**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD**

**CLOSE OUT BUS ACCIDENT REPORT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUS PROPERTY NAME:</th>
<th>MTA NYCT</th>
<th>CASE NUMBER:</th>
<th>9367</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRITERIA CODE:</td>
<td>Mechanical Failure</td>
<td>TYPE OF ACCIDENT:</td>
<td>Fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE/TIME:</td>
<td>May 18, 2007 at 9:03 a.m.</td>
<td>ACCIDENT SEVERITY INDEX:</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE REPORTED:</td>
<td>May 18, 2007</td>
<td>TIME REPORTED:</td>
<td>10:26 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VEHICLES INVOLVED:</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>NUMBER OF INJURIES:</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF FATALITIES:</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>BUS NUMBER:</td>
<td>5523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TYPE OF BUS:</td>
<td>New Flyer, Articulated</td>
<td>PASSENGERS:</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER:</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>OCCUPANTS:</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ACCIDENT LOCATION:** Lexington Ave. at the intersection with E. 73rd St., New York, NY

**ROADWAY TYPE:** Asphalt  
**SPEED LIMIT:** 30 mph

**TRAFFIC CONTROL:** Signal  
**ROAD CONDITIONS:** Dry

**LIGHT CONDITIONS:** Daylight  
**WEATHER:** Overcast

**INVESTIGATOR:** Harry W. Gerham  
**SUMMONS:** None

**HOURS OF SERVICE:** 2 hr 6 min in last 24 hrs/23 hrs 12 min in last 7 days

**ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION:** MTA New York City Transit bus #5523 was standing in the far side bus stop on Lexington Ave. at the intersection with E. 73rd St. when the bus driver observed smoke coming from the rear of the bus. The bus driver safely evacuated the bus passengers and called for assistance. Almost simultaneously the fire suppression system activated and extinguished the fire. The fire department responded and ensured that the fire was out. There were no injuries and the bus sustained moderate damage in the vicinity of the alternator. No post accident drug and alcohol tests were performed on the bus driver. Bus and bus driver records were reviewed and found to be complete, in-order and up-to-date. The bus records did show that the bus had been returned to service on May 4, 2007 after completion of warranty work by an outside vendor (repairs requiring the removal of the cylinder head) and the bus had traveled 1,084 miles since that repair. Inspection of the bus found that the D/C stud on the alternator was damaged (bent) and had shorted to ground, against the alternator housing and caused oil that had leaked from the alternator, to catch fire. The damage to the D/C stud most probably occurred during the warranty repair and it took 1,084 miles to manifest itself. The Public Transportation Safety Board staff finds that the most probable cause of the fire was the damaged D/C alternator stud, the damage having occurred during repairs done by an outside vendor, shorting to ground and causing leaking oil to catch fire.

**IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT THE BUS PROPERTY INVOLVED IN THIS ACCIDENT DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT.**

**SUBMITTAL**

**THE ABOVE ACCIDENT HAS BEEN INVESTIGATED AND MEETS ALL OF THE CONDITIONS IDENTIFIED IN PTSB RESOLUTION #1340 AND REQUIRES NO FURTHER ACTION.**

______________________________  
CHIEF, ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION SECTION  
DATE

______________________________  
DIRECTOR, PCSB, NYSDOT  
DATE