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NEWS RELEASE

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Transient Pleads to Setting Fire at Hollywood Apartment Complex

A man was sentenced today to four years in state prison after pleading no contest to setting a fire at an apartment complex that was being built in Hollywood, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Benicio Garcia (dob 10/23/96) entered his plea to two counts of arson of a structure and was immediately sentenced.

Deputy District Attorney Rachel Bowers of the Arson and Explosives Section prosecuted the case.

On June 12, 2017, a fire was reported at an apartment building that was under construction in the 400 block of North Heliotrope Drive. The blaze destroyed the complex and two other structures were damaged.

Besides Garcia, no one was inside the building when the fire began. One firefighter was injured.

Garcia was seen by witnesses outside the building during the blaze. He was arrested at the scene.

Case BA458250 was investigated by the Los Angeles City Fire Department and the Los Angeles Police Department's Rampart Division.

[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.