



Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 20, 2008

Dennis L. Rubin, Fire Chief
CONTACT: PIO 202.673.3331

DC Fire Investigators Arrest Arson Suspect

Juvenile Charged in Wednesday Night Blaze

(Washington, DC) – DC Fire Investigators today arrested a 14-year-old boy and charged him with setting a fire that caused a half-million dollars worth of damage to four homes in Northeast. The teenager is in custody now, charged with arson and other crimes.

The fire was reported just before 7:30 PM on Wednesday, June 18th. First arriving firefighters reported heavy fire on both levels of the home with significant extension to three other rowhouses. Firefighters discovered an 83-year-old woman who was confined to a wheelchair in the home where the fire started. She was rescued by firefighters and was treated for minor smoke inhalation. She was not hospitalized. Two cats were also rescued from one of the houses where the fire spread. Investigators, using a dog trained to detect the presence of ignitable liquids, quickly determined the fire was deliberately set.

Following up on several leads and information from the community, DC Fire Investigators this morning arrested the teenager in Northeast Washington.

“All the investigators deserve praise for their great work on this case,” said Fire & EMS Chief Dennis L. Rubin, referring to the DC Arson Task Force, which is comprised of DC Fire & EMS, the Metropolitan Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Because of his age, the suspect’s name is not being released at this time. Arraignment was scheduled for today

###

1923 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20005 Telephone: (202) 673-3331 Fax: (202) 673-3188