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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by CJZ
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Re: Trial Murder Verdict: People v. Frank Jacob Hillman: Kern County Superior Court Case #BF165130A

(Bakersfield) -- District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant murder conviction today. In a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Brad Taconi, a Kern County jury found defendant Frank Jacob Hillman guilty of Second-Degree Murder.

On August 7, 2016, defendant Frank Hillman met the victim, Shawn Bivens, outside of the Tower Motel in Bakersfield. Hillman and the victim had a disagreement. As the victim was walking away from the argument, Hillman began to drive away. Bivens threw a wrench at Hillman's vehicle, which prompted Hillman to make a U-turn and accelerate directly toward the victim and use the vehicle to strike the victim in the driveway to the Tower Motel. The vehicle driven by Hillman impacted Bivens with such force that it flung Bivens approximately 15 feet into a nearby fence. The Pathologist examining Bivens' injuries compared the level of blunt force trauma sustained by Bivens with a level of force that would be expected of a person bungee jumping, having the cord snap, and landing on their head. The collision was also captured on video. After the collision, Hillman then proceeded to knock down a locked gate with the car to flee the scene. Shawn Bivens died as a result of the injuries sustained in the collision.

As Hillman was returning to his residence, detectives from the Bakersfield Police Department began their investigation. Hillman later returned to the scene of the murder. Detectives were able to identify Hillman as the driver, locate the vehicle, and identify critical witnesses and evidence that proved that the killing was much more than a mere vehicle accident, but an intentional assault that caused the death of Mr. Bivens.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the verdict, stating; "Settling disputes with deadly acts of violence will not be tolerated. When used intentionally as a weapon, a vehicle can cause injury just as readily as a firearm can. Regardless of the method employed or weapon used, intentional killings will be prosecuted for murder or manslaughter."

Sentencing is set for September 22, 2022, before Superior Court Judge John Brownlee. Hillman faces a sentence of up to 15 years to life in prison.

Frank Hillman:

