



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

NORFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

45 SHAWMUT ROAD | CANTON, MA 02021 | 781.830.4800 | F: 781.830.4801 | www.norfolkda.com

MICHAEL W. MORRISSEY
NORFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Press Release

State Prison for Hammond Street Burglar who dropped pastry

Contact: D.Traub, 781-830-4917

A 55-year old Newton man today (August 4, 2016) admitted to breaking into a Hammond Street apartment in 2012, tripping an alarm and fleeing before he could steal anything, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

"A good neighbor called police after the alarm in an interior room sounded," DA Morrissey said after Paul W. Thames, 55, pled guilty in Norfolk Superior Court in Dedham. "He must have been spooked, because he left the screwdriver he had used to jimmy the door and left behind the box of éclairs and jug of ice tea he had brought along as a snack."

Thames was gone from the apartment by the time Brookline police arrived, Morrissey said. They found that the door of the building showed pry marks, the dead bolt had been smashed through on the apartment door and the keypad had been popped off the wall of the empty flat.

"The case was solved by Brookline detectives employing foundational investigative techniques and diligence," Morrissey said. "They processed the scene carefully and collected evidence. The éclair box had Thames' fingerprint on it and the screw driver had traces of his DNA. Brookline police put together a very strong case – and the defendant was eventually linked to other similar incidents as well."

Thames admitted to breaking and entering in the daytime to commit a felony and possession of burglarious tools. Judge Robert C. Cosgrove sentenced him to 2 years in state prison on Aug. 4, 2016 in Norfolk Superior Court. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney David Omiunu.