



**OFFICE OF THE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEW JERSEY MAN EXTRADITED
TO MARYLAND TO FACE CHARGES IN ELKTON WAL-MART FIRE**

ELKTON – Anthony J. Rhodes, 36 years old of Berlin, New Jersey, was extradited from New Jersey to Cecil County, Maryland, to face charges for intentionally setting a fire in the Wal-Mart located on Pulaski Highway in Elkton in April 2026. On May 28, 2026, Rhodes appeared in court virtually from the Cecil County Detention Center after he was charged by the Office of the Maryland State Fire Marshal. Two of the nine charges Rhodes is currently facing are Arson – First Degree and Theft: \$1,500 to under \$25,000; and other charges related to his use of explosive and incendiary devices to start the fire. During the District Court hearing, the Court granted the State's request for Rhodes to be held without bond at the Cecil County Detention Center.

It is alleged that Rhodes used a can of camping fuel and fireworks to start the fire in the boys' clothing section of the store. As the fire grew, Rhodes stole merchandise from the store before he fled the area. At the time of the incident, the store was occupied by employees and customers causing a risk to public safety and resulting in a complete evacuation of the store. The fire caused substantial damage to the building and merchandise forcing temporary closure while repairs were completed which initially allowed for partial re-opening. It has been estimated the damage caused to the store and lost inventory totaled nearly \$10 million.

Rhodes will remain held at the Cecil County Detention Center pending his next court date which is a preliminary hearing scheduled for the 24th day of June, 2026.

Those individuals awaiting trial are presumed innocent until such time as a jury or judge may convict for the stated crimes.

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