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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Ethan Smith Convicted of Second-Degree Murder
Days Away From 2nd Year Anniversary of Victim's Death**
People v. Ethan Smith: Kern County Superior Court Case #BF187542A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction in a murder case. On September 28, 2023, Ethan Smith pled no contest to Second Degree Murder with the personal use of a firearm for the killing of Derek Henry. The case was handled by Deputy District Attorney Christine Antonios

Exactly two years ago, on September 29, 2021, the Bakersfield Police Department was called to the scene of a shooting at 3700 Soranno Ave. in Bakersfield, CA. They located the body of Henry in his car, suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Ethan Smith had approached the vehicle and shot him through the drivers' side window six to eight times. Henry did not survive the attack and was pronounced dead at the scene.

During the investigation, the Bakersfield Police Department determined that Smith was upset at Henry's relationship with a woman. Smith had made comments in the past to other individuals about wanting to fight and assault Henry. On the morning of the murder, Smith obtained a firearm from someone else and followed Henry as Henry drove into the alley of the apartment complex, where Smith shot and killed him.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Gun violence is never an acceptable way to resolve a personal dispute and choosing to take someone's life has irreversible consequences. On the anniversary of this murder, we are pleased to provide some justice for the victim and his family."

Sentencing is set for October 25, 2023, in front of the Honorable Judge Bradshaw. Smith is facing 25-years-to-life in prison.

Ethan Smith:

