



INSURANCE AND SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER

- State of Georgia -

NEWS RELEASE

John F. King

Commissioner of Insurance

Safety Fire Commissioner

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For Immediate Release

July 27, 2020

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COLUMBIA COUNTY WOMAN CHARGED WITH ARSON

ATLANTA – Shortly after 7:30 PM on the evening of July 21, investigators with Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King’s office responded to a structure fire at 408-A Ridge Crossing Apartments in Martinez. When they arrived on scene, the 35-year-old, 875-square-foot apartment was consumed by fire, causing water and smoke damage to three additional apartments.

The fire was determined to have been deliberately set in the living room and kitchen area. The following afternoon, Ashley Renee McCullough, 33, was arrested and charged with two counts of Arson in the 1st Degree. Additional charges for Aggravated Assault are expected to be forthcoming. Ms. McCullough is currently housed in the Columbia County Detention Center.

“The reckless actions of this individual put the lives of everyone in this apartment complex in danger,” said Commissioner King. “I’m proud of our investigators and local law enforcement officials for quickly identifying the responsible party and placing her into custody.”

The Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner’s Office assisted the Columbia County Fire Department and Columbia County Sheriff’s Office with this investigation.



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The mission of the Office of the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner is to protect Georgia families by providing access to vital insurance products and safe buildings through fair regulation that creates economic opportunities for all Georgians.