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BALTIMORE MAN SENTENCED TO 17 ½ YEARS FOR ATTEMPTED ARSON

Sought to Set Fire to Group Home

Baltimore, Maryland - U.S. District Judge William M. Nickerson sentenced Forell Isaac, age 23, of Baltimore, Maryland, today to 210 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release for attempting to damage or destroy a group home in Baltimore by fire, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein.

According to the plea agreement, on December 7, 2004 Isaac approached a friend while carrying several empty beer bottles. Isaac told his friend that the beer bottles were for "a project." Later that same day, Isaac and his friend filled the beer bottles with gasoline. Isaac instructed his friend to tear rags into long strips and shove them into the mouths of the bottles. Isaac and his friend then walked to 3612 Glen Avenue and hurled at least two molotov cocktail bombs at the second floor window of the residence. The cocktail bombs broke the window but did not penetrate the dwelling. They fell to the ground catching a nearby bush on fire and scorching the exterior of the building.

At the time, the building was occupied by several residents. The building was a group home operated by People Encouraging People (PEP), a non-profit organization that provides services to individuals in need of social assistance. It was common knowledge among the residents of the home that Isaac did not like one of the current residents. On December 22, 2004, agents searched Isaac's home and seized an empty beer bottle with gasoline residue, torn rags and a two gallon gas can.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein praised the investigative work performed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and Baltimore Police Department. Mr. Rosenstein thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney James T. Wallner, who is prosecuting the case.