



NEWS RELEASE

Paul M. Tiernan, Chief of Police

May 4th, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Domestic Incident Leads to Arson Charges

The Newark Police Department and the State Fire Marshall's Office are investigating a house fire that occurred on May 3rd, 2012 at approximately 7:15pm at 1203 Old Coches Bridge Road.

Shortly before the fire, a domestic disturbance occurred at the home in which a 17 year old male victim was assaulted and strangled by his father, 44 year old Ralph Rossi 3rd. The victim was able to leave the home with a family member who came to pick him up.

While the domestic incident was being reported by the victim, a fire was reported at the home. Officers responded, finding the home on fire with Ralph Rossi outside the home. Officers determined that Rossi had been pulled from the home by a passerby and that Rossi had fought with the rescuer, attempting to stay in the home while it burned.

The State Fire Marshall's Office assisted the Newark Police Department by responding to the scene to investigate the origin and cause of the fire. Their preliminary investigation determined that the fire was intentionally set by Rossi, who was the sole occupant of the home at the time of the fire. Information regarding the cause and origin of the fire should be directed to Chief Deputy Robert Fox of the State Fire Marshall's office at (302) 323-5375 or robert.fox@state.de.us

Rossi was transported to Christiana Hospital for evaluation and will be formally charged upon his release. The 17 year old victim sustained a minor injury to his head during the domestic assault.

(Continued)

The Newark Police Department affirms that all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Media Contact: Lt. Mark A. Farrall, Public Information Officer, 302-366-7110 ext 125 or mark.farrall@cj.state.de.us.



PRESS RELEASE, Continued

Defendant: Ralph I. Rossi 3rd 05/07/1967
1203 Old Cooches Bridge Road
Newark, DE 19713

Pending Charges: Arson 2nd
Strangulation
Assault 3rd
Endangering the Welfare of a Child
Offensive Touching

Anyone with additional information about this incident should contact Detective Michael Watson at (302) 366-7110 x 133 or michael.watson@cj.state.de.us You can send an anonymous text message tip by texting 302NPD and your message to TIP411. Information can also be provided anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at www.tipsubmit.com where a reward may be available.

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