



TOWN OF HARRISON
VILLAGE OF HARRISON
Alfred F. Sulla, Jr. Municipal Building
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From the Office of Supervisor/Mayor Richard Dionisio

I fully understand the concern of our residents for those affected by the fire last Tuesday night at 3 Calvert Street in Harrison. My goal is to be as transparent as possible while respecting the privacy of the affected residents and the policies of the Red Cross.

Harrison has never had a high-rise fire like this in its history. Despite this, our first responders were able to act quickly. I am relieved and grateful that there were no injuries and that all tenants are accounted for. Thank you to all of Harrison's first responders for your service and for protecting our community.

Once the fire was contained, we opened the Sollazzo Center as a temporary shelter for the victims. The Red Cross was immediately contacted and once they were present to provide support to the victims, I directed town efforts to the building. Our assessment for damage and safety was completed within twenty-four hours.

My personal efforts have been to assist the Red Cross, and County and State officials to secure more permanent housing. There has been no gap in assistance.

With regard to community assistance; I ask that you continue to be patient. At this time, the town cannot accept any donations. Please do not drop off clothing or food at the Sollazzo Center or any other town facility. I appreciate the generosity of our community and understand the desire to help. However, relief efforts must remain organized and efficient to be effective, and the Red Cross has protocols in place that must be followed. There are also concerns about storage and legal guidelines that must be considered.

The Red Cross is on the scene providing immediate support and aid to the victims. We are organizing ways for the community to help and will be making information available. In the meantime, the best way our residents can help right now is to help support the Red Cross.

Ways to Donate to the Red Cross:

Visit www.redcross.org

Text REDCROSS to 90999 to give \$10 – Charges will appear on your wireless bill

Call 1-800-HELP-NOW (1-800-435-7669) to donate over the phone

Español: 1-800-257-7575

TDD Operator: 1-800-220-4095

If you have items to donate, call the Red Cross at 1-800-435-7669. Please be advised that there may be limitations on what they are able to accept at this time.

My thoughts and prayers are with the victims. Our efforts are progressing every day, and I will continue to keep the community informed.

Thank you,
Richard Dionisio
Supervisor/Mayor
Town/Village of Harrison

Town/Village of Harrison
Press Release Concerning:
THE CALVERT STREET FIRE
Release Date: December 1, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A fire took place at 3 Calvert St. in the evening of Tuesday, November 22, 2022, right before the Thanksgiving Holiday.

At approximately 5:20 PM, a commercial fire alarm was dispatched. Our first fire engine arrived on scene within two minutes. The fire immediately identified as a structure fire and a code 10-75 was transmitted for mutual aid.

The firefighters from our Harrison Fire Departments and mutual aid partners from multiple jurisdictions did a wonderful job. The entire building was evacuated safely, including elderly persons and children needing assistance as well as dogs and cats.

Town staff immediately began to source help for the displaced residents and partnered with:

- Senator Shelley Mayer;
- Assemblymember Chris Burdick;
- The Department of Social Services;
- Legal Aid;
- Red Cross; and
- The Community Relations Center.

The Town closed down its Recreation Center temporarily and provided temporary shelter and food throughout the holiday weekend. Town Officials immediately interfaced with the building owners who rented hotel rooms for tenants without viable housing options.

Going forward, the building will need a lot of work to reopen. Our Building Department and Town officials worked through the holiday weekend and continue to, in order to assist the building owner who has begun the initial work required.

This will be a process.

In the interim, the resources mentioned above remain available and the Town has made its library available for people to meet with the various agencies and organizations helping.

The Town's goal is to help the owners get the building open with the necessary safety measures required to ensure safety going forward. To be clear, numerous conditions have been identified that are safety concerns that will need to be addressed to the satisfaction of our Building Department and Fire Prevention Bureau before the building can be reopened.

As a community, we are tremendously lucky that this fire did not take place in the dead of night - - or things could have turned out differently.

Our foremost goal is to get the building repaired with proper life safety measures in place.