

More Court Delays Monday Due to Sheriff Shortage

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Just days after Attorney General Barry Penner claimed there was no money to pay for more sheriffs for B.C. courts, a sentencing hearing was halted in Vancouver Provincial Court Monday because of staff shortages.

And Judge Gregory Rideout said the Attorney General must deal with the growing problem. The case that was delayed involved convicted arsonist Kamaljeet Singh Josan, who pleaded guilty in March to burning the Taco del Mar in the 600-block of West Broadway on Feb. 13, 2008.

The explosion destroyed an adjacent Starbucks, damaged other businesses and blew debris across the busy six-lane street. The damage was estimated at more than \$2 million (this photo was taken after the blaze.)

Penner issued similar statements to me when I wrote about this issue twice in recent weeks. What he isn't addressing is the fact these cases are mid-stream and the prosecutions may be jeopardized by these delays. That doesn't make sense when public funds have already been spent on police investigations and Crown preparations for trial. It is better to not go forward with cases that there are not funds to conclude.