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BUCKS COUNTY CHIROPRACTOR SENTENCED FOR ARSON AND FRAUD

PHILADELPHIA - Jonathan P. Wiktorchik, Jr., 59, of Southampton, PA, was sentenced today to 17 years in prison for setting fire to the Bucks County Chiropractic Center, announced United States Attorney Zane David Memeger. A federal jury convicted Wiktorchik, on March 1, 2011, of arson, mail fraud, and making false statements to federal investigators. On March 30, 2008, at 2:30 a.m., an explosion and fire erupted at the office located at 2540 - 48 Mountain View Road in Ottsville, Nockamixon Township. Wiktorchik set fire to the business using gasoline and destroyed not only his business but four others, then filed a proof of loss claim with Maryland Casualty Company, *t/a* Zurich American Insurance Company ("Zurich"), in accordance with the terms and conditions of this insurance policy. He received a partial payment from the insurance company for \$50,000.

During the investigation, on three separate dates, Wiktorchik made false statements to federal agents claiming first that he was on a camping trip with his son during the time the fire was set and was not at the scene of the arson. He subsequently admitted to investigators that his first explanation was false and that he left the camp site in the early morning hours to check on his business. He then claimed that when he arrived at the scene, he was assaulted by Spanish speaking gang members, who, he claimed, caused the explosion and fire.

In addition to the prison term, U.S. District Court Judge Robert F. Kelly ordered Wiktorchik to pay restitution in the amount of \$1.5 million and five years supervised release.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Pennsylvania State Police, the Bucks County Fire Marshals Office, the Philadelphia Fire Department, and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jose R. Arteaga.

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