



Central Falls Police Department Office of Public Information

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Suspect Arrested and Arraigned on 1st Degree Arson:

CENTRAL FALLS – On August 23, 2014, officers responded a report of an apparent arson which occurred at 139 Valley Street. As the preliminary investigation unfolded, it was determined that a subject identified as Jean Carlos Avila (23) was at a house party at the aforementioned address on the second floor, and during the party, a minor altercation ensued; whereby, Mr. Avila was asked to leave and subsequently complied.

According to witnesses, a few minute after Mr. Avila left the party a container of gasoline was ignited at the front door of 139 Valley Street causing a potential grave hazard to the occupants inside the residence. The fire was however extinguished by party guests prior to the Central Falls Fire Department arriving on scene, resulting in relatively minor damage. Mr. Avila immediately became a suspect in this incident as evidence was collected by the Central Falls Police Detective Bureau, along with the R.I Fire Marshal's Office for processing at the R.I State Crime Lab.

While awaiting the analysis of the evidence seized at the arson scene, Mr. Avila became a suspect in another incident involving the renter of the aforementioned address. He was positively identified by the renter of 139 Valley Street as the subject who vandalized his car while parked adjacent to his residence. Mr. Avila had fled the area prior to police arrival; a compliant was obtained and an arrest warrant was later sought.

On October 11, 2014, Mr. Avila was located and taken into custody by the Central Falls Police Department on the arrest warrant for vandalism. While in custody, Central Falls Detectives, along with members of the R.I

Fire Marshal's Office, spoke with Mr. Avila in regards to the previous arson investigation. After a brief interview, the suspect confessed to lighting fire to 139 Valley Street, and based upon this information, he was charged with 1st Degree Arson and is currently being held at the ACI awaiting a bail hearing.

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