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Virginia Councilman Set on Fire in Targeted Personal Attack, Suspect in Custody

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A member of the Danville City Council in Virginia was severely injured Wednesday after being set on fire in what police described as a personal, targeted assault unrelated to

politics. The suspect, identified as 29-year-old Shotsie Michael Buck Hayes, is now in custody and faces multiple felony charges.

According to the Danville Police Department, the incident occurred at the offices of *Showcase Magazine*, where Councilman Lee Vogler, 38, also serves as the publication's director of sales. Authorities say Hayes entered the office, confronted Vogler, and doused him with a flammable liquid. The confrontation continued outside, where Hayes allegedly ignited the substance, setting Vogler on fire.

Vogler was transported to a hospital for treatment. While his exact condition has not been disclosed by police, *Showcase Magazine* confirmed he sustained "serious burn injuries."

The company expressed support in a public statement: "We are deeply shocked and saddened by this act of violence. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lee and his family as he receives medical care. The Showcase Magazine team is fully cooperating with law enforcement as they continue their investigation."

The suspect fled the scene on foot but was apprehended a few blocks away by police. He has been charged with attempted first-degree murder and aggravated malicious wounding.

Investigators emphasized that the attack was not politically motivated. "It appears the suspect and the victim know each other and the attack stems from a personal matter not related to the victim's position on Danville City Council or any other political affiliation," the department said in a statement.

Vogler has been a public servant in Danville since being elected to the City Council in 2012 at the age of 24. The incident has sparked concern in the community, where Vogler is a well-known figure both in local government and media.

Law enforcement continues to investigate the motive and circumstances surrounding the attack. No further information has been released regarding upcoming court proceedings for Hayes.