relations

Mr. Raymond Santilli
Planning, Budget
& Personnel

Officer Frank Pasquarello
Public Information Officer

Mr. Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Subject: City Council Order # 74, dated 6/2/97

Sir:

Enclosed are the Police and Fire Departments' reports on the recent fire at the Police Station. It was determined that the fire began in an outside window well with the careless disposal of a cigarette by a passerby. The debris in the window well caught fire and, since the window was open, some internal damage occurred.

Custodial staff have cleaned out and will continue to clean the window wells on a monthly basis. Basement windows will remain closed. Deputy Superintendent Gloria Pimentel will be responsible for monthly inspections of these conditions.

Ronnie Watson
Police Commissioner

RW:smc

enclosures

cc: Superintendent Harold Murphy, Operations Division
Superintendent David Degou, Support Services Division



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Commissioner Ronnie Watson

DATE: May 29, 1997

FROM: Deputy Superintendent Gloria Pimentel
Administration Section

Dep Supt Gloria Pimentel

SUBJECT: Station Fire Ref: #35
Sir:

Pursuant to your directive, the following is the listing of damages which were incurred during the fire in the basement of the building on May 23, 1997:

Room B-8

1. solid core door 41 x 83 inch
2. door lock broken

Room B-10

1. 31 x 42 window glass destroyed
1. insulation along wall destroyed

Room B-11

1. 35 x 83 inch solid core door
2. lock smashed
3. (2) windows 31x42 inches smashed

Repairs will be done by Public Works. Tentative arrangements have been made with Robert Simard of Public Works. Fire extinguishers which were used by police officers to quell fire have been refilled.

Included please find a report from the Fire Department relative to the cause of the fire. Fire Department personnel determined that fire began in window well with careless disposal of cigarette. Custodial staff has been told to clean out these areas, at least once a month. Inspections of this area will be conducted by Administration Section on monthly basis to assure compliance.

Further follow-up will be conducted.



MASSACHUSETTS FIRE INCIDENT REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
1010 Commonwealth Avenue

