

#25-965

**OPRA**

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**From:** Amanda Lewin <opra+request-76865-947925b7@requests.opramachine.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 2:11 PM  
**To:** OPRA  
**Subject:** OPRA request - Fire Investigation Results

Dear Bayonne City,

Please accept this electronic request for public records made under OPRA and the common law right of access. I am not required to fill out an official form or use a particular software platform to submit my request per NJSA 47:1A-6(f), which states that an email from a requestor including all of the information required on the adopted form shall suffice in place of a completed form as a valid government record request.

I HAVE NOT been convicted of any indictable offense under the laws of New Jersey, any other state, or the United States.

I WILL NOT use the requested government records for a commercial purpose.

I AM NOT seeking records in connection with a legal proceeding.

Records requested:

Please provide any documentation from the investigation into the fire at 78 Andrews Street that took place in Oct 2016. Including but not limited to any reports and determinations.

3 pages attached  
6/4/25

) to this request is by E-mail as attachments. Please confirm you have  
odian of records, please forward my request to that person and provide  
e.

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
BAYONNE, NJ 07002

MAY 29 2025

Amanda Lewin

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Please deliver records electronically via email to the below UNIQUE address for all replies to this request:

[opra+request-76865-947925b7@requests.opramachine.com](mailto:opra+request-76865-947925b7@requests.opramachine.com)

Is [oprarequest@baynj.org](mailto:oprarequest@baynj.org) the wrong address for OPRA requests to Bayonne City? If so, please contact us using this form:

[https://opramachine.com/change\\_request/new?body=bayonne\\_city](https://opramachine.com/change_request/new?body=bayonne_city)

Disclaimer: This message and any reply that you make will be published on the internet. Our privacy and copyright policies:

<https://opramachine.com/help/officers>

View this OPRA request & responses online:

[https://opramachine.com/request/fire\\_investigation\\_results](https://opramachine.com/request/fire_investigation_results)

Please note that in some cases publication of requests and responses will be delayed.

If you find this service useful as an OPRA custodian, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's website.

"OPRAMachine's mission is to give people easy and affordable access to New Jersey public records.

For more information, contact us at: (732) 707-1628 or PO Box 3180, New Brunswick, NJ 08903."

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# Bayonne Fire Department

City of Bayonne



**Keith Weaver**  
Chief of Department

## Bayonne, New Jersey Fire Investigation Report

|                                                         |                         |                                                                   |                                                                  |                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>FDID #:</b>                                          | <b>Date:</b> 10-19-2016 | <b>Day:</b><br>Tuesday                                            | <b>Time:</b> 0138                                                | <b>Initial Ignition Factor:</b><br>metal chimney pipe |
| <b>Incident Commander:</b><br>D/C Peterson              |                         | <b>Weather:</b><br>70 degrees with a 14 MPH wind and a few clouds |                                                                  | <b>BFD File #:</b> 002016003932                       |
| <b>Location of Incident:</b> 78 Andrew Street           |                         |                                                                   | <b>Occupant/Floor/Apartment:</b><br>Exterior light and air shaft |                                                       |
| <b>Use Group:</b><br>R2                                 | <b>Height:</b> 3 story  | <b>Confined To:</b><br>East side of building                      | <b>Construction:</b><br>Class-5 Wood Frame                       |                                                       |
| <b>Owner:</b><br>Vically Realty, LLC c/o D M Russo Esq. |                         | <b>Evidence Taken:</b> none                                       |                                                                  | <b>Photos Taken:</b> yes                              |
| <b>Address:</b> 46 Dunbar Street, Chatham, NJ           |                         | <b>Smoke Alarm Activated:</b> No                                  |                                                                  | <b>Sprinklers Activated:</b><br>N/A                   |
| <b>Home Phone:</b><br>[REDACTED]                        |                         | <b>Business Phone:</b>                                            |                                                                  | <b>Fire Discovered By:</b><br>Tenants                 |
| <b>Insurance Company:</b><br>Berkshire Hathaway         |                         | <b>Policy #:</b><br>Unknown                                       |                                                                  | <b>Expiration Date:</b><br>unknown                    |

### Narrative:

On Tuesday, October 19, 2016 at 0200 hours, I was contacted by MSU F/F Blake to respond to 78 Andrew Street for a Fire Investigation. On arrival, I checked in with Deputy Chief Peterson and began documenting the scene. I was informed by Chief Weaver that the bulk of the fire was in the light and air shaft located on the East side of the structure between #78 and #76.

#78 Andrew street is a three story wood frame structure with Aluminum siding on the front and rear walls, the side walls are covered with asphalt shingle. The A side of the structure faces North. The B side faces East. The C side faces South and the D side faces West. The structure contains 6 total residential units with 2 on each floor. The structure has a flat roof with a peaked structure on the front side roof. The structure is detached on both sides. The separation between the D side of #78 and #76 is approximately 18" with a 10' by 15' light and air shaft at the midway point between the two buildings. The bottom of the shaft is accessible from the basement of #78 Andrew Street.

