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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 24, 2020
Re: Leanna Hazel Boyd
Arson conviction and sentencing

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Leanna Hazel Boyd, age 41, of Modesto, was sentenced on September 14, 2020, to serve six years in prison for setting fire to an occupied duplex in Modesto in 2018. Deputy District Attorney Monroe Tyler prosecuted the case for the People.

On October 10, 2018, Boyd was found squatting in a Modesto duplex by the property manager and told to leave. She returned three days later on October 13th and set fire to a combustible substance that she stuffed into a mail slot in the front door. Boyd was captured on video starting the fire which completely burned the front door, melted the inside carpet and caused smoke damage to the covered porch, inside entryway, dining room and family room. The occupant of the adjoining duplex was treated by the fire department for smoke inhalation.

On September 14, 2020, Boyd pled no contest to arson and admitted having a prior 2003 carjacking conviction, a "strike" under California's "Three Strikes" law. The remainder of the charges against her were dismissed in return for her plea.

Judge Thomas Zeff sentenced Boyd to three years in prison which was doubled to a total of six years for the prior strike. The new arson offense is an additional "strike," which may be used to sentence Boyd to 25 years to life in prison if she is convicted of another serious or violent felony.

Boyd has an extensive criminal history, including serving a five-year prison term for a 2015 felony conviction for evading a police officer. She was on post-release community supervision for that crime when she committed the arson in 2018. Boyd also had a prior arrest in 2014 for setting fire to an apartment she had been evicted from.

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