

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOHN T. SAVRNOCH
District Attorney



05-683

RELEASE NUMBER

May 4, 2023

RELEASE DATE

Kevin Weichbrod, Senior Deputy District Attorney

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Re: People v. Victor Angel Hernandez, Santa Barbara Superior Court Case No. 21CR03177

Santa Barbara County District Attorney John T. Savrnoch announced today that Mr. Hernandez was sentenced to 8 years in State Prison after pleading guilty to Arson of an Inhabited Structure and admitting a special allegation for starting a fire that caused Damage to Multiple Structures.

The charges stemmed from an arson, committed by the 24-year-old Santa Barbara resident, which started the Loma Fire. The Loma Fire was a fast-moving vegetation fire that broke out late on a windy night, May 20, 2021, above Loma Alta Drive and spread up TV Hill toward Miramonte Drive. Due to the unstable weather conditions and fast-moving pace of the fire, evacuations were ordered for the surrounding streets and neighborhoods. The fire ultimately burned approximately 9-acres and damaged multiple residences before fire personnel were able to contain the blaze.

The Honorable Pauline Maxwell pronounced the sentence of 8 years, confirming a plea agreement reached with the District Attorney's Office, which also requires Mr. Hernandez to register as an arson offender for the remainder of his life and pay at least \$80,000 to the city in restitution. District Attorney John T. Savrnoch stated, "Thank you to the Fire Personnel who risked their lives stopping the spread of this arson before it could do even more damage to our city. Due to outstanding work, dedication, and corroboration between the Santa Barbara City Fire Investigators, Santa Barbara Police Officers and Detectives, and the Prosecution Team led by Senior Deputy Kevin Weichbrod, this individual was held accountable for his actions."

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