

LETTERS TO THE FIRE COMMISSIONER

Harlem Nocturne

Dear Commissioner Scoppetta:

I am writing in regards to the "Best Fire Ladder" in all of Manhattan, Ladder 23 located at 125th & Morningside & Amsterdam.

I am on the Community Board 9, as a member. I am on the Uniform Service Committee, which includes Fire, Police, Parks, and Sanitation. I am also on the Land Use Committee.

My underlying gratitude, praise and prayers are for Ladder 23. Last Saturday and Sunday, they answered 6 calls to 1430 Amsterdam Ave. I know, because I opened the door.

It was not a fire they were answering, but "elevator" calls. This is a 20-floor project, so these calls were beyond the call of duty. A 75-year old neighbor, wheelchair bound, and her home attendant were stuck on the ground floor. I called and spoke to Ladder 23, explaining the situation. And lo and behold, six firefighters showed up and carried the wheelchair, the 215-pound lady and at least \$200 worth of groceries up 6 floors, with smiles on their faces. They also carried a 95-year old Bangladesh grandmother with heart problems up to the 11th floor.

I had met the whole crew a couple of days after the 9/11 crisis. I had prompted the "Pioneer Supermarket" where the firemen shop, to provide water and juice. A few days later, I saw a banner in the store from the Department, thanking them.

I'm crazy about the 23rd Ladder, I appreciate all they do, and I think you as the commissioner would or should, pat them all on the back, shake their hands, and give them a raise (smile). They're the best that you have offered to my Manhattanville Houses. God Bless all of the Men at 125th St. and their families. They had more than they could chew, but they did it all with patience, kindness and fortitude. Always people complain, I am writing to exclaim! I am sending a copy to the press. What Nice Guys.

Respectfully
Mrs. Doreatha G. Chapman

Good Neighbor to the Rescue

To Whom It May Concern:

On Saturday, May 1st at 3 pm a fire erupted in a storage room of the Three Village Inn in Stony Brook above the kitchen causing a potential life threatening and property-destroying event. The dining rooms were full with guests, the banquet rooms full with partygoers, and the hotel full with overnight guests.

As the flames blazed through the roof, a passerby on his way to the Stony Brook Yacht Club for a party smelled smoke. A smell he is all too familiar with. He searched quickly and saw the flames coming through the roof. He immediately entered the rear of the building and with only the introduction of "I'm a New York City Fireman, I'm here to help," went to work.

He gets to the head of the line where my staff is fighting the fire with fire extinguishers and buckets of water forming a fire brigade. The sprinkler system goes off, the fire alarm sounded, the building is evacuated and our local fire heroes are on the way.

Through an unbelievable amount of good luck, no one is hurt, the damage is minimal and an immediate cleanup and restoration is underway by 5 P.M.

By 10 PM through the great effort of my staff and the services of the people noted below, it is clear that the Three Village Inn will be alive and well. I found out the name of the good Samaritan who came to help--NYC Firefighter Mark Doran.

I immediately called, his wife answered and I could hear the three young children in the background, "Daddy you have a phone call."

Mr. Doran gets on the telephone and I express my gratitude. I could hardly find the right words. I insist that he and his family be our guest at the Three Village Inn. He refuses. He wants nothing. He explains, "This is my job, I am a New York City Firefighter. I'm glad I could help. We love the Three Village Inn and it would be terrible if we would have lost her." No matter how hard I try, he will accept only thanks.

Lou Miaritis
Innkeeper, Three Village Inn

FDNY PASSES OLYMPIC TORCH



A.C. Salvatore Cassano, Chief of Fire Operations, served as an honorary escort during the Athens 2004 Olympic Torch Relay. The Torch was passed through all five boroughs by 140 relay participants on Saturday, June 19th.

Chief Cassano ran the Brooklyn to Manhattan relay of the journey over the Brooklyn Bridge. In addition to Chief Cassano, FF Cosmo DiOrio, FF Jamie Efthimiades and EMT Todd Bilgore represented FDNY as actual Torch bearers.



VIEW
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NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE COMMISSIONER

FIRE DEPARTMENT CITY OF NEW YORK

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FDNY
A 139 YEAR HISTORY
OF COMMITMENT,
COURAGE & COMPASSION