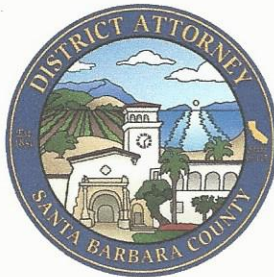


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 02-233

RELEASE NUMBER

February 24, 2014

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley*, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Brandon Jebens, Deputy District Attorney

CONTACT (805) 346-7540

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

February 24, 2014

Re: People v. Amos Lee Andrews

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that defendant Amos Lee Andrews, age 57, pled guilty to Attempted Murder, Arson of an Inhabited Structure with a Use of an Accelerant enhancement, and First Degree Residential Burglary for setting the Town Center Hotel on fire on October 12, 2013. It is expected, at the time of his sentencing, that Mr. Andrews will receive 17 years in state prison where he must serve a minimum of 85% of his sentence before he becomes eligible for parole. His sentencing has been continued until March 7, 2014.

In the early morning hours of October 12, 2013, Mr. Andrews broke into the Town Center Hotel located at 215 N. Broadway Street in the city of Santa Maria. He then set the maintenance room on fire. Located in the maintenance room were cans of paint, paint thinners, and other chemicals. These chemicals acted as accelerants which caused the fire to spread quickly into other areas of the hotel, resulting in the need to evacuate all occupants. Over 50 people were present in the hotel at the time of the fire. The Town Center Hotel was destroyed as a result of the fire. Mr. Andrews was arrested at 7:42 p.m. later that same day.

When commenting on the case District Attorney Dudley said, "The swift response and highly professional investigation by the Santa Maria Fire Department, Santa Barbara County Fire Department, and the Santa Maria Police Department led to both the collection of significant evidence and the rapid apprehension of Mr. Andrews. Additionally, the follow-up support from the District Attorney's Arson Task Force combined with the legal research conducted by prosecuting Deputy DA Brandon Jebens made it possible to achieve this successful outcome without incurring the high costs associated with this type of trial."

□ SANTA BARBARA OFFICE
1112 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2300
Fax: (805) 568-2398

□ SANTA MARIA OFFICE
312-D East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 346-7540
Fax: (805) 346-7588

□ LOMPOC OFFICE
115 Civic Center Plaza
Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 737-7760
Fax: (805) 737-7732