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NEWS RELEASE

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**Transient Convicted of South Pasadena Fire**

A man pleaded no contest today to igniting a fire that set a baseball field ablaze in South Pasadena, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Carlos Alberto Hernandez (dob 11/16/71) pleaded no contest to one felony count of arson to a structure or forest in case GA102834.

The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced April 4 in Department 5 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Alhambra Branch.

He is expected to be sentenced to 124 days in county jail and three years of probation. Additionally, the defendant will be ordered to attend a residential drug treatment program for six to 12 months. Furthermore, Hernandez will be ordered to register as an arson offender for life.

Prosecutors said on Aug. 26, 2017, firefighters responded to a fire located at a baseball field in the 600 block of Stoney Drive in South Pasadena.

After putting out the fire, officials conducted an arson investigation and discovered Hernandez lived in an encampment near the fire, prosecutors said.

It was later discovered the defendant had started a fire to cook food, prosecutors added. Hernandez walked away from the area and when he returned the fire had started to spread. He then fled the scene, prosecutors said.

The defendant was taken into custody on Feb. 2 and charged several days later.

The case was investigated by the South Pasadena Police Department.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.