



GOOD NEWS



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

April 2021 Edition

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GOOD NEWS



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Good News #98
Rose Haven Association Thank You**

Rose Haven Civic Assc. Rose Haven Maryland

Date: 5/5/21

To: Trisha Wolford Fire Chief A.A.Co.

From: Jeff Wyvill President Rose Haven Civic Assc.

Re: BLS Unit

Chief on behalf of our members and residents of Rose Haven Md. we would like to thank you and members for the BLS Unit you provided to our area during the they road closer of Rt. 261.

Job well done.



GOOD NEWS



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Good News #99 Office of Fire Marshal - Coconut Charlie's Incident

Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
District of Maryland

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Maryland Man Pleads Guilty to Federal Arson Charge for a 2017 Fire That Destroyed a Pasadena Bar

Baltimore, Maryland - Jamie Clemons, age 36 of Pasadena, Maryland, pleaded guilty today to malicious destruction of a property by fire, in connection with the fire on July 28, 2017, at Coconut Charlie's, a bar in Pasadena. As a result of the arson, Coconut Charlie's sustained over \$500,000 in damage; the building was razed and the business was forced to permanently close.

The guilty plea was announced by Acting United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Jonathan F. Lenzner; Special Agent in Charge Timothy Jones of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Baltimore Field Division; **the Anne Arundel County Fire Chief Trisha L. Wolford; and the Anne Arundel County Fire Marshal Division Chief John Lane.**

"This defendant not only caused devastating damage to a longtime Maryland business, he also endangered our brave firefighters who responded to the arson that he set," said Acting U. S. Attorney Jonathan F. Lenzner. "I'd like to thank ATF and our partners in Anne Arundel County for their impressive investigative work in solving this arson. Arsons are often difficult crimes to uncover and prove in court, and I am grateful to our investigative and prosecution teams for their dedication and persistence."

According to the indictment and the government's plea letter, on July 28, 2017, Clemons maliciously damaged and destroyed by fire a bar known as Coconut Charlie's, located in the 9100 block of Fort Smallwood Road in Pasadena, in order to conceal evidence of an assault he had committed there on July 22, 2017.

Clemons admitted that in the early morning hours of July 28, 2017, Clemons assembled multiple incendiary devices akin to Molotov cocktails, then lit the wicks for the devices on fire, and threw them at the exterior of Coconut Charlie's in an attempt to burn the structure and destroy the video surveillance system, which had captured his assault on his girlfriend the week prior.

As detailed in the statement of facts filed as part of the government's plea letter, on July 22, 2017, at approximately 1 a.m., Clemons assaulted his girlfriend on the patio area of Coconut Charlie's. An Anne Arundel County Police officer witnessed the assault and it was also captured on Coconut Charlie's video surveillance system. As a result, Clemons was charged with second degree assault and theft of less than \$100 in the District Court for Anne Arundel County, and was served with a summons for the case on July 27, 2017.

Due to the size of the fire, several agencies responded in an attempt to control and extinguish the fire, and a firefighter sustained injuries due to the force of a backdraft that caused him to fall off a ladder. A fire scene examination was conducted, and the area of origin of the fire was determined to be the west exterior of the restaurant.



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Office of Fire Marshal - Coconut Charlie's Incident Page 2

Con't - Maryland Man Pleads Guilty to Federal Arson Charge for a 2017 Fire That Destroyed a Pasadena Bar

Investigators reviewed the exterior camera footage from the video recording system, which remained operational after the fire, and were able to observe multiple flashes of light (at least three), followed by a sustained fire on the west exterior of the structure.

Charred melted plastic cups, which had been filled with gasoline, and a burnt cloth used as a wick material were located on the roof and exterior grounds of the building, and most were found to contain the presence of gasoline. Clemons admitted that he set the wicks on fire prior to throwing the devices on the roof. An accelerant detection K9 also alerted to the presence of gasoline on the west side of the exterior just on the other side of the fence surrounding Coconut Charlie's. This is the area where Clemons launched the devices at Coconut Charlie's. A short distance away, along the north side of the exterior of the property fence line, a glove was found which tested positive for the presence of an ignitable liquid and contained Clemons' DNA.

On November 30, 2017, a federal search warrant was obtained for Clemons' text messages on his cell phone. The contents of those messages revealed that after the assault and in the days leading up to the fire, Clemons sent multiple text messages expressing concern as to whether police would obtain the video surveillance of the assault, and what the video had captured.

Clemons faces a mandatory minimum of five years in federal prison and a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. U.S. District Judge Richard D. Bennett has scheduled sentencing for July 13, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.

Acting United States Attorney Jonathan F. Lenzner commended the ATF, the Anne Arundel County Fire Department, and the Anne Arundel County Fire and Explosives Investigation Unit for their work in the investigation. Mr. Lenzner thanked Assistant U.S. Attorneys Judson T. Mihok and Mary W. Setzer, who are prosecuting the case.



Captain Michael Halpern



Lt. Brian Mayers
(K-9 partner "Spice")

Investigator
Colin Orsini



"Spice"
(Partner Lt. Mayers)



Spice played a huge role in the case!



GOOD NEWS



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Good News #100 Howard County Fire Rescue - Thank You Co.4 Severn



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

2201 Warwick Way, Marriottsville, MD 21104
410-313-6000

WILLIAM ANUSZEWSKI, FIRE CHIEF • CALVIN BALL, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Fire Chief Trisha L. Wolford
Anne Arundel County Fire Department
8501 Veterans Highway
Millersville, Maryland 21108

April 7, 2021

Dear Chief *Trisha* Wolford,

On Saturday April 3, Howard County DFRS along with Anne Arundel Fire responded to 7587 Marston Way for a reported building fire. Upon arrival crews found significant fire on the second and third floors of the structure. Crews made entry through the Alpha side, but were unable to gain access to the fire floor as the stairs had burnt through. The crew from your Engine 41 deployed a ground ladder to the third floor and advanced a handling via window access getting water on the seat of the fire.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation for the outstanding work your crews did that day! I don't know who was on the crew, but their efforts were outstanding and undoubtedly made a significant difference in reducing fire spread.

William G. Anuszewski
Fire Chief



LT. Aaron Campillo



FF III Robert Griffith



FF II Matthew Chartos



FF II D'Angelo Cooper



GOOD NEWS



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Good News #101 West Severna Park Marina - Thank You Fire Marshals

Anne Arundel County Mail - WSP Marina



WSP Marina

1 message

Brian Lawton

To: Amanda Fiedler, Charles Walls, Firechief@aacounty.org

To All,

I wanted to take the time to thank everyone involved in getting today's inspection set up in order to open the West Severna Park Marina.

Chief Lane and Lt. Walls were both onsite first thing this morning and worked with our plumber and marina committee for a successful test and inspection.

I can promise you there are 70 other members who are also grateful this took place so they can enjoy the new facility they have anxiously been waiting for.

Sincerely,

Brian Lawton / Keith Madsen WSP Marina.



Division Chief John Lane



Lt. Charles Walls



GOOD NEWS



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Good News #101 Honor Guard - Thank You FF Richard Ringenbach

Reck ~

Thank you so much for being the Honor guard at my Dad's service! You did an outstanding job, it is apparent that you take that position seriously and with precision and honor. It's ironic that you knew Brad and Laura under separate circumstances. I think you were meant to be a part of our family.

So, thank you, again for honoring my Dad with your reverence.

Much Appreciation, Leahy (Sibel) Brown
(Laura's mom)



FF II Richard Ringenbach

