



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Local teen charged with arson at playground**

Howard County Police have charged a local teen with setting fire to the Huntington Park playground in the 9600 block of Clocktower Lane in Columbia. David Joe McKinney, 18, of 9111 Volmerhausen Road in Jessup, was charged with two counts of malicious burning. The damage total is estimated to be \$40,000.

The Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (HCDFRS) responded to a call May 26 around 5:25 p.m., for a fire at the playground. They extinguished the flames and called for arson investigators from the Howard County Police Department and Fire Marshal's office. The investigators determined the fire had been intentionally set.

An HCPD detective at the scene noticed a witness nearby with what appeared to be a black, charred substance on his fingers. He approached the subject, later identified as McKinney, and asked if he had any information about the fire. After McKinney provided conflicting and suspicious information, detectives investigated further and ultimately charged him with the crime.

Police are reviewing other arson cases to determine if there are any possible links.

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