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Burlington County Times

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A fire on April 9 destroyed or badly damaged houses and killed two girls on the 300 block of South 4th Street in Millville. A state judge on July 3 ordered that no demolition or utility repairs be done in order to preserve any evidence.

JOSEPH P. SMITH/CHERRY HILL COURIER-POST

Judge OKs freeze on fatal fire scene

Request to prevent demolition or work on scene

Joseph P. Smith Cherry Hill Courier-Post | USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

An estate attorney and the father of two girls killed in the fire April 9 on the 300 block of South 4th Street in Millville has secured a temporary ban on any demolition or similar work at the scene.

On July 3, Cumberland County Superior Court Judge James Swift signed an order blocking on-scene work for 120 days. The idea is to preserve potential evidence pending completion of any investigations, with the law firm representing the family intending to do its own analysis.

Attorney Melissa Baxter, representing the family, filed the request with the court May 28.

The order was signed after representatives of the

City of Millville, South Jersey Gas and Atlantic City Electric agreed to the request. One property owner, Centuolo Development LLC, also signed off on the order.

This order targets specific destroyed or badly damaged houses at 321 S. 4th St., 323 S. 4th St., 325 S. 4th St. and 327 S. 4th St.

The effects of the order are as follows.

- Millville is not to demolish or in any way alter any fire hydrants in proximity to the “house of origin.” The city may carry out any customary tests.

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Former Cherry Hill East Assistant Principal David Francis-Maurer spoke in front of school board officials July 7 in an appeal for contract renewal.

KAITLYN MCCORMICK/ THE COURIER-POST

Ex-assistant principal: Dismissal was ‘retaliation’

Francis-Maurer speaks at hearing over termination

Kaitlyn McCormick

Cherry Hill Courier-Post

USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

In front of Cherry Hill school officials, legal counsel and hopeful students and parents, former Cherry Hill High School East Assistant Principal David Francis-Maurer spoke publicly for the first time following his termination.

On July 7, Francis-Maurer attended a Donaldson hearing, which is an opportunity for non-renewed staff to speak to their school board in support of their renewal. He read from a prepared statement regarding his experience with the district over the last school year, one that he claims resulted in his dismissal as “retaliation” for problems and other shortcomings he had addressed within the last academic year.

In May, the un-tenured educator said, he was informed that his contract would not be renewed, and soon afterward he was placed on administrative

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Ex-sheriff granted venue change in Gloucester suit

Sammons alleges mistreatment of himself, staff by county officials

Joseph P. Smith

Cherry Hill Courier-Post

USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

A lawsuit from former Gloucester County Sheriff Jonathan Sammons over alleged mistreatment of himself and his staff by county officials is staying alive,



Sammons

but will be fought out in Atlantic County Superior Court.

Gloucester County Superior Court Judge Benjamin Morgan signed an order July 3 transferring the case out of Gloucester County. This was as requested by attorneys for Sammons.

Attorneys for county government and county Administrator Chad Bruner, the only individual defendant at this

point, had opposed the venue change request.

County attorneys immediately filed a motion in Atlantic County Superior Court to have the lawsuit dismissed. Judge Sarah Johnson has advised the motion will be decided on August 1.

The dismissal request argues that Sammons was not an employee of the county, but an elected official, and therefore has no legal basis to make his claims.

Sammons originally filed his case in

Atlantic County in January. The normal rule is that cases are filed and heard in the county where the dispute arose.

His attorneys said a main reason for their attempted workaround of the filing rule was that they intend to call as a witness a state judge who’s assigned to Salem County.

Salem and Gloucester state courts are part of the same vicinage. Attorneys for Sammons argued that this had the

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