



**OFFICE OF THE
STATE'S ATTORNEY**
CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND

JAMES DELLMYER

The State's Attorney for Cecil County, Maryland

Circuit Courthouse • 129 East Main Street, Suite 300 • Elkton, Maryland 21921 • Office: 410-996-5335 • Fax: 410-392-7814

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 27, 2024

**DELAWARE MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS
FOR ARSON IN THE FIRST DEGREE**

ELKTON- Tuesday, March 26, 2024, Kareem Pope, 32, of Delaware was sentenced in the Circuit Court of Cecil County to 10 years incarceration for Arson in the First Degree. Pope had recently been convicted in a jury trial of his peers on March 13, 2024 where he was found guilty of the lead charge.

On March 12, 2023, first responders responded to a dwelling fire in progress at 690 Elk Mills Rd. Upon arrival, members of the Singerly Fire Company immediately took action to suppress the fire. Following suppression efforts, a request was made for the Office of the State Fire Marshals Office to respond due to the suspicious nature of the blaze. State Fire Marshall investigators later determined that the fire was set intentionally. Kareem Pope was developed as a suspect following information that he had threatened his then girlfriend, a resident of 690 Elk Mills Road, following an argument. Additionally, camera footage in the area had captured the Defendant entering the residence and then exiting with a blue container of kerosene.

The Maryland Sentencing Guidelines for the crime committed is 5-10 years. The State, represented by Assistant State's Attorney Gavin M. Patashnick, recommended a significant sentence. Cecil County Circuit Court Judge Keith A. Baynes imposed a top of the guidelines sentence of 10 years to be served in the Department of Corrections as well as issued a Judgment of Restitution in the amount \$1,000 to be paid to the victim to cover his insurance deductible.

State's Attorney James A. Dellmyer says of this sentence: "Arson is a violent crime that endangers peoples' lives, homes, and entire communities. Fire is an extremely unpredictable and destructive force that has the potential to produce unbelievable devastation. I am thankful for the swift and decisive action by the Singerly Fire Company and all first responders in limiting the harm this caused. I am further grateful to the Maryland Office of the State Fire Marshals Office for their outstanding work throughout this investigation."