
Parents of Oakland Ghost Ship fire victim file first lawsuit

BY MEGAN CERULLO

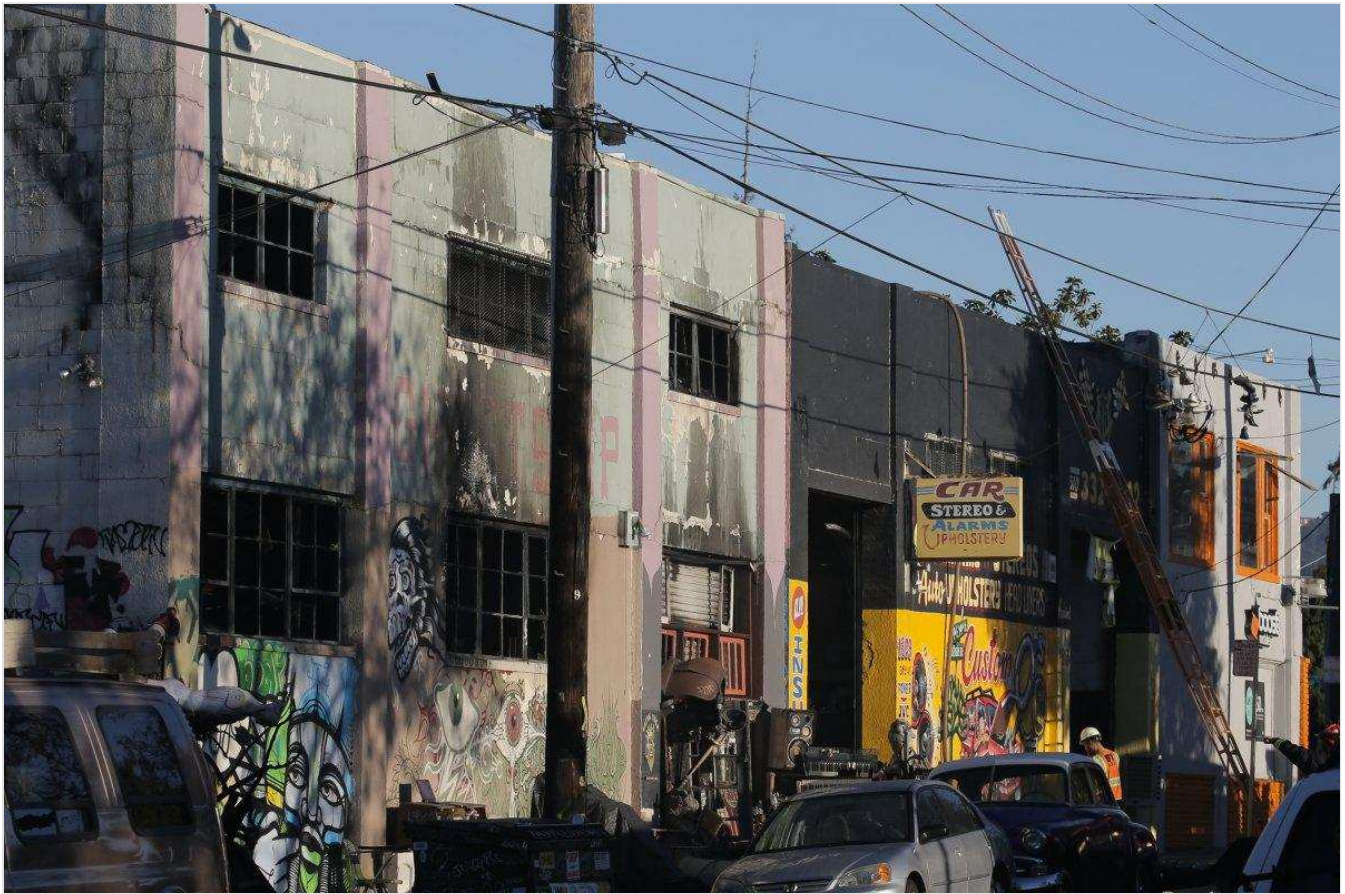
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The parents of a 20-year-old victim in the [Oakland Ghost Ship fire](#), whose body was found wrapped in her boyfriend's arms, have filed the first lawsuit related to the tragedy.

Michela Gregory and her boyfriend, Alex Vega, 22, were among the 36 revelers who died in the fire on Dec. 2.

The lawsuit, filed by San Francisco lawyer Mary Alexander on behalf of Michela Gregory and Griffin Maddens' families, blames the owner of the warehouse that went up in flames, its main tenant, Derick Ion Almena, neighbors who provided electricity and bathroom access, and others, Kron4 reported.



A lawsuit filed on behalf of Michela Gregory's family alleges that the city is to blame for the warehouse fire that claimed 36 lives. (ELIJAH NOUVELAGE/GETTY IMAGES)

“As a result of the horrific gross negligence of the defendants in this case, these two young people have lost their lives,” Alexander said in a press conference. “They had every gift but the gift of time.”

Alexander also said that the city was to blame for the deadliest fire in more than a decade, for its failure to warn the public that the warehouse was an unpermitted and unsafe place for events.



Mary Alexander, the San Francisco lawyer who filed a lawsuit on behalf of David and Kimberly Gregory, said that the owner of the warehouse, its main tenant, and others were grossly negligent. (DAN HONDA/AP)

“From a fire standpoint, they did not close this down, they did not provide the type of requirements in this building that would be necessary either for residences or for events like they had that night,” Alexander said.

Gregory’s parents, Kimberly and David Gregory, also spoke out at a press conference.

“Our daughter will never come home. There is not a day that goes by that we don’t miss her,” David Gregory said. “We will never see them again and we just want justice. we just want justice.”

The lawsuit, filed in Alameda County Superior Court, described Gregory’s final moments as she was trapped on the building’s second floor with no clear exit path.



Michela Gregory, 20, was one of 36 fatalities in the Oakland Ghost Ship fire. (FACEBOOK)

It claims the pair “were trapped in the inferno” and “suffered from the injuries caused by the fire and smoke for many minutes before dying,” according to Kron4.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages from the building’s owner, Chor Ng, Almena, and a business called “100% silk” that promoted the Dec. 2 party.

Alexander said the Gregorys also plan to file a claim against the city of Oakland, citing negligence by city officials.

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