

# NEWS

## TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **WOODBIDGE PD CHARGES TOWNSHIP MAN WITH ARSON FOR SETTING JULY 12 FIRE AT COLONIA FOOTTOWN**

***Defendant is Colonia Resident... Former Foodtown Employee... and  
Volunteer Fireman with Colonia Fire Department***

**Woodbridge Twsp.** – The Woodbridge Township Police Department (WPD) announced that an 18 year-old Township resident has been arrested and charged with intentionally setting a late-night fire at the Colonia Foodtown grocery store on July 12. The arson charge was filed by the Woodbridge Police Department Detective Bureau following an extensive investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding the July 12 fire.

According to Chief William Trenergy, Woodbridge Township Police Department, Elijah James, 18, Colonia, was arrested on July 17 and charged with arson – additional charges remain pending the ongoing investigation. James was taken into custody, processed and released from the Middlesex County Jail after posting \$10,000 cash bail. James, a Foodtown employee at the time of the arson fire and volunteer fireman with the Colonia Fire Department, will be arraigned in Middlesex County Superior Court.

Detectives assigned to the Woodbridge Police Department Detective Bureau noted that on Thurs., July 12 at 10:06 p.m., Woodbridge Township police officers responded to a report of a structure fire at the Colonia Foodtown grocery store located at 510 Inman Avenue. In arriving on the scene, the responding patrolmen determined that the store was closed and that all employees had been safely evacuated. The Colonia Fire Department and the Woodbridge Township Office of Emergency Management were on the scene and were fully engaged in fighting the fire.

The Woodbridge Police Department arson investigation uncovered two separate points of ignition inside the Foodtown grocery store – the first in a storage area in the rear of the store and the second at the rear loading dock. The investigation determined the first ignition point to be stacked wooden pallet(s) located behind refrigeration units in a storage area and the second ignition point was bundled cardboard located at the rear loading dock. The criminal complaint alleges that James completed work prior to the time the fires were set left the store and subsequently returned to the fire scene with the responding Colonia Fire Department.

The investigation remains ongoing and will be submitted to the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office for prosecution. Woodbridge Township Patrolmen Paul Lobur and Joseph Angelo responded to the fire scene and conducted the preliminary investigation. Det. Sgt. Joseph Nisky and Det. Zeno coordinated the arson investigation.

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