

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

NORFOLK DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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Press Release

Weymouth man admits lighting apartment Ablaze with neighbors home downstairs

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A Weymouth father has admitted to lighting his family apartment on fire February 1, 2014 and smashing the windows on a family vehicle after an argument. He is now in jail.

Brian Nigro, 30, pled guilty to both indictments against him, arson of a dwelling and malicious destruction of property, on the date he was set to go to trial in Norfolk Superior Court, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

"This is an example of the excellent teamwork between the DA's office, Weymouth Police and Fire Departments as well as the State Police assigned to the Fire Marshal's office. This fire resulted in over \$100,000.00 in damage and displaced the two families residing in the duplex," Weymouth Fire Chief Kieth Stark said. "Arson is a serious crime, we are fortunate that nobody was killed or injured as a result of this fire."

Prosecutors requested a 3 to 5 year state prison sentence. The defendant requested a term of probation. Norfolk Superior Court Judge Beverly Cannone sentenced Nigro to 2 ½ years in the house of corrections with six months committed and the remaining 2 years suspended while he serves 3 years probation. "The perpetrator lit this fire while neighbors were home on the first floor of the building. This could have ended in loss of life. We believed that committed time was appropriate," District Attorney Morrissey said.

Morrissey credited the investigation by the State Police arson investigators assigned to Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey's Office, Weymouth fire and police investigators for Tuesday's guilty plea. "Arson cases are difficult to investigate and complex to prosecute, even when they seem to be straightforward. It was a strong investigation and the trial preparation was ably handled by Assistant District Attorney Carolyn Hely," District Attorney Morrissey said.

"Witnesses placed Nigro acting suspiciously and breaking the windows of the vehicle just before smoke was discovered," Morrissey said. "What followed that strong initial evidence was a complete and thorough investigation that left little room for Nigro to take his chances at trial."

The crimes were indicted by a Norfolk County grand jury in 2014.