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Repeat Shoplifter Found Guilty of Violent Home Depot Robbery
People v. Pete Pinedo Jr.: Kern County Superior Court Case BF192527A

(Bakersfield) - District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a robbery conviction today. On May 28, 2024, in a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Steven Barile, a Kern County jury found Pete Pinedo Jr. guilty of robbery in a case where Pinedo was confronted for shoplifting and escalated his conduct to robbery by using force or fear to escape with stolen property.

On December 8, 2022, officers of the Bakersfield Police Department responded to the Home Depot located at 4001 Ming Avenue in Bakersfield. Investigators determined that Pete Pinedo, who was known to employees of the business as a shoplifter, had been confronted in the store after being seen placing items of value in his jacket. When confronted, Pinedo pulled bolt cutters that he had secreted in his waistband and swung them toward employees, who narrowly avoided the strike. Pinedo ultimately fled through an emergency exit with the loss and escaped in a vehicle. Bakersfield Police Officers caught Pinedo that same day, and he was arrested for the robbery.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "California laws on shoplifting have been weakened in recent years, but when a thief escalates a shoplifting incident by employing violence, the crime becomes a robbery. Robbery charges protect retailers and their employees from violent assaults and ensure that violent theft offenses are met with prison sentences."

Sentencing is set for July 2, 2024, in Department 3 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge John Oglesby. Pinedo will face an elevated potential sentence of up to five years for the robbery conviction.