

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections • Public Safety Services
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## PERSON OF INTEREST SOUGHT IN NEW ORLEANS FIRE INVESTIGATION

**ORLEANS PARISH-** The State Fire Marshal's Office is seeking the public's assistance in identifying and locating a person of interest wanted for questioning in connection with an intentionally-set apartment fire that occurred late last year.

In the early evening hours of October 13, the New Orleans Fire Department responded to a fire call at the McCaleb Apartments located in the 2400 block of Clio Street. The SFM was contacted for assistance in the investigation after the discovery of suspicious and concerning circumstances.

Deputies learned the complex, a three-story building with 46 units, was occupied by dozens of residents at the time of the fire. More than half of those residents are disabled.

Following an assessment of the scene and collecting witness interviews, it was determined the minor fire originated in an elevator and was intentionally set with the use of an accelerant.

In the attached surveillance photographs, an unidentified woman wearing a white blouse with patches, black hat and black pants, similar to a security guard uniform, can be seen in the area of the elevator at the time smoke from the fire becomes visible.

The SFM is asking anyone with information about this person's identity and whereabouts to contact our Arson Hotline at 1-800-256-5452 or share the information through our online tip form found at lasfm.org.

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