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Jury Finds Bell and Evans Guilty of First-Degree Murder for a Stabbing in Downtown Bakersfield
People v. Bell, Bell and Evans, BF180263ABC

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction today. On July 11, 2023, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Zigler, a Kern County jury found Defendants Louis Bell guilty of First-Degree Murder and Mindie Evans guilty of First-Degree Murder and Conspiracy to commit murder. Dellon Bell was acquitted of murder.

On January 4, 2020, the victim, Dontae Lee was found stabbed to death in an alley located in the 100 block of 30th street. While investigating the crime scene, detectives located a cell phone that was later determined to belong to defendant Louis Bell. Text messages exchanged from Louis Bell's second phone to Evans on the date of the homicide included "Done", "He's gone", and "Hungry after killing".

Video surveillance from the Fastrip near the scene of the stabbing in addition to phone records placed both Louis Bell and Dellon Bell in the area of the Fastrip and the stabbing around the time of the crime. Detectives executed a search warrant on the residences belonging to the Bells. In the residence they located clothing soaking in a bucket of bleach. The clothing was consistent with the clothing seen in the Fastrip videos near the time of the homicide.

In text messages discovered by investigators, Evans claimed that Lee attempted to beat and sexually assault her in the past. However, when Evans testified in trial, she denied knowing the victim.

Bell faces 26 years to life, while Evans faces 25 years to life. Both will be sentenced before the Honorable Judge Judith Dulcich on August 8, 2023.

Louis Bell:



Mindie Evans:

