



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Man Accused of Dousing Police Officer with Gas While Home Burned is Ordered Held

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A Randolph 54-year-old was ordered held without bail in Norfolk Superior Court today (July 25, 2012) after pleading not guilty to trying to blow up and burn down his own home in March while it was occupied by several family members and their friends, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

Raphael Theophile also pled not guilty to charges that he threw gasoline all over the Randolph Police Officer who was entering the burning building to attempt to save his life, Morrissey said.

“Based on the nature of the crimes and a number of factors, we moved to have him held without bail under the dangerousness statute, in addition to his present commitment to Bridgewater State Hospital,” Morrissey said. “He is being held without bail, without prejudice, until he returns to court on September 25 for a status hearing.”

Morrissey said that Assistant District Attorney Carolyn Hely brought the allegations to the Norfolk County Grand Jury, which indicted him on eleven counts in June. Those counts included arson of a dwelling house, six counts of deploying explosive devices, assault and other charges, Morrissey said. The indictments supersede the Quincy District Court charges.

The explosives used are alleged to have been home-made “Molotov Cocktail” type devices using gasoline or a similar substance as an accelerant, according to court documents. “A number of young men and women were gathered at the Theophile residence at 17 Turning Mill Lane on Saturday, March 24, 2012, to watch movies after a church service when this incident occurred,” District Attorney Morrissey said. “All of those in the home were evacuated without injury. The police officer whom we allege to have been doused with gasoline was also unharmed.”

“The Randolph officers who responded to the home that day acted with great bravery and professionalism,” District Attorney Morrissey said. “Even after being drenched with gasoline, that officer ran not away from the fire but around the back of the home to assist fellow officers in placing the suspect safely into custody. It is an amazing story of bravery.”

District Attorney Morrissey presented Officer Marc L’Italien a Robert P. Dana Distinguished Service Award for excellence in law enforcement on behalf of the public safety community at Law Day exercises in the Quincy District Court on May 3, 2012.

All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.