

Local News – here's an article from the Times-Picayune on the New Orleans firebombing of a political campaign worker's home - Nov. 6, 2014

Apparent arson fire at political operative's Uptown home under investigation

By Ken Daley, Times-Picayune NOLA.com

The Uptown home of a local political operative was badly damaged Thursday in an early morning fire that appeared to have been ignited by the firebombing of the man's vehicles.

Mario Zervigon helped eight people, including his wife and two children, escape the burning home at 1407 Constantinople St., around 2:30 a.m. Zervigon is the campaign finance director for Public Service Commission candidate Forest Wright, who this week [advanced to a Dec. 6 runoff](#) against incumbent Eric Skrmetta.

A Ford Explorer parked on a rear driveway and a Honda Odyssey parked across the street, both belonging to Zervigon, already were engulfed in flames when the occupants of three apartments in the large divided home escaped. Three cats died in the blaze but two other pets were rescued.

Zervigon, who also just completed finance director work for the [successful reelection campaign of Civil District Court Judge Bernadette D'Souza](#), said he was unaware of any threats and shocked by the incident.

"I don't know if anything is connected to anything I do," Zervigon said. "But all I do is simple, basic fundraising and campaign work."

New Orleans City Councilwoman Susan Guidry, another Zervigon employer, surveyed the damage and left shaking her head.

"This is shocking," Guidry said.

Key Points:

- ┌ CREDIT THE SOURCE
- ┌ A local home and owner's cars were damaged by apparent arson
- ┌ The victim is Mario Zervigon, a campaign finance official who works for Democrats
- ┌ Everyone escaped safely
- ┌ Zervigon isn't aware of threats against him

Lesser Points:

- ┌ His wife, children, others escaped the fire
- ┌ 3 cats died in the blaze
- ┌ The address

I left out:

- ┌ Comments by Councilwoman Guidry

Short sentences for a news story (assumes NOLA audience)

THE NEW ORLEANS TIMES PICAYUNE IS REPORTING A DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL WORKER'S HOME HAS PARTLY BURNED, APPARENTLY FROM ARSON. SOMEONE SET TWO CARS ON FIRE THAT BELONGED TO MARIO ZERVIGON. THE OVERNIGHT FIRE SPREAD TO HIS APARTMENT BUILDING. EVERYONE ESCAPED SAFELY. ZERVIGON IS THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE DIRECTOR FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FORREST WRIGHT. / WRIGHT IS CAMPAIGNING FOR THE DECEMBER RUN-OFF ELECTION. / ZERVIGON SAYS HE DOESN'T KNOW OF ANY THREATS AGAINST HIM.

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