



Office of the Dutchess County DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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POUGHKEEPSIE WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTEMPTED ARSON IN THE SECOND DEGREE

Dutchess County District Attorney Anthony Parisi announced today that 28-year-old, Niya Edelman, of Poughkeepsie pled guilty in Dutchess County Court to Attempted Arson in the Second Degree, a Class C Violent Felony. She faces 6 years in prison and 5 years of post-release supervision.

District Attorney Anthony Parisi said, “Arson is not a property crime, it is a violent crime that places innocent lives at immediate risk. When Ms. Edelman attempted to set fire to an occupied apartment building, she created the potential for catastrophic loss of life, devastating injuries, and the destruction of homes and neighborhoods. That is precisely why our Office has a dedicated prosecutor to handle arson cases and work closely with our law enforcement and fire investigation partners. I commend the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department and the City of Poughkeepsie Fire Department for their outstanding work in this case and for protecting our community every day.”

The defendant admitted that on April 27th, 2026, at approximately midnight, she attempted to set fire to a residential apartment building located at 65 South Hamilton Street in the City of Poughkeepsie. She admitted that she did so by taking several pieces of mail out of the mailbox, placing the mail in the door jam and lighting the mail with a lighter. The burning mail fell to the floor and the defendant then added more mail to the fire which caused damage to the wall and door of the vestibule area of the building. At the time of the incident, the defendant knew there were numerous residents of the building in their apartments.

The City of Poughkeepsie Police Department handled the investigation. The case was prosecuted by Unit Chief Pamela Bloomfield. The Honorable Jessica Segal presided over the case and scheduled sentencing for September 1, 2026.

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