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Jones Convicted of Murder After Stabbing Neighbor and Setting House on Fire
People v. Cherice Jones: Kern County Superior Court Case BF185833A

(Bakersfield) – District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a conviction in a murder case. On September 5, 2023, Cherice Jones entered a plea of Murder in the Second Degree and was found guilty by the Court.

On December 10, 2020, the Bakersfield Fire Department and the Kern County Fire Department were called to 1500 Cheatham Avenue in Bakersfield for a house fire. Upon extinguishing the blaze and entering the residence, firefighters located the body of the victim, Rosie Howard. Cherice Jones, a former probation officer and Mrs. Howard's neighbor, was seen fleeing the scene. Investigation later revealed that Jones had stabbed Howard multiple times in the face, killing her, and tried to use bleach to wash away evidence. Jones then lit the victim's house on fire to cover her tracks. Jones denied any involvement during a police interview, however Jones' DNA was found at the scene and on Howard's wallet. Howard's blood was also found in Jones' home.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating, "Rosie Howard was a beloved member of our community, and her death will always be mourned, but thanks to hardworking law enforcement officers and the cutting-edge DNA technology the Kern Regional Crime Laboratory employs, Mrs. Howard's murderer now faces justice."

Sentencing is set for October 4, 2023, before the Honorable Judge Eric Bradshaw. Jones faces 15 years to life in prison.

Cherice Jones:

