

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CRIMINAL DIVISION

DCTN: U11016311

COMPLAINT

Lockup No: 2

Case No:

District of Columbia ss:

Defendant's Name: Maurice Dews 651657 11047285  
(First) (MI) (Last) (PDID) (CCNO)

Also Known As: Maurice Timothy Dews  
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address: 730 50TH ST NE, WASHINGTON DC

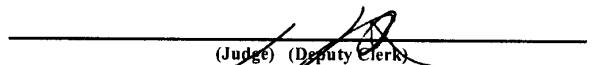
On or about April 8, 2011, within the District of Columbia, Maurice Dews maliciously did burn and attempt to burn the residence at 811 48th Pl., NE of Wachovia Bank. (Arson, in violation of 22 D.C. Code, Section 301 (2001 ed.))

On or about June 14, 2011, within the District of Columbia, Maurice Dews maliciously did burn and attempt to burn the residence at 4501 Grant St., NE of W and D LLC. (Arson, in violation of 22 D.C. Code, Section 301 (2001 ed.))

On or about July 5, 2011, within the District of Columbia, Maurice Dews maliciously did burn and attempt to burn the residence at 804 48th Pl., NE of Olalekan O. Ogungbaigbe. (Arson, in violation of 22 D.C. Code, Section 301 (2001 ed.))

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Affiant's Name

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7 day of July, 2011

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Judge) (Deputy Clerk)

WARRANT

To The United States Marshal or any other authorized federal officer or the Chief of Police of the District of Columbia:

WHEREAS the foregoing complaint and affidavit supporting the allegations thereof have been submitted, and there appearing probable cause and reasonable grounds for the issuance of an arrest warrant for

**YOU ARE THEREFORE COMMANDED TO BRING THE DEFENDANT BEFORE SAID COURT OR OTHER PERSON ENUMERATED IN 18 U.S.C. 3041 forthwith to answer said charge.**

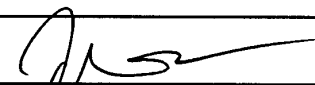
Issued \_\_\_\_\_  
Judge - Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Rule 105:

Judge

Sex: Male	DOB: 07/10/1984	CCN: 11047285	PDID: 651657
Papering Officer: Keith M Byrd			Badge No.: F-122

OFFICER MUST EXECUTE RETURN

Officer's Name:	Date / Time:
AUSA Signature: 	Fel. I <input type="checkbox"/> AFTC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fel. II <input type="checkbox"/>

SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CRIMINAL DIVISION

UNITED STATES

VS.

Maurice Dews

Arson on July 5, 2011 at 804 48<sup>th</sup> Pl., NE

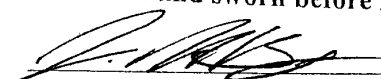
On July 5, 2011 at 9:20 pm, officers from the District of Columbia Fire Department responded to a 911 call about a house on fire at 804 48th Pl., NE in Washington, DC. Police and Fire Department officers discovered that a trash fire had been started on the first floor of a vacant, single-family house made of ordinary construction adjacent to an occupied single-family residence in a densely populated, residential area. Fire investigators examined the scene and determined that the fire was the result of an intentional act, caused by an open flame being applied to ordinary combustibles on the first floor of the home.

At 9:48 pm, D-1 (Maurice Dews), contacted Fire Department Investigator Tomi Rucker using telephone number (202) 718-0442. D-1 is known to the police and fire department as the subject of an ongoing investigation into multiple arsons that have occurred in Washington, DC and Maryland since 2007. D-1 left Inv. Rucker a voice message and informed her that there was a fire on 48<sup>th</sup> Pl., NE.

