



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

June 19, 2024
MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
DDA Larry L. Fields
(661) 868-2741

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by CJZ
Press Release 24-84

Martinez Found Guilty of Killing Homeless Man During Drug Deal
People v. Matthew Martinez: Kern County Superior Court Case BF193778A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a jury verdict in a significant homicide case. On June 18, 2024, a Kern County jury found Matthew Martinez, age 39, guilty of the first-degree murder of Anthony Martin, with an enhancement for use of a firearm. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Larry L. Fields.

On February 23, 2023, at approximately 6:30 p.m., Bakersfield Police Department officers were dispatched to 4017 Stockdale Highway in Bakersfield regarding an assault with a deadly weapon. Upon arrival, officers located the victim suffering from a gunshot wound to his abdomen. While in contact with the victim, he provided officers with a suspect description that matched Martinez. The victim was ultimately transported to Kern Medical Center where he succumbed to his injuries in the operating room. The victim sustained a gunshot wound where the bullet became lodged in his spine after severing his abdominal aorta.

Investigation revealed that the victim was homeless and lived along the portion of Stockdale Highway in which the crime occurred. Martinez lived in an apartment nearby. It was discovered that Martinez knew the victim and was purchasing methamphetamine. Martinez was not happy with the amount he received and murdered the victim over a five-dollar drug deal.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating, “These extreme acts of violence with use of firearms require the fullest prosecution under the law. Even unfortunate members of society who are homeless deserve justice.”

Sentencing is set for July 17, 2024, in Department 5 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge John Lua. Martinez faces up to 25 years to life in prison for the murder, plus 25 years to life for the use of a firearm to commit murder.

Matthew Martinez:

