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BRONX MAN WHO SET FIRE TO CAFÉ ON MOTHER'S DAY SENTENCED TO SIX YEARS IN PRISON; PLEADS GUILTY TO ARSON

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man pleaded guilty and will be sentenced to six years in prison for setting fire to a café while multiple customers were inside.

District Attorney Clark said, "This senseless crime, spurred by petty anger, had the potential to seriously harm many people. Fortunately, an alert FDNY EMS worker noticed the fire, saving many lives. The defendant will now spend six years in prison for his recklessness."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Robert McCurdy, 49, of Tryon Ave., pleaded guilty today before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett to second-degree Arson, a felony. As part of the plea agreement, McCurdy will be sentenced on Dec. 1, 2017 to six years in prison followed by five years post-release supervision. He was remanded.

According to the investigation, on May 8, 2016, McCurdy was asked to leave a Woodlawn café when an argument ensued. The defendant returned and poured gasoline on the building and the sidewalk and proceeded to light a match while the establishment was occupied by several people. A nearby Fire Department official noticed the blaze and alerted authorities, who were able to douse the flames before anyone was hurt. The fire left scorch marks and caused damage to a window.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sarah Merry of the Economic Crimes Bureau, under the supervision of Richard Kearney, Deputy Chief of the Economic Crimes Bureau and William Zelenka, Chief of the Economic Crimes Bureau, and the overall supervision of Stuart Levy, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division and Jean T. Walsh, Chief of the Investigations Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked FDNY Fire Marshal Stephen Bumb for his assistance in the case.