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Danville Councilman Set Ablaze in Shocking Targeted Attack at Workplace

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City Councilman Lee Vogler was airlifted to a regional burn unit after a horrifying attack at his place of work, where a man doused him in petrol and set him on fire. The incident, which occurred in broad daylight, appears to be personally motivated and unrelated to Vogler's political duties.

The attack took place just before noon on July 30 at the offices of *Showcase Magazine*, where Vogler, 38, is employed. According to witnesses, the suspect, later identified as 29-year-old Shotsie Michael Buck Hayes, entered the building carrying a five-gallon container

of gasoline. He confronted Vogler, poured the flammable liquid over him, and ignited it as Vogler attempted to escape the building. The shocking scene unfolded before a horrified audience of colleagues and bystanders.

Danville Police Department (DPD) officers were dispatched to the scene at approximately 11:30 a.m. alongside the Danville Fire Department and the Danville Life Saving Crew. The victim was immediately airlifted to the University of North Carolina (UNC) Medical Center's burn unit in Chapel Hill. While the full extent of Vogler's injuries remains unclear, he was reported to be receiving specialized care.

Andrew Brooks, owner and publisher of *Showcase Magazine*, shared a video statement on social media describing the traumatic event. "Lee attempted to flee, ran to the front of the building," Brooks said. "The individual followed him and set him on fire." His remarks have been corroborated by police accounts and witness reports.

Authorities were able to swiftly apprehend the suspect after witnesses provided a detailed description of the vehicle he used to flee. Hayes was stopped several blocks from the crime scene and taken into custody without resistance. He is now being held while formal charges are being prepared.

In an official statement, the DPD acknowledged that while it generally refrains from naming victims, Councilman Vogler was identified due to his elected public role. They clarified that the motive behind the attack is believed to stem from a personal dispute and is not linked to Vogler's political affiliations or decisions made in office.

Vice Mayor James Buckner confirmed the incident to local media, urging residents to pray for Vogler's recovery. "Please keep our colleague and our brother in your prayers," Buckner said, emphasizing the severity of the attack and the shock felt throughout the community.

This violent act has not only stunned residents but also sparked renewed concerns about public safety for elected officials, even at the local level. As the investigation continues, authorities are urging the public to allow the legal process to unfold while keeping Vogler and his loved ones in their thoughts.

Further updates, including the specific charges against Hayes, are expected from the Danville Police Department in the coming days.