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### PRESS RELEASE

March 22, 2019

#### JURY FINDS REDWOOD FALLS MAN GUILTY OF ARSON IN THE SECOND DEGREE

A Redwood County District Court jury found a Redwood Falls man guilty of Arson in the Second Degree and Conspiracy to Commit Insurance Fraud, County Attorney Jenna Peterson announced Friday.

The jury deliberated for approximately two hours Thursday morning, March 21, 2019, before delivering the guilty verdict around 1 p.m.

Deitrick Aaron Gill, 37, was found guilty of intentionally setting his car on fire on August 26, 2016 in Redwood Falls and conspiring with another to file a false claim to the insurance company.

According to the criminal complaint, evidence and testimony presented at trial, Gill started his 2002 BMW on fire in the early morning hours of August 26<sup>th</sup>. Prior to starting the vehicle on fire, Gill removed the radio, subwoofers, amplifier, tires, rims, and the battery. Fire investigator's located a burn pattern on the front seats consistent with an accelerant. Forensic analysis revealed gasoline had been poured on the front seats prior to the fire. Gill and his wife then submitted a claim to their insurance for the vehicle. An insurance investigation revealed significant financial distress in the weeks leading up to the fire.

As to who started this fire "there is no other logical explanation because there was no one else out there that night other than defendant, who after he removed everything of value from the vehicle, moved the car from the garage to the street in front of the house, dumped gasoline on the front seats, ignited the BMW, and went back inside," Peterson, who tried the case, told the jury in her closing arguments Thursday morning.

Gill will be sentenced April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Redwood County Courthouse.