



ATF News

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Lockport Man Sentenced to Federal Prison for Attempted Arson

CHICAGO – Patrick J. Fitzgerald, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent In Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) announced today that Ernest Myers, aka “Tank,” of Lockport, Ill., was sentenced on Oct. 25, 2007, by U.S. District Judge Milton I. Shadur to 180 months in prison. Myers was convicted by a jury of attempted arson on April 11, 2007, and acquitted of arson and insurance fraud that same day.

On May 7, 2001, a warehouse, located at 28 East Fourth Avenue in Joliet, Ill., was burned. The warehouse housed an arcade/dance hall business called “Against All Odds.” Myers was the owner and manager of Against All Odds. After only being open for approximately three months, the City of Joliet closed Against All Odds for violations of business license ordinances. Consequently, on May 5, 2001, Myers and two accomplices entered the warehouse and attempted to burn the building with gasoline and natural gas. The May 5, 2001, attempt was unsuccessful. However, the warehouse was set ablaze on May 7, 2001. A jury concluded that Myers was involved in the May 5, 2001, attempt to burn Against All Odds and the warehouse which contained it. No people were injured in connection with either the May 5 attempt or the actual May 7 fire.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Christopher P. Hotaling and Morris O. Pasqual.

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