All available tenants of the structure were interviewed at the scene. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor rear tenant observed smoke and flames from the wall adjacent to the bathroom window that faces the east into the shaft. This witness stated that the fire seemed to spread quickly from this area in an upward and outward direction.

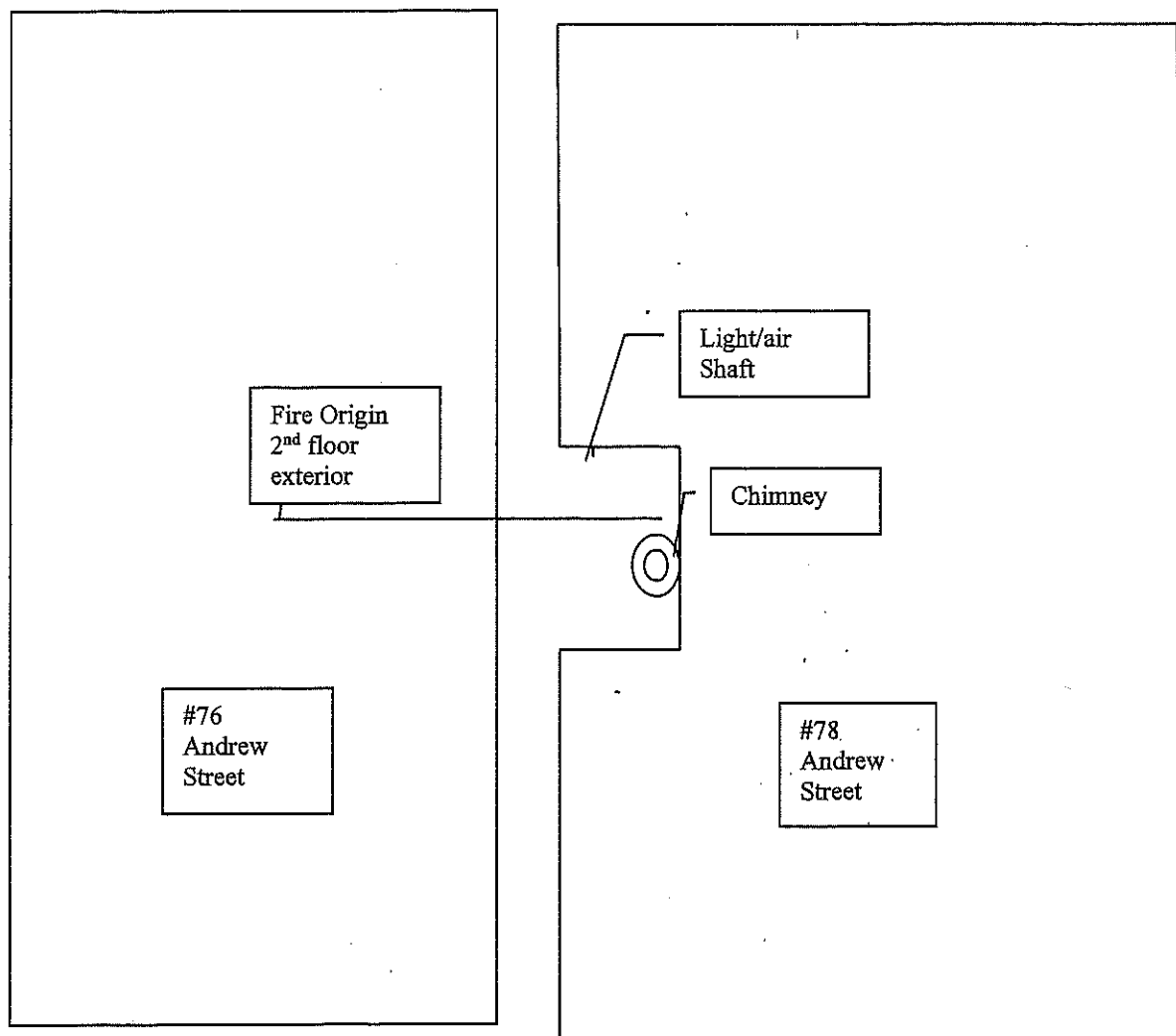
The first arriving Incident commander stated that he witnessed fire in the shaft from his viewpoint on the A side of the structure. He observed the base of the fire at the second floor level and extending above the roof. The IC witnessed the failure of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor exposed window and the flame impinging on the D side of #76 Andrew Street. The failure of this window allowed the extension of fire into #76.

|                                       |                                         |                                             |  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Rank/Name:</b> Captain Chris Czuba |                                         | <b>Determination:</b><br>Undetermined       |  |
| <b>Signature:</b>                     | <b>Date:</b><br>12-29-2016              | <b>Status of Investigation:</b><br>complete |  |
| <b>Reviewed By:</b>                   | <b>Page</b> 1 <b>of</b> 3 <b>Pages:</b> |                                             |  |

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| <b>FDID#:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Date:</b> 10-19-2016   | <b>Day:</b> Tuesday                      | <b>Time:</b> 0138 | <b>Location of Incident:</b><br>78 Andrew Street |
| <b>Narrative:</b><br><p>A comprehensive, systematic Investigation of the fire scene was conducted. The Investigation was conducted from the unburned areas toward the most severely burned areas. Limited fire damage was found in the basement area of the structure. The basement contains all of the electric, gas and water services to the building. All services in this area were photographed and examined. The services were ruled out as possible ignition sources due to their distance from the fire area and lack of physical damage.</p> <p>The light and air shaft was accessible from the basement area. The shaft contained a 12" metal chimney that penetrated the foundation wall and extended vertically up and over the roof of the structure. The flue pipes of 6 natural gas fired boilers and 6 natural gas fired water heaters were connected to the metal chimney before it penetrated the foundation. All boilers and water heaters were photographed and examined. The boilers and water heaters were ruled out as possible ignition sources due to their lack of physical damage. The investigation continued on the first floor of the structure. Limited fire damage was observed in the rooms that had window openings into the light and air shaft. The damage in both first floor units was confined to the area around the windows that faced the shaft.</p> <p>Examination of the second floor units exposed major fire damage to the B side exterior wall that faced the shaft. Severe fire damage of wooden structural members around the bathroom windows in this area indicate that the fire burned for an extended period of time.</p> <p>Examination of the top floor units and roof exposed major fire damage to the rooms that had windows facing the light and air shaft. Further examination of these areas revealed smoke movement and fire intensity patterns within the rooms and major fire damage to the ceiling and roof joists above these areas. Several vertical ventilation holes were cut in the roof by fire suppression personnel.</p> <p>Examination of #76 Andrew Street exposed severe fire damage to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor dining room that had a window opening into the light and air shaft and the 1<sup>st</sup> floor living room. Smoke movement and fire intensity patterns indicate that the fire entered the space as a result of the failure of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor window and direct flame impingement of the exterior D side wall facing the shaft.</p> <p>A comprehensive examination was focused on the second floor exterior wall of #78 due to the severity of damage observed in this area. Upon further examination from different angles and the exposing of wooden structural members in the second floor bathrooms, the second floor exterior wall was determined to be the area of fire origin. This area suffered severe damage in the vicinity of a mounting bracket that fastened the exterior metal chimney to the B side wall within the shaft. The metal chimney sections were removed from the shaft and examined. The chimney was made up of double wall galvanized steel. The interior wall of the chimney was severely damaged and sections of this wall collapsed into the base of the pipe. Oxidation was observed on the exterior wall of the chimney pipe starting in the area of the bracket that fastened the Chimney to the exterior wall. The chimney was mounted directly against the asphalt shingle siding on the structure. Smoke movement and fire intensity patterns observed on the exterior wall indicate that the combustible siding was a factor in the quick spreading of this fire.</p> <p>Sources of heat in the area such as the heat generated from the metal chimney were considered as an ignition source. The metal chimney as a competent source of heat able to ignite the siding cannot be determined without further forensic testing. No evidence of any other heat sources in the area of origin or at the base of the shaft was observed by this Investigator.</p> <p>The cause of this fire event shall be listed as Undetermined.</p> <p>This Investigator reserves the right to modify this report upon the introduction of new evidence.</p> |                           |                                          |                   |                                                  |
| <b>Rank/Name:</b> Captain Chris Czuba                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                           | <b>Determination:</b> Undetermined       |                   |                                                  |
| <b>Signature:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Date:</b> 12-29-2016   | <b>Status of Investigation:</b> Complete |                   |                                                  |
| <b>Reviewed By:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Page 2 of 3 Pages:</b> |                                          |                   |                                                  |

|               |                                        |                                    |                                  |                                                  |
|---------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>FDID#:</b> | <b>Date of Incident:</b><br>10-19-2016 | <b>Day of Incident:</b><br>Tuesday | <b>Time of Incident:</b><br>0138 | <b>Location of Incident:</b><br>78 Andrew Street |
|---------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|

**Sketch:**



Andrew Street

*Not Drawn to Scale  
Sketch by:*

|                                       |                            |                                           |  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Rank/Name:</b> Captain Chris Czuba |                            | <b>Determination:</b><br>Undetermined     |  |
| <b>Signature:</b>                     | <b>Date:</b><br>12-29-2016 | <b>Status of Investigation:</b><br>Closed |  |
| <b>Reviewed By:</b>                   |                            | <b>Page 3 of 3 Pages:</b>                 |  |