



NEWS RELEASE

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND



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For Immediate Release:

WOMEN ARRESTED FOR BURNING FLAG ON JULY 4th WEEKEND

On Sunday, July 5, 2009, at approximately 6:05 a.m., two Ocean City Police Officers had recently completed their shift and were heading home when they witnessed a woman igniting an American flag with a cigarette lighter. As the officers approached the woman, who was later identified as Rebecca Ellen McKimmie, 18, of Ocean City, Maryland, they saw her stand between two lanes of traffic leading to the Rt. 50 Bridge and continue to light the flag until it was actively burning.

McKimmie, who then began to stomp on the American Flag, caused several cars to swerve their vehicles in order not to strike her. When officers asked McKimmie why she was burning the American Flag the day after the celebration of the United States of Americans Independence Day, she told them that she was "making a statement."

Police arrested McKimmie and charged her with Desecrating a Flag and Disturbing the Peace. McKimmie was seen by a District Court Commissioner and released on her own personal recognizance.

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Quite often, citizens' hunches turn out to be valuable information to us. If you have information that you feel we should know, we encourage you to leave us e-mail. DCPD@ococean.com