



Verona Police Department

600 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, NJ 07044

Phone: 973-239-5000 Fax: 973-857-5755 Mun. Code: 0720

Incident Report



Incident Details:

Case Number	Time Reported	Date Reported	Time Occurred	Date Occurred	Occurrence Between Date / Time of	Time Occurred	Date Occurred	911	Completed
23-12979	11:40	07/03/23	11:40	07/03/23				X	X

Incident Type:

Fire Department - Verona
Property Damaged
Dangerous Condition

Incident Location:

Street # Street Name Apt # Intersection / Cross Street of:
2 Claridge Dr Claridge Dr / Pompton Ave
Business / Common Location Name

Contact Information: Victim Suspect Complainant Witness Driver Arrest Passenger Missing Involved Other

Code	Contact Name #1	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	Phone / Email	Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #2	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	Phone / Email Address	Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #3	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	Phone / Email Address	Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #4	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	Phone / Email Address	Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #5	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	Phone / Email Address	Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #6	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	Phone / Email	Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #7	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	Phone / Email Address	Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #8	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	Phone / Email Address	Other Phone

Property Information:

Value of Stolen Property	Currency	Jewelry	Furs	Clothing	Auto	Misc.	Total
Property Recovered							

Automobile Information:

1	Vehicle Code	Year	Make	Body Type	Model	Color	Registration	State	VIN
2									
3									
4									

Ofcr. Anthony Huber 4510	07/03/23	wardroped	23-12979
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Incident Report



On the above date and time, Detective Conroy (OIC), Officer Ruff, and I were dispatched to 2 Claridge Drive after Headquarters received a 9-1-1 call from the front desk requesting the fire department for a smoke condition on the roof.

Shortly after the Verona Fire Department (VFD) arrived on scene and investigated, 2 Claridge was advised to shelter in place. The VFD located a working fire coming from the area of the compactor room on west side floors 12, 11, and 10. At this time the top three floors were evacuated.

The Verona Fire Department, along with mutual aid assistance from surrounding agencies (see below) began to extinguish the fire and assist residents to safety via the stairwells on the west side of the building.

Due to the severity of the smoke condition and the number of residents affected by this fire, the Verona Office of Emergency Management (OEM) set up an incident command post outside the building. The Verona Rescue Squad (VRS), along with mutual aid assistance from surrounding towns (see below) and Verona DPW set up a triage station outside of Claridge 2.

Once the fire was extinguished, it was determined that due to the severity of damage to the west side of the building, including carbon monoxide levels, fire damage, smoke damage, water damage, electrical damage, and no elevator access, the entire west side of the building would have to be evacuated until further notice.

Verona OEM, Chief Kiernan, and Captain Wardrobe set up teams of EMS, FD, and police officers to respond to every west side floor and clear every unit to ensure there were no residents remaining on the west side of the building. After confirming that all occupied apartments were vacated, OEM remained on scene.

Fire Investigation Report pending.

---BWC---

Mutual Aid Agencies (Logged at Dispatch)

Mutual Aid Fire:

Cedar Grove
Montclair
North Caldwell
Caldwell
West Caldwell
Essex Fells
Livingston
Roseland
Millburn
South Essex

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Incident Report



Bloomfield

Nutley

Irvington

West Orange

Orange

East Orange

Belleville (may have been cancelled prior to arrival)

Fire Coordinator #122

Mutual Aid Rescue:

Hatzalah

Glen Ridge

Montclair

West Essex

Essex County Task Force

Essex County Strike Team (Specific Towns Unknown)

South Orange

Livingston

Medics - Atlantic

Wayne

Police Mutual Aid:

Essex County Sheriff's Department - OEM

Cedar Grove

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Supplemental Investigation Report



Incident Details:

Case Number	Time Reported	Date Reported	Time Occurred	Date Occurred	Occurrence Between Date / Time of	Time Occurred	Date Occurred	911	Completed
23-12979A		07/03/23		07/03/23					X

Incident Type:

Property Damaged

Incident Location:

Street # Street Name Apt # Intersection / Cross Street of:
2 Claridge Dr 12F Claridge Dr / Pompton Ave
Business / Common Location Name

Contact Information: Victim Suspect Complainant Witness Driver Arrest Passenger Missing Involved Other

Code	Contact Name #1	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
V	Dzitko, Lisa			62	F	1B		
2 Claridge Dr Apt 12FW, Verona, NJ 07044						Phone / Email		Other Phone
								973-202-7616
Code	Contact Name #2	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Phone / Email Address		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #3	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Phone / Email Address		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #4	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Phone / Email Address		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #5	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Phone / Email Address		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #6	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Phone / Email		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #7	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Phone / Email Address		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #8	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Phone / Email Address		Other Phone

Property Information:

Value of Stolen Property	Currency	Jewelry	Furs	Clothing	Auto	Misc.	Total
Property Recovered							

Automobile Information:

1	Vehicle Code	Year	Make	Body Type	Model	Color	Registration	State	VIN
2									
3									
4									

Det. Thomas Conroy III 07/03/23 wardroped 23-12979A



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Supplemental Investigation Report



While battling the active fire located on floors 10 through 12 of the above address, Firefighters became overwhelmed on floor 12 due to smoke conditions, heat and a lack of space. For the safety of everyone involved, it was decided that forced entry would be necessary into apartment 12FW. Forced entry was then made which allowed Firefighters to continue addressing the fires.

