

To: All Media Outlets
From: Sgt. Michaela Kelley, Webster Police Dept.
Date: April 27, 2008
Subject: Arrest for Child Neglect

On 4/26/08 Officers from the Webster Police Department responded to a 911 call at 11 Myrtle Ave where the first floor apartment was on fire. The building owner, Anne Kuria, who resides in the second floor apartment called 911 to report smoke in the building. Prior to the arrival of emergency workers, Ms. Kuria entered the apartment to investigate. She was met by extremely heavy smoke conditions and fire which had started with unattended food cooking on the stove and spread to the wall behind the stove. She attempted to extinguish the fire with a wet towel which also caught on fire.

When Police arrived, they were frantically met in the driveway by Ms. Kuria, who informed them that she could hear children in the apartment. Officers entered the smoke filled apartment and ultimately rescued a 3 year old boy, 2 month old boy and girl twins, and a dog that had been left alone in the apartment with the food cooking on the stove. It is believed that the children had been alone in the apartment for at least an hour. All three children were transported by Webster EMS to Hubbard Regional Hospital and later transferred to U-Mass Memorial Hospital on Lake Ave where they were admitted and treated for smoke inhalation.

The mother of the children, Christina Page DOB 1/23/80, received a phone call notifying her of the situation and drove to the scene while rescue workers were still there. She was subsequently arrested and charged with three counts of Wantonly Permitting Substantial Bodily Injury to a Child and three counts of Wanton Reckless Behavior Causing Risk to a Child. She is being held on \$540.00 bail.

The Department of Social Services has taken custody of all three children.

The First Responders on the scene were Officers Tobby Wheeler, Patrick Perry, Donald Southall, Assistant Fire Chief Robert Gryncewicz, and Sgt. Michaela Kelley.