



LANCASTER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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

Author: Captain Kent Switzer

Contact Number: (717) 735-3300

Date: January 13, 2012

Homicide Charges Filed in Fatal Fire

INFORMATON PREVIOUSLY RELEASED:

Lancaster City Police and Lancaster City Fire Bureau received a call for a house fire with entrapment at 7:30 a.m., January 9, 2012. A neighbor called reporting that a house was on fire at 627 Olive St. Officers arrived and found an active fire on the 1st floor, with reports of a male victim trapped on the second floor. City Fire responded and entered the residence. Firefighters located an 86-year-old male in the second floor and rescued him from the burning building. A second victim, a 59-year-old female, was located outside. The victims are residents of 627 Olive St. and are husband and wife. They were both treated at the scene by EMS and taken to Lancaster General Hospital, where they are currently being treated for their injuries. Patrol officers assisted with rendering aid to the victims and securing the scene. City Police Detectives, PA State Police Fire Marshals and City Fire Personnel are investigating the cause and origin of the fire.

UPDATED INFORMATION ON FILING OF HOMICIDE CHARGES:

(13 Jan 12):

The occupants/residents of this house at the time of the fire have been identified as Robert Clark (86) and Nancy Clark (59), both of 627 Olive St. Due to the serious nature and extent of Robert Clark's injuries, he was immediately transported from Lancaster General Hospital, via helicopter, to an out-of-county medical center, where he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead at 3:00 am, January 10th. Later that date an autopsy was performed by Dr. Frederic Hellman (Delaware County Medical Examiner) and the cause of death was determined to be smoke inhalation complicated by underlying natural lung and heart disease.

PA State Police Fire Marshals Brian Herr and James DeWalt responded to the scene on the morning of the fire and determined it to be Arson. Detectives continued the investigation into this Arson throughout the week, interviewing witnesses, analyzing evidence and consulting with the Lancaster County District Attorney's Office, State Police Fire Marshals and the Delaware County Medical Examiner. In furtherance of the investigation, investigators interviewed Nancy Clark. During the interview, Nancy Clark admitted to intentionally setting the fire in an apparent attempt at suicide, while being fully aware yet disregarding the fact that her husband was present on the second floor of the residence.



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As a result of the investigation, on Friday, January 13th Detective James Fatta charged Nancy Clark with Criminal Homicide (F-1) & Arson and Related Offenses (F-1) before Magisterial District Judge Janice Jimenez. Nancy Clark is currently being treated for the injuries she sustained as a result of this fire at an out-of-county facility.

As always, anyone charged with a crime is presumed innocent until and unless convicted in court.

(end of release)