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Press Release

SHERIFF DAVID P. Bartlett

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 28, 2014

Greenport Fire Results in Arson Arrest

Greenport, NY – Columbia County Sheriff David P. Bartlett reports that after an extensive investigation into a fire at the 66 Food Mart in the Greenport Crossings Plaza in the Town of Greenport on April 27th, 2014, an individual has been arrested for Arson.

On April 27th, 2014 at 5:36am Sheriff's Deputies responded to the 66 Food Mart to assist the Greenport Fire Company with a reported fire at that location. After an extensive investigation by the County Cause and Origin Team, Investigators from the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control, the Columbia County District Attorney's Office and Criminal Investigators from his Office, it was determined that the fire was intentionally set. The store clerk who was on-duty and the only person in the store at the time of the fire was interviewed at the Sheriff's Office by investigators. At approximately 7:05pm 40-year-old Hari Bohara of Ten Broeck Avenue Greenport, New York was taken into custody by Investigators Mark Dunspaugh and Patrick Logue for setting the fire. It is alleged that Bohara started the fire inside of the store before reporting the fire to Columbia County 911. He has been charged with Arson 3rd degree, a class C Felony.

Bohara was arraigned in the Greenport Town Court by the Honorable Judge Robert Brenzel and remanded to the Columbia County Jail in lieu of \$5000 cash/\$10,000 bail bond pending a future court date. The investigation is continuing and further charges are possible. Assisting at the scene along with Investigators Dunspaugh and Logue, were Sheriff David P. Bartlett, Captain John DeRocha, Senior Investigator William Foster, Investigator William Dunspaugh and Deputies Kris Bauhoff and Jason Garvey. Also on the scene was District Attorney Paul Czajka.

Sheriff Bartlett says "I would like to thank the members of the Greenport Fire Company and responding mutual aid companies for their quick and efficient knock down of this fire. The firefighter's initial response was critical in the preservation of evidence that was retrieved at the scene. With a crime such as this cooperation between all first responders is a must to ensure a successful criminal investigation".

Additionally Sheriff Bartlett would like to commend the County Cause and Origin Team, County Fire Coordinators Office, Investigators with the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control and District Attorney Paul Czajka's Office working hand in hand with Sheriff's Criminal Investigators which ultimately led to the arrest of the individual responsible for this crime.