



LANCASTER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

City of Lancaster
Bureau of Police, 39 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster, Pa. 17603
www.lancasterpolice.com

Author: Det.Lt. Clark Bearinger

Contact Number: 717 7353300

Date: June 5, 2009

Arson Arrest

A few minutes after 4:00 am Friday morning the 5th of June, 2009, Officers of the Lancaster Bureau of Police were dispatched to 620 W. Walnut Street, apt. # 1, regarding a domestic disturbance. Upon arrival, Officers knocked on the door to apartment # 1 and received no response. The door was unlocked so the Officers opened the door to better announce their presence to be sure no one was injured. Immediately the Officers could see that it appeared that a disturbance had taken place in the apartment and they saw what appeared to be fresh blood on the coffee table and throughout the apartment.

As the Officers were clearing the apartment to attempt to locate the injured person, they were informed by Lancaster County-Wide Communications (LCWC) that the victim of the assault was at a local hospital. Officers Jonathan Reppert and Anthony Weaver then went to speak with the victim at the hospital. The 37-year-old female victim had multiple bruises to her face and was bleeding from her nose and mouth area. She told the Officers that her live-in boyfriend (listed below) assaulted her.

GARDOPEE, Matthew Scott W/M/35
620 W. Walnut St., Apt.# 1, Lancaster, PA

Officer Jonathan Reppert then went to the police Station to prepare Simple Assault Domestic Violence charges against GARDOPEE. At that point GARDOPEE's whereabouts was unknown. The apartment was secured and the other Officers cleared the scene.

At approximately 5:40 am Friday morning Officers again were dispatched to 620 W. Walnut Street apt. # 1, but this time it was for a fire investigation. The Lancaster City Fire Department arrived and extinguished the fire. At the time of this news release the estimated damage to the apartment building is unknown. All other apartment tenants were able to be evacuated from the building without injury. Lancaster City Fire Department, Assistant Fire Marshall Lt. Alex Grumbrecht and the Pennsylvania State Police Fire Marshall Trooper James DeWalt conducted an investigation of the fire and ruled it to be an arson.

Shortly before 12:00 noon today (Friday the 5th of June) GARDOPEE turned himself into the police in Lititz Borough. GARDOPEE was conveyed to the Lancaster Bureau of Police where Detective Jeffrey Bell conducted an interview with GARDOPEE regarding the arson and the domestic assault. GARDOPEE admitted to Detective



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Bell that he did assault his live-in girlfriend earlier in the morning and that he was responsible for returning to the apartment and causing the fire.

Detective Jeffrey Bell subsequently charged GARDOPEE with ARSON and CAUSING OR RISKING CATASTROPHE, both are Felony charges. Both of these charges, along with Officer Reppert's SIMPLE ASSAULT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE charge, were brought before MDJ Bruce Roth. GARDOPEE was subsequently arraigned on all above charge by MDJ Mylin and was committed to the Lancaster County Prison in lieu of a combined \$77,000 straight cash bail.

(end of release)