

Sanction Letter

On October 18, 2022, I was found responsible for Code of Conduct Violation /10. Use of Prohibited Items/i. Combustibles and other flammable items, for a handheld lighter. During the room check on October 18, RA Shrijani found a handheld lighter on my desk, which my roommate Edwin confirmed was my desk since I was not present in the room at the time. I then received an email to report to The Office of Residential Education to have a meeting regarding the incident. In my hearing with Resident Director Ms. Hernandez on October 24, I confirmed that this was indeed my lighter. We discussed how lighters are prohibited according to the Student Handbook and that I should not be in possession of one while on campus. We also briefly discussed the Boland Hall Fire at Seton Hall University, which I have researched and will outline further on. Following this meeting, I received an email from Ms. Hernandez on October 25, outlining how I now have a warning status that will be complete by Tuesday, November 8. I was also asked to write and submit a 2-3 page reflection paper outlining what I have learned.

At the time of the incident, I was not aware that a handheld lighter was a prohibited item, but I now know that they are not allowed and I have since discarded the item. I have learned that I need to pay more attention to the Student Handbook and policies and to be cautious to make sure I am not in possession of any prohibited items. In fact, since the incident, I have taken a detailed look at the Student Handbook to re-familiarize myself with Stevens' core values, policies and practices, student affairs, and Student Code of Conduct. I have re-familiarized myself with Section 10 of the Student Code of Conduct: Use of and Possession of Prohibited Items. I have looked through and understood what items are permitted and what is prohibited on

campus. Finally, I have confirmed that I am not in possession of anything on this list, and also that my roommate is not in possession of anything on this prohibited items list.

In Ms. Hernandez' email I was asked to research the Boland Hall Fire at Seton Hall University and reflect on how the use of prohibited items can largely impact the greater community. The Boland Hall Fire was a fatal fire in a freshman residence hall at Seton Hall University. Three students died, and 58 were injured making it one of the deadliest fires in a college campus in US history. The fire began when two students who were intoxicated decided to play a prank and set fire to a paper banner. The two students left the paper smoldering before going back to their rooms, and the fire quickly spread, eventually burning the whole building to the ground and causing severe injuries, and as mentioned, three deaths. The two students who started the fire were sentenced to five years imprisonment in 2007.

Combustible items were at Seton Hall University, as they are at Stevens, prohibited, and for good reason. Although I would never play around with fire indoors, or leave paper smoldering anywhere, the Boland Hall Fire is extremely important to remember and think about. What could happen if my lighter were discovered by untrustworthy or intoxicated individuals? What could happen if, malicious or pranking intent aside, a simple accident happened leading to a dangerous fire? The use of prohibited items does not simply affect me, the individual. There are also larger problems that my carelessness could have led to that I am now aware of, and even after researching the fire, still thinking about. It is up to all of us at Stevens to follow the Student Handbook properly, not just for our own safety and health, but for the safety and health of all Stevens students, faculty, workers, and more. In the future, I will be sure that every item I am in possession of is permitted by the Stevens Student Handbook, and if I am not sure, I will double

check the handbook to confirm any confusions I may have. I also now know that I can reach out to my Resident Director Ms. Hernandez if I have any questions on the subject.

Signed,

James Hooker