

January 17, 2019

FOI No: 2019-04

VIA E-MAIL – **Redacted**

Redacted

Dear **Redacted**,

Re: Request for Record
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The City of White Rock has processed your request for access to the following record pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act)*:

- *"a copy of the fire report dated September 1, 2018 at the building located at 15057 Marine Drive, White Rock.*

Access to this record is available. However, some of the information in the record is excepted from disclosure under the Act. I have severed the excepted information so that I could disclose the remaining information to you as attached.

The severed information is excepted from disclosure under section 22 of the Act. Severing was necessary to avoid disclosing any third-party personal information without permission.

Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Ken Overton
Manager, Property, Risk Management, and FOI
604-541-2104

Att.

Corporate Administration
P: 604.541.2212 | F: 604.541.9348

City of White Rock
15322 Buena Vista Avenue, White Rock BC, Canada V4B 1Y6

WHITE ROCK
City by the Sea!

www.whiterockcity.ca

If you believe that the City of White Rock has been unreasonable in its handling of your request, you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review our response. You have 30 days from receipt of this notice to request a review by writing to:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
3rd Floor, 756 Fort Street
Victoria BC V8W 1H2

Should you decide to request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with:

1. your name, address and telephone number;
2. a copy of this letter;
3. a copy of your original request sent to the City of White Rock; and
4. the reasons or grounds upon which you are requesting the review.



FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT

FOR

**INCIDENT:
CWR 18 09 01 19**

**15057 MARINE DRIVE
WHITE ROCK**

INVESTIGATED BY: Deputy Chief Ed Wolfe

LOCATION: 15057 Marine Drive, White Rock

DATE OF FIRE: Sept 1, 2018 **TIME FIRE DEPT RECEIVED CALL :** 1937hrs

DATE OF INVESTIGATION: Sept 2, 2018

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- A. Area of Origin: Unit 201, living room
- B. Point of Origin: Approx. 12 inches off the floor at the North West corner of the living room and 12 inches south of the kitchen island bar bordering the living room to the north.
- C. Igniting Object: A 10 foot length of rope lighting
- D. Form of Heat: Electrical
- E. Material First Ignited: Nylon Golf Bag
- F. Act or Omission: Electrical Failure

OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED: RCMP FILE #18-4652

BACKGROUND:

On September 1st at approx. 1937hrs White Rock Fire Rescue was dispatched to a commercial structure fire at 15057 Marine Dr. Dispatch advised multiple calls, thick black smoke coming from the building. Career pagers were sounded. E1 arrived on scene, established Marine Command and advised smoke showing, sides Alpha & Charlie. An offensive attack was initiated with the crew accessing the involved unit through a window, via a ladder off Marine Drive. A quick knockdown was achieved. The suite was vented and the crew checked for extension. Damage was limited to the suite of origin. The tenant was not home at the time of the incident.

STRUCTURE:

15057 Marine is a three storey concrete structure constructed in 1997. The ground floor is 1883 sq ft of commercial restaurant space. The second floor is 1321 sq ft and consists of two residential suites and the third floor is one suite at 1920 sq ft. The building has a flat tar and gravel roof, brick veneer siding, and vinyl clad wood windows. There is forced air heat on the ground floor with baseboard heating in the suites above.

INVESTIGATION FINDINGS:

The area of origin was the living room of suite 201 located on the west side of the second floor. The point of origin was at the north west corner of the living room, approx. 12 inches south off the kitchen island bar and 6 inches east from the suite's west wall. Investigation revealed remnants of a nylon golf bag and its contents situated in this area, along with an aluminum camera tripod. Burn patterns were present on the north end of the west living room wall from ground level to approx. 36 inches up the wall. Paper had been burned off the drywall in this area. Burn patterns extends onto the south west corner of the kitchen island bar which borders the living room to the north. Charring extends east from the north west corner of the suite wall along the south side of the kitchen bar for approx. 16 inches and extends upwards from floor to counter height. The north west corner of the living room and the south west corner of the kitchen island bar from floor to counter level sustained the most damage. Shelving located above the point of origin displays a drop down effect from melting laminate. A fiberglass chair located two feet south of the point of origin along the west suite wall also indicates a drop down burn pattern to it's north side.

Investigation revealed one potential ignition source near the point of origin. A double electrical outlet located on the suites north west living room wall, approx. 20 inches south from the corner and 12 inches up the wall from the floor. There was a two blade plug in the upper receptacle of the outer outlet. The cord had burnt away from the plug. The tenant (Redacted S. 22) claimed the plug powered a length of rope lighting that he was in the process of installing on the underside of the kitchen island bar. Redacted S. 22 had plugged the rope lighting in and left it on prior to leaving the suite on the evening of the fire. Redacted S. 22 claimed that he did not assemble the rope lighting or make any electrical connections, other than plugging the lighting into the outlet. He did cut the rope lighting to the length of the kitchen island bar. The lighting had not yet been installed to the underside of the counter. At the time of the fire the strand of lighting ran from an LED controller over his golf bag, located at the point of origin and up onto the surface of the island bar. The LED controller had a short cord on one end with a two blade plug that went to the electrical outlet. Redacted S. 22 did not recall how the rope lighting was connected to the LED controller as this was already assembled when he acquired the lighting. Redacted S. 22 claimed he was given the box of rope lighting by an associate 3 or 4 days earlier. There was no recoverable evidence remaining from the LED controller or it's connection to the rope lighting. The electrical breaker to the outlet had been tripped. All other breakers were found to be in the on position. The electrical outlet itself appeared to be installed correctly and was in good shape. The blades of the plug leading to the LED controller for the rope lighting were also found to be in good shape when removed from the outlet.

SUMMARY:

The cause of this fire was determined to be electrical failure. The failure happened external to the electrical outlet located at the point of origin. At the time of the fire there was one plug in the upper receptacle of this outlet. The plug powered a length of rope lighting. Heat generated due to a failure of one of the electrical components making up the rope lighting. This ignited a nylon golf bag that was stored at the point of origin. The heat also caused the electrical outlet's breaker to trip on the house panel. The investigation was not able to determine which component of the rope lighting failed, due to the fact that much of the evidence at the point of origin had been burnt away including the LED controller for the lighting. Witness statements from responding firefighters and the tenant (Redacted S. 22) corroborate the findings of the investigation.

REPORT BY: Deputy Chief Ed Wolfe, LAFC 2685

Photos for this report are on file on the computer