

Contact: Juddy Montenegro  
Public Information  
Phone: (562) 904-1895  
Fax: (562) 923-6388  
jmontenegro@downeyca.org

City of Downey  
11111 Brookshire Ave  
Downey, CA 90241  
www.downeyca.org

CITY OF DOWNEY

# PRESS RELEASE



## Arrest Made in Connection to April 3<sup>rd</sup> Fire on Paramount Blvd.

**Downey, CA, April 9, 2014:** Arson investigators from the Downey Fire Department, with assistance from the Area E Arson Task Force, arrested Jason Marcellus Washington, 34, of Los Angeles, on suspicion of intentionally setting a fire on Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 10727 Paramount Blvd, in the City of Downey. Washington was arrested on Saturday, April 5, 2014, without incident and was arraigned at Downey Municipal Court on felony arson charges.

The fire on Paramount Blvd. was first reported Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 2:04 a.m. The fire destroyed an entire 7,400 square foot office building built in 1948 and has left its tenant businesses closed and its employees out of work. There were no injuries reported from the fire.

"Arson is a serious crime that threatens the public and our community," said Mayor Fernando Vasquez. "The tragic loss of so many businesses at the hands of an intentional fire is a heinous act. I'm proud of our fire investigators and their efforts in arresting this arson suspect."

Fire Chief Lonnie Croom commented, "As part of the Downey Fire Department's fire prevention efforts, investigators work diligently to investigate the origin and cause of all types of fires. When a fire cause is determined to be intentionally set, our Fire Department is committed to holding those responsible who willfully and maliciously threaten the safety of the public."

Within the past week, two suspicious major structure fires have occurred in Downey. At this time, fire investigators do not believe the fires are related.

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