



Central Falls Police Department Office of Public Information

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Subject arrested and charges of Domestic Arson and Domestic Simple Assault:

CENTRAL FALLS – On August 28, 2015 at approximately 8:40pm, police and fire personnel responded to 121 Garfield Street for a report of structure fire.

As units arrived they observed flames emanating from the rear of the first floor apartment; the Central Falls Fire Department commenced to combating the flames as tenants of the six-unit dwelling were being evacuated.

Members of the Central Falls Police Detective Bureau and investigators from the Rhode Island Division of the State Fire Marshals arrived soon after to begin the joint investigation into the cause of the fire. It was ascertained from witnesses on scene that the building was set on fire by the boyfriend of the first floor tenant, later identified as Derrick Person (43) of Central Falls. Person was subsequently located in an adjacent yard and detained.

Investigators later learned that Person was in an argument with his girlfriend, and during the confrontation, allegedly piled up her clothes in an area outside of the building and proceeded to light them on fire. Person was confronted by his girlfriend and purportedly grabbed her by her throat and pushed her down to the ground. He then entered the apartment, and within a short time, flames begun to bellow out from the bedroom area of the apartment.

Fortunately the fire was extinguished rapidly and before it was able to spread to the other apartments; nevertheless, tenants in three

apartments were displaced for the evening and received aid from family members and the Red Cross of Rhode Island.

Person was arrested and charged with first degree domestic arson and domestic simple assault. He was held until his arraignment this morning in 6th District Court where he was ordered held without bail until his September 9, 2015 Bail Hearing.

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