



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

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
DDA Samantha Allen
(661) 868-2761

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Miguel Cervantes Found Guilty of Murdering Man Outside of Bakersfield Convenience Store
People v. Miguel Cervantes: Kern County Superior Court Case BF192648A

(Bakersfield) - District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction. On January 24, 2024, in a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Samantha Allen, a Kern County jury found Miguel Cervantes guilty of second-degree murder with the use of a deadly weapon.

On August 29, 2021, victim Jesse Mata pulled into El Milagro Market at 575 Panama Ln. where he encountered Miguel Cervantes roaming the parking lot. Mata offered to buy Cervantes a drink, while Mata's 12-year-old daughter provided Cervantes with crackers. After providing Cervantes with a beer, Mata engaged Cervantes in conversation. During the conversation, Mata commented on a passing car. Cervantes, not liking the comment, took a kitchen knife from his front pocket and stabbed Mata in his neck. Cervantes attempted to attack Mata again, however, Mata's daughter intervened. Ultimately, Cervantes fled the scene.

Mata was rushed to Kern Medical, where surgery was performed, however he passed away 6 days later from the trauma caused by the stabbing. DNA was obtained from evidence at the scene that assisted in identifying Cervantes as the killer. Cervantes later admitted to stabbing Mata while he was high because he was upset at a comment made by Mata during their conversation.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "It is heartbreaking that a child witnessed the horrifying violence against her father. While we can't turn back time or erase the trauma, we will ensure that justice is served."

Sentencing is set for February 23, 2024, in Department 5 of the Kern County Superior Court before Judge John Lua. Miguel Cervantes faces a sentence of up to 15 years to Life plus 1 year.

Miguel Cervantes:

