

Commissioner's Unit Citation

On October 21, 2022, at 0257 hours, Box 3623 was struck for 31 Brookview Street, Dorchester. Upon arrival there was heavy fire showing, covering the entire front of the two and a half story home. To avoid the large volume of fire on the Alpha side, Firefighter Brian Sullivan of Ladder Company 29 stopped the apparatus short of the front of the building to gain access to the roof on the Delta side. He positioned the aerial ladder and climbed to the roof to ventilate. Fire Lieutenant William Regan and Firefighter Scott Rushton of Ladder Company 29 proceeded to the left side of the structure to attempt to make entry into the rear. Firefighter Joseph Vinard also of Ladder 29, simultaneously proceeded to the right side of the structure and as he reached the rear, he heard and saw three victims trying to exit a bathroom window which led to a second floor porch roof.

Firefighter Vinard ran back to Ladder Company 29 to retrieve a 20' roof ladder to effect a rescue of the escaping victims. As Fire Lieutenant Regan and Firefighter Rushton were forcing entry into the rear door they were alerted by Firefighter Vinard that three people were trapped above. Firefighter Rushton proceeded to Firefighter Vinard's location and assisted him in passing the ladder over a fence and raising it to the victims. Together, Firefighters Vinard and Rushton guided the victims down the ladder to safety. Fire Lieutenant Regan made entry into the building to conduct a search inside for other victims, and finding none he exited the structure and assisted Firefighters Vinard and Rushton in helping the three victims over a fence to an ambulance waiting out front in the street.

If it weren't for the members' fast actions in locating and removing the three victims so quickly, the excessive amount of smoke and heat would have surely overcome the victims.

Therefore, the Fire Commissioner/Chief of Department, acting on the recommendation of the Board of Merit, hereby orders the Commissioner's Unit Citation be awarded to:

Firefighter
Brian R. Sullivan
Ladder Company 29

Firefighter
William M. Regan
Ladder Company 29

Firefighter
Scott P. Rushton
Ladder Company 29

Firefighter
Joseph R. Vinard
Ladder Company 29