W-1 was interviewed on the scene. W-1 revealed that a black male, with a goatee and a short hair cut, wearing a black and purple checkered shirt and a purple hat was seen in the alley next to 811 48th Pl., NE prior to the fire. W-1 stated that the male was looking across 48th Pl., towards 804 48th Pl., NE, as if he wanted to cross the street. W-1 stated that he returned a short time later and saw a male wearing a black shirt standing inside of the house flicking a lighter. He stated that he saw the male flick the lighter once but that the flame went out. W-1 stated that the subject flicked the lighter a second time and was able to keep it ignited. The subject then ducked below the level of W-1's view.

The events and acts described above occurred primarily in the District of Columbia and were committed as described by defendant(s) listed in the case caption.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 7 day of July, 2011

  
Police Officer

F122  
Badge

FFU  
District

  
Deputy Clerk

SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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At approximately 11:00 pm, Inv. Keith Byrd, Inv. Rucker, Inv. Mitchell Kannry, and Sgt. David Slye attempted to locate D-1 at 730 50th St., NE, which is located approximately three blocks from the scene of the fire and is a known residence of D-1. The officers observed D-1 walking towards 730 50<sup>th</sup> St., NE and Inv. Rucker made contact with him. D-1 matched the description provided by W-1 and was wearing a purple and black checkered t-shirt layered over a black t-shirt and he had a black and purple hat. D-1 told Inv. Rucker that he had attempted to call her earlier and that he had heard about the fire at 804 48<sup>th</sup> Pl., NE through a scanner on his phone.

D-1 also informed Inv. Byrd and Inv. Rucker that he had spoken with firefighters on the scene. No firefighters could confirm that D-1 had spoken with them. Sgt. Slye, Inv. Kannry, and Inv. Byrd attempted to place D-1 under arrest for arson, but D-1 resisted by attempting to break free from the officers. D-1 was eventually subdued, placed under arrest and transported to the Metropolitan Police Homicide Branch for interview and processing.

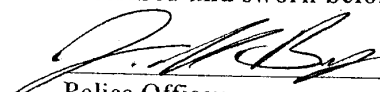
D-1 was read his Miranda rights and voluntarily waived his rights and provided a videotaped statement on July 6, 2011 at 1:45 am. D-1 initially denied starting the fire at 804 48<sup>th</sup> Pl., NE. D-1 later admitted to setting the fire at 804 48<sup>th</sup> Pl., NE in addition to setting a number of other fires in vacant buildings located in Washington, D.C. and Maryland.


Arson on June 14, 2011 at 4501 Grant St., NE

On June 14, 2011 at approximately 12:45 am, D-1 called 911 to report a fire at a vacant house located near 4523 Grant St., NE in Washington, DC and identified himself as "Maurice" and "Moe." After calling 911, D-1 called Inv. Rucker from the same number he used to dial 911. D-1 told Inv. Rucker that he was on the scene of a house fire at Grant St., NE. Police and Fire Department officers responded to 4501 Grant St., NE where they found a vacant, one-story wood-framed house engulfed in fire. The volume of fire was substantial enough to cause a second alarm to be sounded at 12:54 am. The vacant home was directly adjacent to another occupied residence in a densely populated, residential area. Fire and smoke from the vacant home was burning the house down and flames were burning the occupied home next door.

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The investigation into the origin and cause of the fire at 4501 Grant St., NE is ongoing, but the investigation has ruled out the possibility of an accidental ignition through electrical or mechanical means. It has been determined that all electrical and gas services had previously been disconnected to the house. The fire is believed to have originated inside a melted mass of plastic and debris consistent with a trash can inside of the house. The estimated cost of the fire to the building is \$202,480.

