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Guilty Verdict after Arson where Rabbit was doused in Gasoline



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that MARCUS RIOS, 24, of Albany, was found guilty after a jury trial of (1) Count of Arson in the Second Degree, a Class B Violent Felony, and (1) Count of Overdriving, Torturing, and Injuring Animals, a Class A Misdemeanor, before the Honorable William A. Carter in Albany County Court in the afternoon of Friday, June 22, 2018.

After hearing testimony and reviewing evidence, the jury concluded that on July 8, 2017, at

approximately 11:00 A.M., RIOS brought a gas can to the residence of a person that he knew on Providence Street in the City of Albany. RIOS then poured gasoline on the back porch of the residence, including pouring gasoline directly on a caged rabbit who was unable to flee, and then intentionally started a fire on the windowsill of the porch. RIOS then walked to the front porch of the home where he lit the gas can on fire and placed it against the front porch. There were people inside of the building when RIOS started the fire, but they were able to exit without injury. Although the rabbit received minor injuries from the gasoline, he was not burned and was able to recover from the incident.

RIOS faces up to 25 years in State Prison when sentenced on August 3, 2018.

Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Cheryl Fowler is handling the prosecution of this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh at (518) 275-4710 or cecilia.walsh@albanycountyny.gov.



Thumper after the incident, July 2017

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