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Boston, Massachusetts 02215



FDID# 17049		Department Cambridge		Revised Report		FORM FP-32									
Incident # 11692		DATE 05/23/97		Day Of Week 1 Sun 2 Mon 3 Tue 4 Wed 5 Thu 6 Fri 7 Sat		Alarm Time 1532		Arrival Time 1534		Back in Service 1612					
SITUATION FOUND		11 Structure fire 13 Vehicle fire 14 Brush, grass, leaves 15 Trash, rubbish 16 Explosion, No after fire		17 Outside spill with fire 18 Other fires not classified 47 Chemical spill 44 Power line down 45 Arcing electric equipment		SEE MANUAL FOR OTHER CALLS 11		ACTION TAKEN		1 Extinguishment 2 Rescue or Assistance 3 Investigation only 4 Remove Hazard		5 Stand by 6 Salvage 7 Ambulance 8 Fill in, Move up		MUTUAL AID 1 Rec'd 2 Given N/A	
FIXED PROPERTY USE (Occupancy) POLICE STATION		IGNITION FACTOR		3415 ABANDONED CIGARETTE		311									
CORRECT ADDRESS (Up to maximum of 21 characters) 5 WESTERN AVE		ZIP CODE 02139		CENSUS TRACT											
11 OCCUPANT NAME (LAST, FIRST, MI) POLICE STATION		TELEPHONE		ROOM or APT.											
12 OWNER NAME (LAST, FIRST, MI) CITY OF CAMBRIDGE		ADDRESS 795 MASS AVE, CAMB		TELEPHONE 349-3378											
13 METHOD OF ALARM		CO. INSPECTION DISTRICT E6		NO. FIRE SERVICE PERSONNEL RESPONDED 23		NO. ENGINES RESPONDED 3		NO. AERIAL APPARATUS RESPONDED 2							
1 Telephone direct 2 Municipal alarm system 3 Private alarm system 4 Radio 5 Verbal 6 No alarm recd 7 Tie-line (911) 8 Voice signal municipal alarm signal 9 Not classified above 0 Undetermined or not reported		SHIFT 4		HAZARDOUS MATERIAL PRESENT? YES NO		NO. TANKERS RESPONDED 1		NO. OTHER VEHICLES RESPONDED 2							
		NO ALARMS 1		SUBSTANCE											
				Special Equipment Used?										USE FP 33 FOR ALL CASUALTIES	
20 FIRE SERVICE		NUMBER OF INJURIES		NUMBER OF FATALITIES		NUMBER OF INJURIES		NUMBER OF FATALITIES		RESCUES					
MOBILE PROPERTY TYPE		VEHICLE STOLEN? Yes No		ESTIMATED TOTAL DOLLAR LOSS \$400		Insurance Co.		Total Insurance \$		Claim Paid \$					
30 YEAR MAKE MODEL COLOR LICENSE NO. VIN#															
40 IF EQUIPMENT INVOLVED IN IGNITION		YEAR MAKE MODEL SERIAL NO.													
K COMPLEX JAIL		AREA OF ORIGIN ELECTRICAL		EQUIPMENT INVOLVED IN IGNITION		98									
L FORM OF HEAT IGNITION CIGARETTE		MATERIAL IGNITED RUBBISH		FORM TYPE		617									
M METHOD OF EXTINGUISHMENT 3		LEVEL OF FIRE ORIGIN 8		Number of Stories 3		CONSTRUCTION TYPE 1									
1 Self extinguished 2 Make shift aids 3 Portable extinguisher 4 Automatic ext. system 5 Pre-connect hose tank only 6 Pre-connect hose hydrant draft standpipe 7 Hand-laid hose hydrant draft standpipe 8 Master stream device		1 Grace level to 9 ft. 2 10 to 19 feet 3 20 to 29 feet 4 30 to 49 feet 5 50 to 79 feet 6 Over 70 feet 7 Objects in flight 8 Below ground level 9 Not classified above 0 Undetermined		1 1 story 2 2 story 3 3 to 4 stories 4 5 to 6 stories 5 7 to 12 stories 6 13 to 24 stories 7 25 to 49 stories 8 50 stories or more		1 Fire resistive 2 Heavy timber 3 Protected noncombustible 4 Unprotected noncombustible 5 Protected ordinary 6 Unprotected ordinary 7 Protected wood frame 8 Unprotected wood frame 9 Not classified above 0 Undetermined or not reported									
N EXTENT OF DAMAGE		Flame 5 Smoke 5		DETECTOR PERFORMANCE		SPRINKLER PERFORMANCE									
1 Confined to the object of origin 2 Confined to part of room or area of origin 3 Confined to room of origin 4 Confined to the fire-rated comp. of origin 5 Confined to floor of origin 6 Confined to structure of origin 7 Extended beyond structure of origin 9 No damage of this type (N/A)				1 Det. in room or space of fire origin — oper 2 Det. not in rm. or space of fire origin — oper 3 Det. in rm. or space of origin — no oper 4 Det. not in rm. or space of origin — no oper 5 Det. in rm. or space of fire origin but fire too small to oper 6 Not classified above 7 Undetermined or not reported 8 No detectors present (N/A)		1 Equipment operated 2 Equipment should have operated — did not 3 Equipment pre. but fire too small to oper 4 Not classified above 5 Undetermined or not reported 6 No equipment present (N/A)									
Q IF SMOKE SPREAD BEYOND ROOM OF ORIGIN		MATERIAL GENERATING MOST SMOKE		FORM TYPE											
R WEATHER CONDITIONS		AVENUE OF SMOKE TRAVEL		7 Utility opening in floor 8 Not classified above 9 Undetermined or not reported 0 No avenue of smoke travel (N/A)											
MEMBER MAKING REPORT		DATE 05/23/97		FIRE MARSHAL		FM 1 Yes 2 No									

ORIGINAL: FIRE DEPARTMENT

CARBON COPY: STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Box 3951. Response: E6, E2, E5, L3, L1, R1 & C2. Small rubbish fire extended from window well on Western outside to electric utility room on inside. Rubbish and insula covering burned on inside. Extinguishment effected via portable extinguishers (dry chemical & H₂O). CBS personnel used dry chemical ext. prior to FD arrival. FD personnel used H₂O ext to overhaul same. Smoke ejector remove smoke from basement area. Police Commissioner Watson, Comm Electric Yuetz, Souza, and Thomas Tascella, wiring inspector were all on scene. Police removed prisoner to outside temporarily. F.D.U. Inspector, Buchanan, on scene, and determined cause of fire.

