



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Structural Fire at Green Tree Apartments Results in Fatality and Multiple Families Displaced

**Kings Mountain, NC** –In the early morning hours of April 30, 2025, shortly after 4:00 a.m., the Kings Mountain Police Department received multiple emergency calls reporting a structural fire at the Green Tree Apartments, located at 612 Charles Street. Upon arrival, the Kings Mountain Fire Department found one of the apartment buildings fully engulfed in flames. Immediate firefighting efforts were initiated; however, **two (2) apartments were destroyed**, and **six (6) suffered extensive smoke and water damage**, leaving several families displaced. We are thankful that the American Red Cross is now on scene to assist.

Tragically, after the fire was brought under control and a thorough search was conducted, **one fatality** was confirmed at the scene, identified as Evelyn Blakeney (45) of Kings Mountain. Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and loved ones affected by this loss.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the following agencies for their swift response and mutual assistance during this difficult incident: Oak Grove Volunteer Fire Department, Crowders Mountain Fire Department, Bethlehem Fire Department, Grover Fire Department, Kings Mountain Police Department, Cleveland County EMS, Cleveland County Fire Marshal's Office, Kings Mountain Energy Services, and the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department Chaplain.

The investigation into the cause of the fire is ongoing and is being led jointly by the Cleveland County Fire Marshal's Office and the Kings Mountain Police Department. Anyone with information related to this incident is urged to contact the Kings Mountain Police Department at 704-734-0444.