

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR
413 Second Street
Belvidere New Jersey 07823
Phone: (908) 475-6275
Fax: (908) 475-6344



JAMES L. PFEIFFER
County Prosecutor
ANTHONY J. ROBINSON
First Assistant Prosecutor
MICHAEL C. DEVLIN
Chief of Detectives

County of Warren

PRESS RELEASE

Arrested: **Alfredo Gomez a/k/a/ Kevin Chavez**
335 South Main St.
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865
DOB: 12/21/2000

On July 24, 2021 between approximately 12:03 and 12:27 AM, the Phillipsburg Police responded to multiple fire reports in the area of Sitgreaves and South Main Street in the Town. Four total fires were reported between 12:03 AM and 12:27 AM in the same vicinity. As the result of four fire calls being simultaneously received by the Phillipsburg Police Department they quickly implemented the mutual aid agreement between the local municipal Police Departments which lead to the quick arrest of the suspect. The Pohatcong Police Department responded and with the description and information provided by Phillipsburg, the Pohatcong officers responding to the reported fire at the St. Phillips and St. James School parking lot observed the suspect as they were approaching the scene. The quick action on behalf of the Phillipsburg Police Department lead to the immediate arrest of the suspect. The investigation was conducted by the Phillipsburg Police Department, Warren County Prosecutor's Office with the aid of the Pohatcong Township Police Department resulting in the arrest of the above named individual.

The following fires are subject of the current investigation:

1. Fire #1 – Reported 1203 AM. 102-104 Sitgreaves St. A piece of lawn furniture was lit on fire and placed under the door handle in the entrance to the building. The building was not damaged.
2. Fire #2 – Nissan, parked at rear lot of 459 S. Main St. (next to River of Life Church). The vehicle sustained damage to the body of the vehicle.
3. Fire #3 – 471 S. Main St. The structure is a private residence. Minimal damage was sustained in the back wall.
4. Fire #4 – Honda Pilot, St. Phillips and St. James School parking lot. Reported at 12:27 AM. The vehicle sustained body damage.

At this time, Gomez is charged as follows:

1. Aggravated Arson, in violation of 2C:17-1(a) a Second Degree Crime. This offense carries a maximum of ten (10) years in the New Jersey State Prison and up to a \$150,000.00 fine. This charge is related to Fire #4.

The investigation continues and additional charges may follow.

Gomez was transported to Warren County Jail. His first appearance in Warren County Superior Court pending an application for Pre-Trial detention followed by the Prosecutor's Office. That motion is preliminarily scheduled to occur on Wednesday, July 28, 2021.

This is an excellent example of how the Municipal Mutual Aid agreement between law enforcement departments is meant to be effectively utilized. The teamwork envisioned by the agreement was on full display in this case. Phillipsburg immediately recognized the need for additional aid and it was immediately provided by Pohatcong Township. As the Warren County Prosecutor I am proud of the team work displayed by our local municipal law enforcement departments. The quick decision making by Phillipsburg and the immediate aid provided by Pohatcong Township resulted in a quick arrest of the suspect.

Please be advised that the charges are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Approved by:
Date: July 27, 2021



JAMES L. PFEIFFER
Warren County Prosecutor