At 1:28 am, Inv. Rucker and Inv. Byrd arrived on the scene and located D-1 standing near the front of the building watching firefighters working to put out the fire. D-1 said he had called 911 and he agreed to provide a voluntary videotaped statement in a non-custodial setting. During the interview, D-1 stated that he had been walking eastbound on Grant St., NE when he observed a black male with dreads, a white t-shirt and jeans walking westbound on Grant St., NE. D-1 stated that he then started to smell smoke and called 911 multiple times to report the fire. During the interview, D-1 was asked if he had taken pictures of the fire at 4501 Grant St., NE and D-1 denied having done so and allowed Inv. Byrd to review the photo gallery section of his phone. Inv. Byrd noticed videos of fire apparatus operating at an incident. Inv. Byrd asked D-1 about the videos and D-1 explained they were videos of a fire that was near his house on Warner Ave. in Landover Hills, Maryland from the previous month. During the interview D-1 adamantly denied approaching the scene of the fire at 4501 Grant St., NE, stating that the fire was too hot to get close, and that anyone inside would not have been able to survive. During his 911 call earlier

that evening, D-1 reported that the house was abandoned and was "a house attached to another house." Investigators observed that it would not be apparent that the house at 4501 Grant St., NE was attached to another house unless someone walked up close to the house because that fact is not readily apparent when standing on Grant St., NE. Inv. Byrd confronted D-1 about his story and stated that he thought D-1 had set the fire. D-1 became irate and defensive, denied setting the fire, slammed his phone on the table, stood up in a threatening manner and told Inv. Byrd, "you don't know what I'm capable of." D-1 then asked to leave and the interview was terminated.

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After being placed under arrest and waiving his Miranda rights on July 6, 2011 at 1:45 am, D-1 initially denied starting the fire at 4501 Grant St., NE. He later admitted that he had set the fire in addition to a number of other fires in Washington, DC and Maryland.

Arson on April 8, 2011 at 811 48<sup>th</sup> Pl., NE

On April 8, 2011 at 12:38 am, D-1 called 911 two times, identified himself as "Maurice," and reported a fire at either 807 or 811 48<sup>th</sup> Pl., NE in Washington, DC. D-1 stated that there was a fire in an abandoned house and that there was thick, black smoke going down the street and flames threatening the occupied residence next door at 813 48<sup>th</sup> Pl., NE. MPD and Fire Department officers responded to the fire at 811 48<sup>th</sup> Pl., NE and observed it was blazing and flames were touching and burning the occupied residence next door at 813 48<sup>th</sup> Pl., NE. The burning vacant building was located in an otherwise densely populated residential area.

The first units to arrive on the scene reported that a black male matching the description of D-1 was observed standing outside of 811 48th Place, NE and pointing at the house in an apparent attempt to direct them to the fire. Firefighters managed to put down the fire, but five firefighters suffered burn injuries, including four firefighters who required hospitalization, one of whom was permanently disfigured and hospitalized for over one month. The estimated cost of the fire to the building was \$152,520.

Members of the Fire Department's Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) responded to 811 48th Pl., NE, to conduct an origin and cause examination. They concluded that the fire originated at a point near the center of the house and involved a mattress and other ordinary combustibles available at the scene, including phone books under and around a mattress. The examination revealed that it was an incendiary fire, meaning that it was intentionally lit.

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Further investigation revealed that D-1 was the black male first spotted at the scene by the first arriving units. Inv. Rucker conducted an initial interview with D-1, who was wearing a black long sleeve tee shirt, dark blue jeans, and a black knit cap. During this interview, D-1 stated that he had been visiting his girlfriend, whom he identified as "Alisha Ross," who lived at 817 48th Pl., NE. D-1 could not provide a phone number for Ross and further investigation revealed that nobody named Alisha Ross lived at that or any other location in Washington, DC. D-1 also stated that he was a volunteer firefighter in Bladensburg, Maryland. Further investigation


revealed that he was not a volunteer firefighter in Bladensburg, Maryland. D-1 provided a home address of 730 50th Street, NE in Washington, DC, which is located approximately three blocks from the scene of the fire at 811 48<sup>th</sup> Pl., NE.

D-1 told fire investigators that he left Ms. Ross's house at 817 48th Pl., NE and began walking south on 48th Pl., NE when he observed a black male with a short haircut exiting the alley next to 811 48th Pl., NE wearing a white shirt, blue jeans, blue and white Nike shoes. D-1 stated that the person he observed looked at him, then continued south on 48th Pl., NE and turned onto Hayes St., NE. D-1 stated he called 911 and alerted the occupants of 813 48th Pl., NE of the fire next door. D-1 was observed standing close to the badly burned uniforms of the firefighters who were injured combating the fire and he acknowledged knowing that the firefighters were badly injured during the fire.

On May 19, 2011, Inv. Rucker spoke again with D-1 and informed D-1 that the evidence against him was substantial and that D-1 needed to think about admitting to his crimes. D-1 did not admit to any fires at that time and responded that law enforcement was "going to have to catch me slipping."

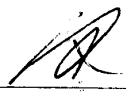
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Further investigation has revealed that W-2 and W-3, who lived near the fire at 811 48<sup>th</sup> Pl., NE, both observed a black male matching D-1's description as the first person they observed exiting the alley next to 811 48<sup>th</sup> Pl., NE. W-2 observed the subject acting suspiciously, hiding in the shadows and attempting to avoid being sighted. W-2 yelled toward the subject, "Hey, did you have something to do with this?" and the subject did not respond. The subject then walked back towards the fire at 811 48<sup>th</sup> St., NE. W-2 and W-3 observed the subject pick up his phone and begin knocking on the front door of 813 48<sup>th</sup> Pl., NE. W-2 and W-3 also heard the subject on the phone with 911. On June 30, 2011, W-2 listened to a 911 call from the evening of the fire and immediately heard and recognized the voice as the voice of the subject he observed that night. Within seconds of hearing the voice on the 911 call, W-2 spontaneously stated, "that's the guy, that's him!" When asked who he was talking about, W-2 stated, "that's the guy I saw leaving the alley." W-2 told fire investigators he believed he could positively identify the person he had seen and heard on the 911 call. W-2 was shown a photo array consisting of 9 photos, including a photo of D-1. W-2 positively identified D-1 from the photo array.

After being placed under arrest and waiving his Miranda rights on July 6, 2011 at 1:45 am, D-1 initially denied starting the fire at 811 48<sup>th</sup> Pl., Grant St., NE. He later admitted that he had set the fire in addition to a number of other fires in Washington, DC and Maryland.

Other Known Fires

Further investigation has revealed that D-1 has called 911 to report fires in Washington, DC and Maryland at least nine times since 2007, and he has been observed as among the first persons on the scene of a fire multiple times. Multiple times D-1 has been observed drinking, taking photos and videotaping the fires.

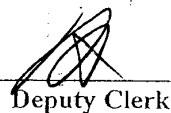
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As discussed above, during his post-arrest interview on July 6, 2011, D-1 waived his rights and admitted to starting the fires at 804 48<sup>th</sup> Pl., NE on July 5, 2011, 4501 Grant St., NE on June 14, 2011, and 811 48<sup>th</sup> Pl., NE on April 8, 2011. D-1 also admitted to starting multiple fires in Maryland and to starting other fires in Washington, D.C., including fires at 4900 Hayes St., NE on March 25, 2011 and 5019 Hayes St., NE on June 23, 2011. The fire department has determined that both fires were intentionally set to vacant properties located near otherwise occupied units in a densely populated residential area located near D-1's known residence.

One firefighter was injured while attempting to fight the fire at 5019 Hayes St., NE and the estimated cost to the home was \$249,370. Moreover, on June 24, 2011, one day after the fire at 5019 Hayes St., NE, Inv. Rucker and other officers from the fire department observed that D-1 had an injury on his hand. D-1 claimed that the injury was a scratch, but Inv. Rucker and the other fire department officers knew that the injury was consistent with a burn from an open flame. D-1 received medical attention for the injury and began referring to it as a "burn" rather than a "scratch."

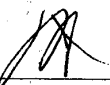
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