



JAMAICA FIRE BRIGADE

FINAL FIRE REPORT

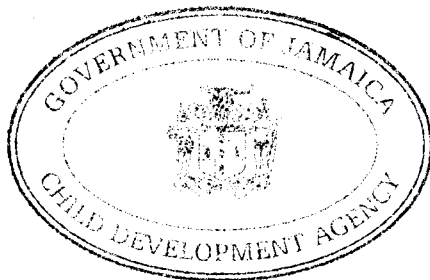
WALKER'S PLACE OF SAFETY

Date of Report: March 16, 2018

Half Way Tree, Stony Hill and Rollington Town FIRE STATIONS

DATE OF FIRE: January 16, 2018

TYPE OF PREMISES:	<u>Place of Safety/Dwelling House</u>
TIME OF CALL:	<u>12:08 a.m.</u> HOW CALLED <u>TELEPHONE No. 926-8166</u>
TIME OF LEAVING:	<u>12:09 a.m.</u> TIME OF ARRIVAL: <u>12:12 a.m.</u> TIME OF RETURN: <u>6:25 a.m.</u>
OWNER:	<u>ADDRESS: 17½ Lyndhurst Crescent, Kingston 5</u> Tele: <u>926-8166</u>
OCCUPIER:	<u>Walker's Place of Safety</u>
DISTANCE:	_____
NO. OF MEN PRESENT:	<u>Deputy Commissioner (Operations) with a crew of twenty-nine (29) firefighters</u>
APPLIANCES PRESENT:	<u>Nos. 8-6, 5-93, 5-102, 5-103 fire units</u>
HOW EXTINGUISHED:	<u>Using two (2) medium jets.</u>
HOSE IN USE:	_____
ESTIMATED LOSS:	_____
ESTIMATED VALUE OF PROPERTY AT RISK:	_____
	<u>BUILDINGS \$ _____ INSURANCE OFFICE _____</u>
	<u>CONTENTS \$ _____</u>
INSURANCE:	_____
SUPPOSED ORIGIN OF FIRE:	<u>Electrical Short Circuit.</u>
GENERAL REMARKS:	<p>1. On Tuesday, January 16, 2018, this call of building on fire at No. 17 ½ Lyndhurst Crescent, Kingston 5 was received at 12:08 a.m. at the Half-Way-Tree Sub-Station through telephone number 926-8166. Response was made at 12:09 a.m. in the No. 5-103 fire unit with a crew of six (6) firefighters under the command of District Officer Christopher Marsh.</p> <p>2. Enroute to the given address, the Brigade observed from a distance, a large plume of smoke billowing into the air in the general vicinity of the given location. Divisional Headquarters, York Park was informed and a request made for all available units to be turned out to the scene.</p> <p>3. On arrival at the given location at 12:12 a.m., the Brigade observed a building burning severely and a crowd of onlookers gathered on the roadway in close proximity to the building. As the firefighters disembarked the fire unit, a female emerged from the crowd and identified herself as Mrs. _____, a caregiver at the Walker's Place of Safety, the building that was on fire. She informed the Brigade that the building housed thirty-six (36) wards, of which three (3) were missing. However, after a recount, it was discovered that only two (2) wards were unaccounted for. The Brigade was also informed that another two (2) wards were transported to the</p>



Bustamante Hospital for Children as a result of injuries received while attempting to escape the burning building.

4. Upon receipt of this information, the Brigade immediately launched simultaneous operations of search and rescue and firefighting, in an attempt to locate the missing wards. At 12:21 a.m., a second unit from the Rollington Town Fire Station arrived on the scene.

5. The intense heat generated by the fire as a result of the fire-load, resulted in the interior walls which were of nog construction, and the floor, which was of board construction, collapsing and the roof caving in. Our efforts to find the missing wards alive were unsuccessful due to the deteriorating condition of the building.

6. Rigorous firefighting operation continued until the fire was brought under control at approximately 12:56 a.m. and cooling down operation commenced.

7. At 2:31 a.m., the Brigade discovered what appeared to be the charred remains of a human body in the front room of the building. A second body was discovered in a back room at approximately 4:00 a.m. These two bodies were burnt beyond recognition and were suspected to be those of the missing wards.

8. Four (4) fire units and a total of twenty-nine (29) firefighters from the Half Way Tree, York Park, Stony Hill and Rollington Town Fire Stations, under the command of Acting Deputy Commissioner Stewart Beckford extinguished the fire.

9. With no further threat to life or property, the Brigade handed over the scene at approximately 6:02 a.m. to Inspector M. Anderson from the Half Way Tree Police Station for scene preservation and pending investigations.

ORIGIN AND CAUSE

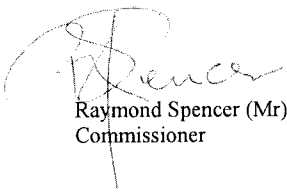
1. Investigating the cause, origin, growth and spread of the fire, the Brigade is satisfied that the fire had resulted from an electrical short-circuit and originated in one of the children's room (female dorm) at the floor level to the west of the building. The heavy fire-load that was distributed throughout the structure contributed to the rapid growth and spread of the fire. The fire spread was also supported by the type and age of the building.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Based on the level of fire damage, the remaining structure which is in defiance of the laws of physics should be demolished without delay since it pose real danger to anyone who might venture in and around the building.

NB:

- i During the firefighting and recovery operations, the Brigade experienced no resource challenge.*
- ii Based on the Brigade's last inspection of the facility on July 28, 2016, it was found to be in full compliance with standard fire prevention practices.*


Raymond Spencer (Mr)
Commissioner