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RE: Homicide Trial Conviction: Eddie Leyva, BF167356A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant homicide trial verdict today. Today, a Kern County Jury returned a verdict finding defendant Eddie Leyva guilty of 2nd degree murder of a three-month-old girl, Adenalie Leyva. The case was prosecuted by DDA Gina Pearl.

On October 30, 2014, 3 month-old Adenalie Leyva was found dead at an apartment on L Street. She had been dead for several hours and had suffered more than sixteen rib fractures, bacterial pneumonia, a massive kidney infection, and sepsis. Adenalie was also severely malnourished and dehydrated.

Medical personnel determined that Adenalie suffered these injuries over a span of two weeks. Adenalie's parents, Vanessa Wolfe and Eddie Leyva, were charged with causing the direct injuries to Adenalie as well as allowing Adenalie to suffer for weeks while doing nothing to help or care for her. Had Leyva and Wolfe taken Adenalie for medical care, it is likely that she would have survived even the extensive injuries she had suffered.

A trial was conducted against both Eddie Leyva and Vanessa Wolfe that began on October 17, 2019, where two separate juries heard evidence on the case. On November 15, 2019, one jury considering charges regarding Vanessa Wolfe returned guilty verdicts for second-degree murder and assault causing the death of Adenalie. On November 21, 2019, a mistrial was declared by Judge Charles Brehmer in regard to the second jury, which was deliberating on the charges related to Eddie Leyva. The mistrial was declared as a result of some members of the jury considering information beyond the evidence presented during the trial.

On September 3, 2020, the retrial against Eddie Leyva began, and on September 29, 2020, the jury returned with a verdict finding Eddie Leyva guilty of 2nd degree murder.

Advised of the verdict, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer stated that "Homicide crimes against children continue to plague our county. Any child's death is intolerable, but when the parents entrusted to care for

an infant not only abandon their roles as caretakers, but actively injure and abuse an infant, the case is particularly appalling. Today's verdict lends a voice and provides justice for a three month old child whose parents never gave her a chance to find a voice of her own."

Leyva faces a potential sentence of 15 years-to-life in prison as a result of the conviction. Sentencing is scheduled for October 26, 2020 before the Honorable John Lua.