For Immediate Release
Jul 30, 2013

St. Petersburg Police Arrest Man for Operating a Marijuana Grow House discovered after the Fire Department was summoned to an electrical fire at the house

Arrested: Gaetano Rodriguez, DOB: 8-11-85, 727 54th Avenue North. He is charged with Obstructing Fire Fighters and with Cultivation of Marijuana.

On Monday July 30, 2013 at 6:28 p.m., St. Petersburg Fire Department was summoned to 727 54th Avenue North for an electrical fire inside of the house.

When the Fire Department personnel arrived, they found flames coming from the home and fire in a locked bedroom and in the attic of the home.

The resident, Gaetano Rodriguez, who rents the home from his father, refused to allow the Fire Department personnel to enter the bedroom where the fire was located.

The Fire Department personnel forcibly removed Rodriguez from the home and, when they broke down the bedroom door to get to extinguish the electrical fire, they discovered 75-100 marijuana plants in pots inside of the bedroom in what is described as a marijuana grow operation.

Rodriguez initially told police officers that he was growing the marijuana for medicinal use, but later admitted he was growing the marijuana to sell.

He was transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

Information by Bill Proffitt on July 30, 2013 at 8:45 a.m.