

State of New Jersey vs. Paul Caneiro

On Tuesday, November 20, 2018, at approximately 5:01 AM, the Ocean Township Police Department responded to 27 Tilton Drive, Ocean, NJ to a report of smoke inside the residence. Upon arrival, the responding emergency personnel observed fire activity located to the rear of the residence. A small fire was also observed on the lower portion of a garage door attached to the residence.

The residence was determined to be occupied by the homeowners, Paul Caneiro and his wife, Susan Caneiro as well as their two (2) adult daughters, Marissa Caneiro and Katelyn Caneiro. Upon arrival of the Ocean Township Police Department, the occupants of the home were located in a vehicle, parked in front of the residence. The houses adjacent to the incident location were evacuated for safety purposes. Fire suppression operations were conducted by the Oakhurst Fire Company and Wannamasa Fire Company with the assistance of the Neptune Township Fire Department. The Oakhurst EMS also responded to assist. There were no injuries reported to any of the responding emergency services personnel.

A red colored gasoline gas can was located on the driveway, in close proximity to a white colored Porsche Macan, bearing NJ registration . The aforementioned vehicle had brown staining on the hood, indicative of likely spot pour burn patterns. A charred rubber glove was located on the ground in front of the aforementioned Porsche and garage door that was burned.

Paul Caneiro was determined to be the operator of the white colored Porsche Macan bearing NJ registration , which was parked in the driveway. The vehicle was determined to be a loaner car from the Monmouth Porsche car dealership as Paul's vehicle was being serviced.

A storage shed was located in the back yard of the property. The shed was determined to have a rear door, which was unlocked. Located inside the shed were three (3) gasoline cans. The first two gasoline cans were in line with a space separating them from the third gasoline can indicating that a fourth can had been there and was removed. The gasoline can located on the driveway is believed to be the can that was removed from the shed. Rubber gloves were also located inside and outside the shed.

The residence was determined to have numerous exterior video surveillance cameras affixed to the home. Paul Caneiro later provided written consent to search his DVR system so that members of the investigative team could review the recordings. Paul advised that he could not recall if he had turned off the video recording system on the previous day as he believed suspected that the system was causing his Wi-Fi system to run slow.

A review of the DVR system was conducted which revealed that the last activity recorded on the DVR was on 11/20/18 at 1:29 AM. A review of camera # 03 revealed Paul Caneiro walking into the garage, turning on the light and then walking towards the DVR system which is stored in the

garage. The DVR stops recording at 1:30 AM. Although the recordings could be viewed via a mobile application, the video cameras were determined to be hard wired and not internet (Wi-Fi) based.

Two (2) butane lighters were located inside the home. One (1) lighter was located on a small table within the living room, just inside the front door. A second lighter was located on the living room floor.

Personnel with the Monmouth County Fire Marshal's Office responded to the scene to assist with the investigation and determined that there were two areas where the fire originated. The first area of origin was on the "C/D" corner of the structure and the second area of origin was on the "B/C" corner of the structure, at floor level. The fire was determined to be incendiary in nature. A portable gas detector utilized by the Monmouth County Fire Marshal's Office yielded positive findings of unknown combustible gases. Samples and controls were obtained from both locations.

Members of the investigative team interviewed Paul Caneiro's wife, Susan Caneiro in reference to this investigation. Susan reported that she has been married to Paul since 1992. Susan advised that she and Paul sleep in separate bedrooms within the home based upon marriage difficulties. Susan explained that she was alerted to the fire as the house alarm was sounding within the home. Susan advised that after vacating the home, Paul removed their Porsche Cayenne from the garage and drove it to the street where the family remained until the police and fire department arrived. Susan advised that she believed that the video surveillance cameras at the home were operational at the time of the fire. Susan reported that Paul maintains the cameras. Susan advised that she was not aware of Paul ever turning off the surveillance camera system at the home. Susan also advised that there was a Ring doorbell mounted to the front of the home. A review of those recordings was conducted via consent, which revealed that the last camera activation was on November 15, 2018 at 8:01 PM. Susan advised that she did not know any individual(s) who would want to cause harm to her family and/or their home.

Members of the investigative team traveled to 30 Tilton Drive and reviewed video surveillance recordings maintained at the home. A review of those recordings revealed that on November 20, 2018, at 2:07 AM, a white colored SUV believed to be a Porsche is observed driving past the residence heading towards Green Grove Road. A further review of those recordings revealed the same vehicle returning to Tilton Drive and driving towards the Caneiro's residence at 4:08 a.m.

No vehicles are seen leaving the area at or around the time of the fire.

It should also be noted that, at approximately 12:33 p.m. on November 20, 2018, Colts Neck Police were dispatched to a fire at 15 Willow Brook Road, Colts Neck. During the course of fire suppression efforts, four individuals were found deceased at the residence. These individuals were the defendant's brother, sister-in-law as well as his niece and nephew, ages 8 and 10. The deaths are currently pending autopsies, but significant trauma was noted.