

Gastonia Regional Response Team Warrant Service

Gastonia, NC (October 20, 2023) Gastonia Regional Response Team responded to 220 Brentwood Lane in Stanley, NC to assist Gaston County Sheriff's Office with serving an Involuntary Mental Commitment and a 50B Domestic Violence Protection Order on Mr. Russell William Blakney, DOB: 7/30/1975.

While on the scene and during attempts to serve the civil order, criminal warrants were obtained by Gaston County Police Department on Russell William Blakney for False Imprisonment, Assault by pointing a gun, and possession of a Firearm by a Felon.

Negotiators made contact in an attempt to persuade Mr. Blakney to surrender. Two children were present in the home during these negotiations. Extensive negotiations continued throughout the evening into the morning hours.

At approximately 3:37 a.m., the house ignited into flames. The Regional Response Team members made forced entry into the residence, where both children were removed.

The Gaston County Police Department is investigating the active crime scene.