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Jury Finds Gang Member Guilty of Dozens of Criminal Counts including Murder
People v. Adolfo Rivera: Kern County Superior Court Case BF185680A

(Bakersfield) – District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a guilty conviction today in a consolidated criminal case that included crimes committed on three separate dates.

On August 4, 2023, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Hunter E. Starr, a Kern County jury convicted Adolfo Rivera of First-Degree Murder, two counts of Attempted Murder, Conspiracy, Robbery, Burglary, twelve counts of Assault with a Firearm, three counts of Assault with a Semiautomatic Firearm, multiple counts of Possession of a Firearm/Ammunition by a Felon, Grossly Negligent Discharge of a Firearm, and Resisting Arrest. Most charges contained one or more special allegation regarding firearms use or possession. On August 9, 2023, the jury found that Adolfo Rivera had previously suffered two strikes, and the jury found true seven factors in aggravation. The jury was unable to reach unanimous verdicts on gang charges and enhancements relating to the January 2018 crimes.

On January 14, 2018, Adolfo Rivera conspired with three other men and one woman to rob an illegal casino at 1221 Baker Street in Bakersfield. Rivera provided the getaway vehicle and was present with a loaded firearm. During the robbery, the robbers took a firearm from the armed guard. The guard chased the robbers from the scene, but they shot him, wounding him. Each of the robbers besides Adolfo Rivera were located and arrested in short order. Rivera remained at large.

On April 26, 2019, for unknown reasons, Adolfo Rivera walked into the backyard of a residence occupied by a family and murdered Enrique Meza-Guadron with a firearm. Rivera then attempted to escape, but a second victim, Meza-Guadron's brother, attacked Rivera. Rivera shot the second victim's hand and continued to flee despite the victim's continued attacks. An unidentified coconspirator of Rivera's ran to Rivera's aid and shot the second victim twice more in the body, causing grievous injury, but not killing him.

On May 28, 2019, Bakersfield Police officers from the Violent Criminal Apprehension Team (VCAT) located Rivera near Lucky and Exchange in Bakerfield. A K9 officer came and attempted to apprehend

Rivera, who fled but was taken into custody with use of the K9. Despite being a felon, Rivera was carrying a 9mm semiautomatic handgun in his pocket. Crime lab analysis linked the gun Rivera was arrested with to the murder. Rivera's DNA was also left at the murder scene.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating, "There are those in our community who present such a clear and present danger they must serve severe penalties. Mr. Rivera is deserving of the maximum punishment allowed by law."

The defendant faces over 400 years to life in prison. Sentencing is set for September 7, 2023, in Department 4 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Charles Brehmer.

Adolfo Rivera:

