

West Easton Borough Police Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Location of Incident: 1550 Lehigh Drive, West Easton PA 18042

Date/Time: **April 4, 2023** 0500 hours

April 5, 2023

The Pennsylvania State Police Fire Marshal in cooperation with the West Easton Borough Easton Fire Department and the West Easton Borough Police Department continue to investigate the cause and origin of this massive industrial fire which decimated an iconic group of buildings in our borough. The fire was reported at 0500 hours on April 4, 2023. The cluster of industrial buildings is located at 1550 Lehigh Drive, West Easton PA. Fire Chief William BOGARI and I have met with the fire marshal, Trooper Scott LaBar (PSP Troop M, Bethlehem) and other investigators, numerous times since the fire was discovered and attended to. We continue to conduct interviews and review available resources to determine exactly when and where the fire started. Currently, due to several factors, it is too early to determine the exact cause and origin of this fire.

The fire is completely under control at this time; however, the scene itself is dangerous due to unstable, remaining parts of the structure as well as parts of the building still smoldering. A limited amount of fire personnel remains on scene to tend to these smoldering pockets and cavities. Some smoke will remain visible as large equipment moves debris while attempting to address hot pockets. Lehigh Drive between Adamson Street and Glendon Hill Road remains closed as fire apparatus are staged in this area.

I would be completely remiss to not continue to personally praise and acknowledge the outstanding and exceptional work by firefighters from over 25 fire departments, responding from several counties, including parts of New Jersey. The response of mutual aid was and remains nothing less than extraordinary. As always, keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Robert J. Mahady II

Chief of Police

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RM II", is written over the printed name of the Chief of Police.