Inch 11692 F.I.U. FIRE REPORT CODE NO. 11

BOX NO. 3951 STILL ALARM
COMPANY NO. E-6/2/5, L3/1, R1/2 DATE 5/23/97
STREET NO. 5 Western Ave TIME 1532 P.M.
CLASS OF BUILDING Ordinary HEIGHT 3 stns
HOW OCCUPIED Police Dept
OWNED BY City of Camb.

OCCUPIED BY

WHAT WAS BURNED TRASH in outside window revetmen
CAUSE OF FIRE Careless disposal
WHERE DID FIRE ORIGINATE - Fire originated in outside,
recessed window in trash pile. - window open
Approx 6" @ bottom - some extension to outside in
of Electrical Pipes. - NO ELECTRICAL FIRE EVIDENT.

INSPECTOR Buchanan



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Date: May 24, 1997 A.M.

Report by Off. Oswaldo Ortiz
Officer Badge #: 352

Subject: Fire at station

Assignment: BPU

Date and Time
of Occurrence: A.M.

Directed to: Sgt. Paul Sugrue

Action
Requested: _____

Sgt.,

Yesterday at 2:30pm. While at the station in the BPU office. I detected a strong burning odor and smoke coming from the room next door. I immediately radio to communication of smoke showing from the electrical room. I then ran to the first floor and pulled the fire box to evacuate the building. Running back to the basement I was met by Officer S. Ahern who had a battering ram in his possession and was waiting for the fire extinguishers to arrive. Officer Donofrio, T. Ahern, Lauzier and Sgt. Sugrue arrived with fire extinguishers. Officer S. Ahern struck the door to the electrical room and opened it. Officer Donofrio and T. Ahern attempted to enter the room but due to heavy black smoke they were not successful. At this time Cambridge fire arrived. Sgt. Sugrue then told myself and T. Ahern to check the bldg. For any occupants.

Respectfully Submitted

Oswaldo R. Ortiz
Officer Oswaldo Ortiz #352



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Date: May 24, 1997

9:30 A.M.

Report by **Officer Thomas R. Ahern**
Officer Badge #: **265**

Subject: **Fire at station**

Assignment: **BPU**

Date and Time

of Occurrence: **May 23, 1997**

2:30 P.M.

Directed to: **Sgt. Paul Sugrue**

Action
Requested:

Sgt.,

Yesterday at 2:30 PM, while at the intersection of River and Green I heard Officer Ortiz and Sgt. Jones call on the radio that there was smoke and flame showing at the station. I immediately pulled my cruiser to the corner of Green and Western and observed Sgt. Jones looking into the window well at the front of the station. I opened the trunk of the cruiser, retrieved the fire extinguisher and ran to where Sgt. Jones was standing. Arriving at the window I observed smoke and flame coming from the well. I activated the extinguisher and knocked down most of the flame but there was still some flame remaining that I could not reach from my position. Sgt. Jones and I then began to run into the station, entering the station we met Superintendent Murphy who stated to us that the fire was in the boiler or mechanics room. Running to the basement we joined with Officer Donofrio who was in possession of a large fire extinguisher. Arriving in the basement, I observed officers Ortiz, Lauzier, Stephen A. Ahern and Sgt. Paul Sugrue. Officer Stephen Ahern had a battering ram in his hands and was waiting for the extinguishers to arrive. Officer Ahern struck the door to the mechanics room twice and opened it. When the door opened, heavy black smoke began to roll from the room, causing those of us near the door to drop to our knees. Officer Donofrio and I attempted to enter the room but the heavy smoke made it impossible enter without protection. We then returned to the front of station where with both extinguishers we were able to extinguish all visible flame. At this time Cambridge fire units begun to arrive and take positions around the station. Sgt. Sugrue then told Officer Ortiz and myself to check the station to make sure all occupants were out of the building. Sgt. Sugrue checked the second floor while Officer Ortiz and I checked the third and fourth floors. During this time the fire alarm was sounding. I found no one on the 3rd floor but Officer Ortiz came down from the 4th floor with Mrs. Pat Winters. After this we exited the building and remained outside until the Fire Department called the building clear.

Respectfully Submitted,

Officer Thomas R. Ahern # 265

Officer Thomas R. Ahern # 265



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 349-4300
FAX 349-4307



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

June 16, 1997

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 21, regarding a report on the recent fire at the Police Station and the condition of the Station, received from Police Commissioner Ronnie Watson.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

Consent Agenda #16

S-367

Regarding a report on the recent fire
at the Police Station and the condition
of the Station.

In City Council June 16, 1997.

Placed in file