

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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San Pedro Man Charged with Elks Lodge Fire

A 78-year-old man accused of setting fire to an Elks Lodge in April was charged today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Nick Pecarich (dob 5/25/35), of San Pedro, is charged in case NA099011 with one count each of arson of a structure, grand theft of personal property, second degree commercial burglary and grand theft auto. Additionally, the defendant faces two counts each of vandalism over \$400 damage.

The felony complaint includes a special allegation that Pecarich damaged and destroyed property of a value exceeding \$3.2 million.

The defendant is scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon at the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Long Beach in Department S01. Prosecutors are recommending that his bail be set at \$675,000.

Prosecutors said on April 15 the Elks Lodge in San Pedro was set on fire.

Officials began an arson investigation and linked the defendant to the blaze. Pecarich was arrested on April 29 and has remained in custody.

If convicted as charged, Pecarich faces a maximum sentence of 13 years in state prison.

The case has been assigned to Deputy District Attorney Sean Carney and is being investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department, Arson Division.

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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 seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.

