

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



DA 01-89

RELEASE NUMBER

February 1, 2012

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley*, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Kevin Duffy, Sr., Deputy District Attorney

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

February 1, 2012

Re: Defendant Pleads to an Attempted Murder/Hate Crime

District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that she expects Curtis Martin's plea to committing hateful acts of violence will result in him serving a life sentence.

On Thursday, January 26, 2012, Defendant Curtis Martin pled no contest to first degree attempted murder and admitted all special allegations, including a hate crime special allegation.

The crime occurred on September 16, 2010, at a restaurant in Santa Maria, where, without provocation, the defendant viciously attacked an employee at the restaurant. The employee, who was folding napkins at the time of the attack, was stabbed twice in the neck. Co-workers came to the victim's aid and stopped the attack. The defendant walked away yelling derogatory slurs about the victim's assumed sexual orientation.

After his arrest the defendant told detectives, "I did it 'cause he's gay; I don't like gay people. . . I hope he dies."

The defendant will be sentenced on February 8, 2012, in Dept. 8, before the Honorable Judge Kelly. Pursuant to the plea agreement that he entered on January 26, 2012, he will receive the maximum possible sentence of 26 years to life.

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