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WALLINGFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT



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News Release

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***Update* Fire Investigation: 25 Geneva Avenue**

On April 17, 2024, around 6:00 PM, Wallingford Police and Fire responded to and investigated a fire at 25 Geneva Avenue. Initial information regarding the investigation was released on April 18, 2024 and April 19, 2024. Please refer to those releases for that initial information.

The preliminary investigation indicates 19-year-old Karizmah Johnson and 9-month-old Kylene (Jasir) Varnado were deceased prior to the fire. The manner and cause of death is pending from the Connecticut Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. The cause and origin of the fire is under investigation by the State Fire Marshall. The investigation is criminal and active.

24-year-old Justin Varnado was arrested by the Wallingford Police Department on March 25, 2024 for domestic violence charges (case reference 24-8320). He was charged with violation of Connecticut General Statutes 53-181- Breach of Peace 2nd Degree, and 53-21- Risk of Injury to a Minor. He was held on a \$5,000.00 surety bond and was transported to G.A. #7 in Meriden for arraignment on March 25, 2024. At the time of the fire, there was an active order of protection barring Varnado from being at the residence.

We ask that anyone with pertinent information please contact the Wallingford Police Detective Division at (203)294-2845.

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