Prior to clearing the scene, Officer Daly secured apartment 12FW temporarily.

I then made contact with the resident, Ms. Lisa Dzitko who was previously advised of the property damage by building management. Ms. Dzitko advised she had already responded to her apartment, observed the damage and was satisfied.

A property damage value is unknown at this time.

Det. Thomas Conroy III	07/03/23	wardroped	23-12979A



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Supplemental Investigation Report



Incident Details:

Case Number	Time Reported	Date Reported	Time Occurred	Date Occurred	Occurrence Between Date / Time of	Time Occurred	Date Occurred	911	Completed
23-12979B		07/04/23		07/03/23					X

Incident Type:

Investigation Follow-Up

Incident Location:

Street # Street Name Apt # Intersection / Cross Street of:
2 Claridge Dr 12B Claridge Dr / Pompton Ave
Business / Common Location Name

Contact Information: Victim Suspect Complainant Witness Driver Arrest Passenger Missing Involved Other

Code	Contact Name #1	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
V	Mankoff, Valerie			82	F	1B		
2 Claridge Dr Apt 12BW, Verona, NJ 07044						Phone / Email		Other Phone
								973-769-4813
Code	Contact Name #2	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Phone / Email Address		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #3	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Phone / Email Address		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #4	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Phone / Email Address		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #5	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Phone / Email Address		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #6	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Phone / Email		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #7	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Phone / Email Address		Other Phone
Code	Contact Name #8	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN
Address						Phone / Email Address		Other Phone

Property Information:

Value of Stolen Property	Currency	Jewelry	Furs	Clothing	Auto	Misc.	Total
Property Recovered							

Automobile Information:

1	Vehicle Code	Year	Make	Body Type	Model	Color	Registration	State	VIN
2									
3									
4									

Det. Thomas Conroy III	07/04/23	wardroped	23-12979B
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Supplemental Investigation Report



Officer Huber and I responded to the top floors of Claridge 2 to assist with evacuation efforts before the evacuation was called off due to smoke conditions in the hallways. Upon our arrival, Ms. Valerie Mankoff emerged from the smoke filled hallway of the 12th floor along with her health aid. Officer Huber and I assisted Ms. Mankoff to the 9th floor where she was advised to await for EMS.

Contact was made with VRS who responded up to the 9th floor meeting with Ms. Mankoff. Ms. Mankoff's daughter advised me over the phone that her mother suffered from several life threatening diseases including some that affect the lungs. Due to smoke conditions still being prevalent in the building, which were increasing in severity, Ms. Mankoff was assisted down to the first floor where she was seated on a stretcher and attended to by VRS.

Ms. Mankoff was the transported to St Barnabas Hospital by West Orange Hatzalah Rescue.

Det. Thomas Conroy III	07/04/23	wardroped	23-12979B



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Supplemental Investigation Report



Incident Details:									
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23-12979C		07/03/23		07/03/23					X

Incident Type:	Incident Location:
Investigation Follow-Up	Street # Street Name Apt # Intersection / Cross Street of: 2 Claridge Dr Claridge Dr / Pompton Ave Business / Common Location Name

Contact Information: Victim Suspect Complainant Witness Driver Arrest Passenger Missing Involved Other									
Code	Contact Name #1	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
I	Gandhi, Senthamarai			79	F				
2 Claridge Dr Apt 10FW, Verona, NJ 07044						Phone / Email		Other Phone	
								973-979-0590	
Code	Contact Name #2	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
Address						Phone / Email Address		Other Phone	
Code	Contact Name #3	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
Address						Phone / Email Address		Other Phone	
Code	Contact Name #4	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
Address						Phone / Email Address		Other Phone	
Code	Contact Name #5	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
Address						Phone / Email Address		Other Phone	
Code	Contact Name #6	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
Address						Phone / Email		Other Phone	
Code	Contact Name #7	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
Address						Phone / Email Address		Other Phone	
Code	Contact Name #8	MI	Suffix	Age	Sex	Race	DOB	SSN	
Address						Phone / Email Address		Other Phone	

Property Information:							
Value of Stolen Property	Currency	Jewelry	Furs	Clothing	Auto	Misc.	Total
Property Recovered							

Automobile Information:								
1	Vehicle Code	Year	Make	Body Type	Model	Color	Registration	State VIN
2								
3								
4								

Capt. David Wardrope	07/03/23	wardroped	23-12979C
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Supplemental Investigation Report



VFD Firefighter Knoetig reported that while battling the active fire, firefighters became overwhelmed by smoke while on the 10th floor. Due to the smoke, heat, and a lack of space, firefighters forced entry into apartment 10FW for refuge.

Claridge 2 maintenance (Ralph) stated he would secure the apartment to the best of his ability.

A property damage value is unknown at this time.

Apartment resident, Senthaimarai Gandhi, was advised of this incident by the undersigned on 7/5/23.

Capt. David Wardrope	07/03/23	wardroped	23-12979C