



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

September 26, 2023
MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
ADA Joseph Kinzel
(661) 868-1131

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by CJZ
Press Release #23-57

**Defendant Accused of Leading Police on a High-Speed Chase and Carjacking Elderly Person
Released on Own Recognizance at Arraignment**
People v. Jesus Jimenez: Kern County Superior Court Case #BF196329A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant update on a case today. On September 25, 2023, Jesus Jimenez was released from jail on own recognizance at his arraignment. Court Commissioner Sally Ackerknecht’s reasoning for releasing the suspect is that Jimenez is unemployed and unable to afford bail because he lives with his mother. Jimenez is charged with four felony counts including Attempted Carjacking, Reckless Evading of a Peace Officer, Taking a Vehicle Without an Owner’s Consent, and Attempting to Take a Vehicle Without an Owner’s Consent, in addition to a misdemeanor count of Obstructing/Resisting a Peace Officer.

On September 20, 2023, a Bakersfield Police Officer was patrolling near the 400 block of Union Avenue when the officer observed a vehicle that had previously been reported stolen. During a failed attempt to stop the vehicle, the suspect led police on a 10-minute vehicle pursuit during peak hours of business. During the pursuit, the suspect ran stop signs, drove on the shoulder of freeways, and made illegal U-turns onto oncoming traffic. Due to excessive speeds and concern for pedestrian safety, the vehicle pursuit was terminated and followed by the Kern County Air Support Unit. The suspect ultimately stopped at an AMPM where he attempted to carjack an elderly person, but failed when the push start button was unsuccessful. The suspect was apprehended with the assistance of a police canine whom the suspect attempted to strangle. Jimenez was arrested for the incident and taken into custody.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer expressed her concern over the release; “Catch-and-release bail settings by the court are not appropriate when a recidivist felon endangers countless lives in a reckless, high-speed chase to evade arrest and accountability. Judges and Court Commissioners must ensure that the protection of public safety is the forefront of all bail decisions.”