St. Petersburg Police and Fire Rescue respond to Man threatening to burn building

Date / Time of Release: January 25, 2015 20:11

Incident: Arson
Location: 3315 38th Way South, Unit B
          Westshore Village
Date / Time of Incident: January 25, 2015 @ 17:10

Arrested: Terry Bronkema (DOB 4/22/1951)
Charges: Pending

Officers responded to 3315 38th Way S., Unit B, with the Fire Department for a call of a possible structure fire. Initially there was no evidence of a fire. While on scene, Terry Bronkema, the man who made the call, refused to open the door or speak with officers. Officers continued their attempts to speak with Bronkema, with negative results.

Meanwhile, Bronkema, who was alone in the apt., was texting a friend and threatened to burn the building down. He further claimed to have taken pills and claimed there would be an explosion.

The building contained 3 units, including Bronkema’s. Officers evacuated residents from one other unit, (the 3rd was vacant) as well as several nearby buildings.

Officers attempted to enter the home to check on Bronkema’s well being, and found the rear of the home was now on fire. Bronkema continued to refuse to speak with any officers in person or on the phone.

Bronkema eventually exited the front door, due to the large amount of smoke in the home at that point. He still refused to cooperate with police and was taken into custody.

The fire was extinguished successfully, however the damage caused was extensive, affecting all three units in the building. Bronkema was transported to Bayfront Medical due to injuries sustained from the fire.
Release Prepared By:
Lieutenant Markus Hughes

For more information, please contact the St. Petersburg Police Public Information Office at 727-893-7550 during normal business hours; weekdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.