



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:
ADA Joseph Kinzel
(661) 868-1131

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Man Found Guilty of Ninth California Bank Robbery
People v. Ray Fitzgerald Green: Kern County Superior Court Case BF187349A

(Bakersfield) - District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a jury conviction relating to a bank robbery case today. On July 8, 2024, in a case presented by Assistant District Attorney Joseph Kinzel, a Kern County jury found defendant Ray Fitzgerald Green guilty of all charged offenses, including of Robbery of a Wells Fargo Bank employee, Grand Theft, Felony Evasion in a Vehicle, Being a Felon In Possession of a Firearm, and Resisting Arrest.

On September 15, 2021, at about 10:30a.m. Ray Green entered the Wells Fargo Bank located at 5401 California Avenue, in central Bakersfield. Green presented the female victim bank teller with a note that read:

I HAVE A GUN.....
I WANT LARGE BILLS ONLY \$20'S, \$50'S, \$100'S
NO DYE PACKS
NO TRACKERS
IF YOU DO WHAT I SAY, YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WON'T
GET HURT.¹

The Wells Fargo Teller surrendered cash to Green, who then left the bank. Officers of the Bakersfield Police department responded by following a tracker that was included in the cash. Ultimately, officers with the assistance of the Kern County Sheriff's helicopter, focused on an Acura that had left the area of the bank, headed eastbound on Stockdale Highway, and then Northbound on Highway 99. When officers attempted to perform a traffic stop of the vehicle, the driver, Ray Green, ignored lights and sirens, and accelerated to 140 miles per hour as he proceeded to weave through traffic in an attempt to evade the officers. Green veered across all lanes of traffic, passed vehicles using the shoulder, and even drove through a coned off construction zone, sending traffic cones flying into traffic on the highway. The pursuit continued for 30 miles, all the way to the City of Delano, where Green exited an offramp, failed to negotiate a turn, and instead hit a tree and caused his vehicle to roll over. Officers were able to arrest

¹ Handwritten on the otherwise typed-note was the phrase "Do Not Touch Button"

Green after minor additional resistance. In Green's vehicle, officers located the exact amount of money that had been taken from the bank, the tracker associated with the bank, as well as clothing worn by Green during the robbery. The officers additionally found the above-described note that was presented to the Wells Fargo employee.

Ray Green is alleged to have a total of 8 prior convictions for robbery, every one of which involves robberies of other banks in California, largely focused in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In 1995, Green was convicted for 7 robberies in Santa Clara County, which involved the below banks and offense dates:

1. Wells Fargo Bank; 1111 Washington Street, Santa Clara – 10-29-1993
2. Wells Fargo Bank; 1715 Landess Avenue, Milpitas – 9-1-1993
3. Bank of the West; 2210 Business Circle, San Jose – 8-31-1993
4. Bank of America; 4148 Monterey Road, San Jose – 8-13-1993
5. Wells Fargo Bank; 65 North Winchester, Santa Clara – 5-20-1993
6. Bank of the West; 2210 Business Circle, San Jose – 9-24-1992
7. Wells Fargo Bank; 1111 Washington Street, Santa Clara – 6-17-1992

So prolific had Green become in the Santa Clara area, investigators had dubbed him with a nickname; "20/20," which was based upon clear lens square framed glasses that he was noted to wear in several of the robberies. Green wore similarly styled glasses in the Bakersfield robbery.

Additionally, in 2004, after being released from prison from the Santa Clara robberies, Green was again convicted of a bank robbery – his eighth bank robbery conviction -- which occurred in San Francisco County. The bank and offense date is listed below:

8. