



**JEFFREY A. TAYLOR**  
**United States Attorney for the**  
**District of Columbia**

*Judiciary Center*  
*555 Fourth Street, NW*  
*Washington, D.C. 20530*

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**For Information Contact:**

**Public Affairs**

Channing Phillips (202) 514-6933

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### **District man pleads guilty to causing ex-girlfriend to be permanently disfigured after pouring gasoline on her**

**Washington, D.C.** - A 48-year-old

District of Columbia man, Terrance A. James, has pled guilty to causing his ex-girlfriend to be permanently disfigured after pouring gasoline on her which later ignited in December 2006, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor and Metropolitan Police Chief Cathy L. Lanier announced today.

James entered his guilty plea earlier today in D.C. Superior Court before the Honorable Herbert B. Dixon, Jr. to one count of Aggravated Assault while Armed and one count of Malicious Disfigurement while Armed. James will be sentenced on August 28, 2007, and faces a possible sentence of up to 30 years on each count. Under the voluntary sentencing guidelines, he faces a sentencing range of 48 to 204 months in prison.

According to the government's evidence, on December 16, 2006, at approximately 10:40 a.m., James had come to the victim's apartment on D Street, S.E., Washington, D.C., and burst into her bedroom, looking to see if she had another man in her room. Neighbors heard a commotion coming from the victim's apartment and believed she was being assaulted. During the argument between James and the victim, James poured gasoline on her. By the time the neighbors entered the apartment of the victim, she and her bedroom were on fire.

On the scene, James told a fire inspector, "You don't have to look for anyone else, I have to stand in account for what I've done." When asked by a medic why he set

his girlfriend on fire, James responded, "I don't know. Pray for me." The victim was flown to the hospital in critical condition. She spent three months in the hospital while undergoing numerous surgeries and extensive rehabilitation. The victim continues to return to the hospital for additional surgeries and will continue to need rehabilitative treatment for the foreseeable future. The victim's appearance has drastically changed due to the burned skin that covers her face, arms, and torso area, and is never expected to return to the condition it was before this incident.

In announcing today's guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Taylor and Chief Lanier commended the investigative efforts of D.C. Metropolitan Police Detective Todd Gray; D.C. Fire Department Sergeant Phillip Proctor; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Special Agents Vicky Houser and Eric Peña; the work of Victim/Witness Advocates Marcey Rinker, Veronica Vaughan, and Karen Giannakoulis; Paralegal Eugena Johnson; Legal Assistant Etta Ford; and Assistant U.S. Attorney Marisa J. Demeo, who investigated and is prosecuting the case.

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