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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

Allston man charged with firing rifle

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Matt Rocheleau December 20, 2011 05:19 PM

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Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A 57-year-old Allston man faced charges today for allegedly firing a rifle at rats in the halls of his Franklin Street apartment building because of frustration over

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By Matt R

A 57-year-old man in the h

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tation of the vermin, according to the Suffolk County District Attorney's

McAbee was arraigned in Brighton District Court for unlawful possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of ammunition, and unlawfully carrying a firearm within 500 feet of a dwelling, prosecutors said. A not guilty plea was automatically entered on his behalf, and Judge Kenneth V. ... set his bail at \$2,500, district attorney spokesman Jake Wark said.

After receiving a call for shots fired on Nov. 20, police responded to the man's apartment building at 158 Franklin St., and a neighbor told officers he'd seen a man with a rifle firing multiple shots into the building's back yard and common areas, according to a statement from the district attorney's office.

Police went to a unit on the building's second floor and met with McAbee, who expressed "great frustration" with an infestation of rats in the building and that he had admitted to opening fire on the rodents, authorities said.

McAbee then allowed the officers to retrieve his .22 caliber Smith and Wesson rifle, which was loaded with one round at the time, and a box of ammunition from his bedroom dresser, the district attorney's office said.

McAbee told the officers he had a valid Firearms Identifications card but that it had been stolen from his car, prosecutors said.

Police later learned that the man's firearms license had expired in 1999 and filed a complaint charging the man, which led to his subsequent arraignment.

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