

## NWS

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Arson, first-degree murder charges

Man held in fire death of mother

DETROIT -- An east side man was charged Friday with setting the fire that killed his 39-year-old mother in the Brewster Homes housing project.

**Ronald Powell**, 22, argued with his mother, Pearl, then set a tire on fire Thursday and threw it through a living room window of their apartment in the 2800 block of Beaubien, witnesses told police.

Powell tried to keep his mother from running into the burning building but then laughed in the street as she ran inside and was trapped by the flames, neighbors said.

One neighbor tried to rescue Mrs. Powell but was driven back by flames, police said.

Powell was arraigned in Detroit District Court on charges of arson and first-degree murder. He was ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation and was held pending a preliminary examination May 30.

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