



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:
Daniela Gonzaga
(661) 868-2481

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Wright Found Guilty of Grocery Store Robbery and Providing False Identification
People v. Leland Wright: Kern County Superior Court Case BF198015A

(Bakersfield) - District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a robbery conviction today. On May 2, 2024, in a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Steven Barile, a Kern County jury found Leland Wright guilty of robbery and providing false information to a police officer in a case where Wright stole merchandise and secured his escape by threatening the store's manager.

On January 30, 2024, defendant Leland Wright entered the FoodMaxx located on the 6300 block of White Lane, in Bakersfield. Wright entered with his own shopping cart, which he loaded with merchandise from the store. The store's Assistant Manager watched Wright as he headed toward the entrance, going past the check stands without paying for the goods. Upon exit, the manager asked Wright to pay for what he had taken, to which Wright responded by taking a fighting stance, clenching his fists, and threatening the manager, stating, "If you touch me, I'll kick your fucking ass." Wright proceeded to leave the premises with the loss. Officers of the Bakersfield Police Department responded and quickly apprehended Wright with the stolen property. Wright repeatedly gave officers a false name, and his true identity was ultimately determined only by fingerprints when he was booked in the Kern County Jail.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Weak laws against shoplifting disadvantage retailers in their efforts to reduce theft in their stores. Thieves that escalate their crimes by use of force or fear to escape with stolen goods can expect robbery prosecution, which carries substantial prison terms."

Sentencing is set for June 11, 2024, in Department 3 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge John Oglesby. Wright, who has a substantial criminal history including a prior 'strike' conviction for attempted carjacking, will face an elevated potential sentence of up to fifteen years.

Leland Wright:

