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PRESS RELEASE

Hagerstown Fire Marshal's charge woman for Avalon Avenue Fire

July 11, 2016 --- The Hagerstown Fire Marshal's Office has charged a 31 year-old female occupant with intentionally setting the July 8th fire in her 49 Avalon Avenue Hagerstown home. The fire was reported to the 9-1-1 center at approximately 2:37 am for a fire in the home with occupants trapped. Several children were in the home at the time of the fire. Hagerstown Fire Department units arrived at 2:42 am to smoke visible inside the house. Prior to the fire department arrival, a passerby assisted with removing the children from the house and keeping them outside until the arrival of the fire department. Fire Department personnel conducting a search of the house found an adult female in the 2nd floor bedroom closet and removed her to a Community Rescue Service ambulance. All the children were out of the house when the fire department arrived. Two people were transported to the hospital for evaluation of smoke inhalation by Community Rescue Service, where they were treated and released.

As a result of an origin and cause investigation by the Hagerstown City Fire Marshal's Office, the fire was determined to have been intentionally set in a second floor bedroom. Accelerants were determined to have been used in starting the fire. Most disturbing was that the fire was set with several juveniles sleeping in the neighboring bedrooms.

Hagerstown Fire Marshal's have charged Cierra Nicole WHITE (age 31) with Arson 1st degree and other arson related charges, various counts of attempted murder and several counts of reckless endangerment. WHITE is currently being held without bond at the Washington County Detention Center.

A total of 34 firefighters from all Hagerstown Fire stations responded, as well as, the Washington County Special Operations, Air Unit, Rehab Unit and Community Rescue Service. The fire caused a moderate amount of damage. All units had cleared the scene by 8am.

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