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Jury Returns Verdict of First-Degree Murder Against Lucifer Pierce
The People v. Lucifer Darnell Pierce: Kern County Superior Court Case BF183973A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant homicide conviction today. In a case prosecuted by Supervising Deputy District Attorney Gina Pearl, a Kern County jury found Defendant Lucifer Darnell Pierce guilty of First-Degree Murder for the January 13, 2021 killing of Mubarek Alnajar. The jury also found that Lucifer Pierce used a firearm to commit the murder, and also that Pierce was additionally in unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition on the date of his arrest. The jury also found true multiple circumstances in aggravation.

On the night of January 13, 2021, Lucifer Pierce arranged a meeting with victim Mubarek Alnajar because Pierce believed Alnajar was stealing profits from their internet casino business. Pierce was on active parole with the California Department of Corrections and was wearing a GPS ankle monitor on the night of the murder. Pierce met Alnajar in an alley behind the apartment complex at 1718 Panama Lane and entered the passenger side of Alnajar's vehicle. Immediately upon entering, Pierce shot Alnajar in the face with a 9mm semiautomatic handgun. Pierce fled the scene with a pre-arranged getaway driver.

After locating video surveillance and evidence from Pierce's GPS ankle monitor, Bakersfield Police Detectives arrested Pierce six days later and found an additional, unrelated handgun in Pierce's pocket. Pierce actively resisted arrest but was eventually taken into custody. While in custody, Pierce told multiple witnesses not to testify at his trial, in an ultimately unsuccessful effort to avoid responsibility for his crimes.

Lucifer Pierce has a storied criminal record in Kern County, including a previous murder jury trial in 2007 that centered around the 1999 murder of Leslie Ahart, whose body was found in the parking lot of a school with a single gunshot to the head. That previous trial resulted in not guilty findings, but Pierce went on to serve substantial time in prison for multiple other crimes before being released from prison custody in 2020. Less than a year after his release from prison, Pierce committed the charged murder in this case.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction:

“Not content to cease his violent ways, Lucifer Pierce took a life shortly after being released from prison. This conviction should result in a life sentence that will ensure decades in prison before Pierce is even considered for parole eligibility.”

Pierce faces 50 years to life in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for September 12, 2023, before the Honorable John R. Brownlee.

Lucifer Pierce:

