

## FIRE OFFICIALS ACCEPT CHECK TO USE IN REWARD

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Buffalo fire officials today accepted a check that will be used to reward an individual who provided information that resulted in the conviction of a 12-year-old boy accused of setting a \$1 million-plus blaze on May 12 in a Black Rock warehouse.

The boy was sentenced to one year of detention at a home for youths in Niagara County, and his parents have agreed to receive counseling with their son, according to authorities. Fire officials withheld the name of the individual who supplied the information because they did not want to put him at risk of retaliation for his actions.

Charles Mertz, president of **Enviro-Care** of Buffalo, presented the funds for the reward to Fire Commissioner Neil J. Keane. The amount of the reward also was not disclosed.

Mertz earlier this year announced he would provide the Fire Department with up to \$2,000 in rewards for people who help the city in battling arson. The reward check represented the first given to the city by Mertz.