

Sheriff Larry R. Ashley Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office 50 2nd Street Shalimar, FL 32579 (850) 651-7420 Lawrence Keefe, U.S. Attorney

U.S. Department of Justice 111 North Adams Street Tallahassee, FL 32301 (850) 216-3845



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEDERAL ARSON, FIREARM, AND DRUG TRAFFICKING CHARGES STEMMING FROM FIRE AT OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PENSACOLA, FLORIDA – United States Attorney Lawrence Keefe, of the Northern District of Florida, and Okaloosa County Sheriff Larry Ashley announced today that a federal indictment has been unsealed against Tony M. Streeter, 46, and Betty J. Jackson (a/k/a Betty Joe Streeter), 50, both of Fort Walton Beach. The indictment alleges that Streeter distributed, and possessed with intent to distribute, methamphetamine on multiple occasions in August 2019. The indictment also alleges that Streeter, a multi-convicted drug trafficking felon as alleged in the indictment, possessed a firearm during the same time frame. It is alleged that these crimes led to conspiratorial acts at the vehicle impound lot of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office on or about September 3, 2019, which resulted in the malicious burning of a vehicle related to Streeter within said lot. Another defendant, William Sims, has already pled guilty to his role in the federal arson charges. These three defendants, who are charged with the planning and execution of the alleged arson conspiracy, are all now in federal custody.

"Individuals who feel enabled to attack a law enforcement agency present an extreme threat to our communities," said Sheriff Ashley. "With the arrest of the suspects and the steadfast support of our federal partners and U.S. Attorney Larry Keefe, we are sending a clear message that these individuals will be pursued, apprehended, and ultimately held accountable."

"When offenders attack a law enforcement agency, they attack the individuals who protect us and help maintain law and order in our community," said U.S. Attorney Keefe. "The U.S. Attorney's Office will use all of the resources at its disposal to vigorously pursue and prosecute those who commit these types of crimes."

The defendants appeared in the United States District Court in Pensacola yesterday and a detention hearing for both has been scheduled for Monday, June 1, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. at the Winston Arnow Federal Courthouse in Pensacola. Assistant United States Attorney David L. Goldberg is prosecuting the case following a joint investigation by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

"These indictments highlight how strong law enforcement partnerships impact both violence and drug trafficking in our continued efforts to protect the public," said ATF Special Agent in Charge Daryl McCrary.

An indictment is merely an allegation that a defendant has committed a violation of federal criminal law and is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Florida is one of 94 offices that serve as the nation's principal litigators under the direction of the Attorney General. To access public court documents online, please visit the <u>U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida</u> website. For more information about the U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Florida, visit <u>http://www.justice.gov/usao/fln/index.html</u>.

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