



CITY OF WATERTOWN, NEW YORK

FIRE DEPARTMENT
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PRESS RELEASE December 1, 2017

On this date at approximately 11:38 hours, a fire was reported at the corner of State and North Rutland Street here in the City of Watertown. There were initial reports that the building was vacant and that flames were visible. When fire units arrived, they entered the building through the unsecured front door and attempted to control the fire on the second floor. Due to the large amount of fire and extension to the attic, fire units withdrew from the building and started a defensive fire operation utilizing the department's two ladder towers. Once the fire was controlled, crews re-entered the building for overhaul and fire investigation operations.

Fort Drum Fire as well as Guilfoyle Ambulance, Watertown Police, National Grid, Department of Public Works and Water Department have been working alongside City Fire at this fire incident. The Town of Watertown Fire Department as well as recalled fire department personnel staffed reserve apparatus to maintain service levels during this incident.

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation. The owner of record for 731 State Street is Donald Blinbry and Esperanza Lopez from Brookfield Connecticut.

There are no further press releases with regards to the incident expected to be issued today.

CITY OF WATERTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dale C. Herman".

Dale C. Herman
Fire Chief, EFO