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Bakersfield Man Found Guilty of Operating an Illegal Marijuana Dispensary
People v. Jose Francisco Perez: Kern County Superior Court Case BF191116A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant jury verdict. On April 30, 2024, in a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Romina Vando, a Kern County jury found Jose Francisco Perez guilty of operating an illegal marijuana dispensary, possession of a firearm, possession of ammunition, and possession of marijuana for sale.

On August 3, 2022, the Department of Cannabis Control, with the assistance of the Kern County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force, served a search warrant at “Hemp Boys,” an illegal marijuana dispensary located at 2507 S. Chester Avenue in Bakersfield. Perez was located at the business with keys to the dispensary on his person. The search into the illegal dispensary revealed the PG&E utility bill was under Perez’s name. Additionally, Perez’s wallet, along with a firearm and ammunition, were found in a safe located in one of the backrooms of the dispensary. Evidence at the trial revealed that Perez threatened a former employee and other witnesses into leaving town and attempted to dissuade a witness from testifying at trial.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “Cracking down on illegal dispensaries is crucial for keeping our neighborhoods safe. The District Attorney’s Office and law enforcement partners are making progress, but we must remain vigilant to ensure that these illegal operations are shut down for good.”

A sentencing date is scheduled for June 10, 2024, in Department 18 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable David R. Zulfa. Perez faces up to 4 years and 4 months in prison.

Jose Perez:

