



FULLERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: **FULLERTON POLICE ANNOUNCE THE ARREST OF SUSPECT IN ARSON AT MUCKENTHALER CENTER**

Date: May 8, 2014

The Fullerton Police Department announced that it has arrested Gabriela Gomez, a 29 year old Buena Park resident, for her involvement in the latest arson to take place at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center in Fullerton. On May 5, 2014, Officers responded to a report of a fire at the Muckenthaler Center. The fire was located in a storage building near the stage. A 1960s Grand Piano and other items valued at over \$15,000 dollars, were destroyed in this latest fire.

There have been seven fires since January, although the Fullerton Police Department was first made aware of the fires on April 7th. Since then, they have been actively investigating the incidents. On May 5th, Detectives got a break in the case when Gomez was seen on surveillance footage in the area of the arsons.

Two days later, Detectives located Gomez near the Muckenthaler Center, and questioned her about the fires. Through their investigation, they developed enough evidence to present the case to the Orange County District Attorney who has filed a felony count of Arson against Gomez.

“This is just another example that shows the tenacity of our investigators. They were able to turn limited investigative leads into a successful arrest, resulting in charges being filed against Ms. Gomez. I’m very proud of the hard work by each of the investigators resulting in the arrest and prosecution of a suspect in this case”, said Chief Dan Hughes.

Although an arrest has been made in the latest arson, Police are considering this an active investigation as detectives try to piece together evidence in the other arson cases. Anyone with information about these arsons is encouraged to call Detective Brent Rebert at (714) 738-6785.

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Editor's Note: N/A

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