



**ERIK NASARENKO**  
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**NEWS RELEASE**



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### Palo Alto Man Arraigned for Thousand Oaks Pizzeria Attack

VENTURA, Calif. – The Ventura County District Attorney’s Office announced today that Robert Haight (DOB 11/26/61), of Palo Alto, pled not guilty on July 20, 2023, to five felony counts including assault with caustic chemicals and assault with a deadly weapon.

On June 25, 2023, Haight is accused of entering a restaurant in Thousand Oaks, squirting lighter fluid on an employee, and attempting to light the employee on fire. He then allegedly grabbed a large kitchen knife and chased the employee through the business before the employee escaped out a back door.

Haight allegedly continued to follow the employee into the parking lot behind the restaurant where a second victim tried to intervene. Haight is accused of then squirting him with lighter fluid before that second victim fought back defending himself. Deputies from the Thousand Oaks Police Department arrived shortly after the second attack and arrested Haight. Haight was transported to a local hospital and treated for injuries he sustained during his alleged assault on the two victims.

Deputy District Attorney Brandon Yeaton, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office Serious and Violent Felonies Unit, is the prosecutor assigned to the case.

Haight is scheduled for an early disposition conference on July 31, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court.

**Case: 2023016125**

**Defendant Information:**

Robert Haight (DOB 11/26/61)  
Palo Alto

**Charges:**

- (2 counts) PC 244 – Assault with caustic chemicals
- (3 counts) PC 245(a)(1) – Assault with deadly weapon