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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gang Members Found Guilty of Murder Relating to Hotel Parking Lot Shooting
People v. Angel Cordero and Jerry Ortega: Kern County Superior Court Case BF185882AB

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant murder conviction. On June 28, 2024, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Taconi, a Kern County jury found Angel Cordero and Jerry Ortega guilty of First Degree Murder with Special Circumstances for Lying in Wait and Acting in Furtherance of a Criminal Street Gang with enhancements for discharge of a firearm causing death.

In the early morning hours of June 9, 2021, Cordero and Ortega entered the Hampton Inn Hotel parking lot located at 1017 Oak St in Bakersfield and were driving a white Nissan Altima. After locating victim Billy Avila's vehicle, they spent four hours in the parking lot waiting for Mr. Avila to exit the hotel. When Mr. Avila exited the hotel, he walked toward his vehicle and began placing items in the back passenger side of the vehicle when he was ambushed by Cordero and Ortega. The defendants began firing while in the Altima and proceeded to run to Mr. Avila's vehicle where they continued to shoot at Mr. Avila while he was lying inside of the vehicle. There were approximately 15 shots fired and Mr. Avila suffered from 11 bullet wounds.

The Nissan Altima was found later that same day being driven by a third individual who was wearing latex gloves and attempting to dispose of the vehicle. Once the vehicle was located and processed, DNA evidence found on the vehicle linked Cordero to the crime. DNA evidence located at the scene also linked Ortega to the hotel's parking lot. In addition, through investigation and witness statements, officers and detectives were able to locate the clothing worn by both defendants at the time of the murder. Angel Cordero was an active member of the Loma Bakers Criminal Street Gang at the time of the murder while Jerry Ortega was an active member of the Eastside Bakers Criminal Street Gang.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Gang violence has a destructive impact on lives and communities. This murder was meticulously planned and carried out, highlighting the severe threat these two individuals posed to public safety."

Sentencing is set for August 23, 2024, before the Honorable Judge Brian McNamara. Cordero faces Life Without Parole plus 25 years to life and Ortega faces Life Without Parole plus 77 years to life.

Angel Cordero:



Jerry Ortega:

