

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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Man convicted at trial for setting fire to Cornelius police car

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Today, a jury convicted Stephen Long, 65, of setting fire to a Cornelius Police Department patrol cruiser in 2011. The trial, which began September 30, 2013, was held in courtroom 5370 before The Honorable James W. Morgan, Superior Court Judge.

Long was tried for 1) burning personal property and 2) malicious use of an explosive or incendiary device to damage property. The jury found him *guilty* as charged. Judge Morgan sentenced him to 12-15 months in prison.

In September 2011, a Cornelius police officer issued Long a speeding ticket while Long, who lives in Florida, was in the area working as a contractor for a nearby nuclear power plant. Days later, Long watched the same police officer monitoring a crosswalk near the Cornelius Police Department. After that officer drove away, Long placed a Molotov cocktail – an incendiary device he made using a milk jug and gasoline – under a Cornelius police patrol car that was parked in a drug store parking lot near the police department.

After the car caught fire, two police officers and a Good Samaritan help put out the flames.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.



Stephen Long

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