

Patient accused in fatal fire

A resident of the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook, was arrested early this morning and accused of setting the fire that killed another center resident on Sept. 3, police reported.

The suspect, Philip Sorocka, 34, was also accused of setting a small fire in the same building last night, police said.

On Sept. 3, a fire that began on a mattress in Building 32 of the developmental center severely burned a resident, Geoffrey Quist, 37. Quist later died.

Fire officials at the time did not understand how the fire could have started. Quist was blind and did not smoke, they said.

Last night, at 7:01, another mattress fire broke out in the same building, fire officials reported. More than five hours later, at 12:30 a.m., Sorocka was arrested for both fires.

Police are holding a Bic cigarette lighter as evidence.