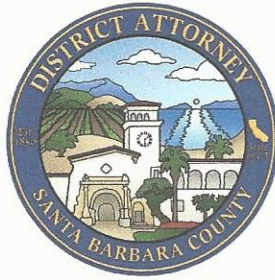


OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 02-292

RELEASE NUMBER

February 26, 2015

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley*, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Mary Barron, Sr. Deputy District Attorney

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

February 26, 2015

Re: *People v. David William Tallman*; Case No. 1446829

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that on February 23, 2015, David William Tallman pled guilty, as charged, to three felony counts: arson of an inhabited structure; criminal threats and resisting a peace officer; and one misdemeanor count of violating a court order. The District Attorney did not offer any plea bargains in this case.

In addition to the time he has already spent in custody, the Honorable Judge Michael Carrozzo sentenced Tallman to five years' probation. If Tallman violates his probation he could serve up to 10 years 4 months in state prison. Tallman was required to undergo a mental health evaluation upon his release from custody on February 24, 2015, and reside in a sober living home. He must register as an arsonist for life.

The defendant has been in custody since July 7, 2014, when he threatened to blow up his Montecito residence using acetylene gas. During the incident, Tallman, a jeweler, called 911 and threatened to use the acetylene tanks he had in his residence for making jewelry, by releasing the gas and igniting it with a flame device. He also made threats against law enforcement, in particular two Sheriff's deputies who had recently taken him into custody on a mental health hold. Numerous emergency personnel responded to the scene in the early morning hours at 1332 Virginia Road in Montecito. The defendant was ultimately apprehended by members of the Sheriff's Department. Responding firefighters from the Montecito Fire Protection District found evidence of a small fire in the defendant's residence.

District Attorney Dudley expressed her appreciation for the quick and highly professional response of the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office, the Montecito Fire Protection District, and Senior Deputy District Attorney Mary Barron, who prosecuted the case. DA Dudley went on to say, "Arson is rarely a victimless crime. Therefore, we will continue to prosecute arsonists as we would any other violent offender."

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