



## **News Release – Structure Fire/Arson 2.28.25**

### ***Summary:***

West Hartford Emergency Services responded to an apartment building located at 98 Caya Avenue for a structure fire with smoke coming from an upper level window.

### ***Details:***

On 2/28/25 at approximately 3:37PM the West Hartford Fire Department, West Hartford Police Department and supporting medical services were dispatched to 98 Caya Avenue for a structure fire. Witnesses reported heavy smoke coming from the building. Officers arrived at the four-story apartment building and observed heavy smoke coming from a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor window. The Fire Department arrived within minutes and quickly extinguished the fire within a third-floor apartment.

Due to the nature of the fire, The West Hartford Fire Marshals Office requested Arson Detectives from both West Hartford PD and the Connecticut State Police Fire and Explosive Investigative Unit to respond to investigate further.

Later in the evening, Roman Ruben 10/3/76 of 98 Caya Avenue West Hartford, went to the Hartford Police Department of his own volition and admitted to Hartford Officers that he had intentionally set the fire within his apartment. West Hartford Police Detectives responded to further question Ruben.

Ultimately, Ruben confessed to West Hartford Detectives and the Fire Marshals Office that he intentionally started the fire to cause harm to others within the apartment building and was arrested.



Roman Ruben 10/3/1976



Ruben was booked and charged with the following crimes:

53a-49/53a-54d - Criminal Attempt at Arson Murder

53a-111 - Arson 1st Degree

53a-63 - Reckless Endangerment 1st Degree

53-21 - Risk of Injury to a Minor

\$1,500,000 Surety Bond Assigned

The West Hartford Police Department would like to thank our Public Safety Dispatchers, and West Hartford Fire Department Members whose quick actions limited property damage and prevented the loss of life. We would also like to thank the Hartford Police Department and the Connecticut State Police Fire and Explosives Investigation Unit for their assistance.

Anyone with information related to this investigation is asked to please contact the West Hartford Police Department at (860) 523-5203, or use the anonymous WHPD Tip Line/email at (860) 570-8969 / [whpdtips@westhartfordct.gov](mailto:whpdtips@westhartfordct.gov).

Capt. Aaron Vafiades  
Public Information Officer  
[avafiades@westhartfordct.gov](mailto:avafiades@westhartfordct.gov)

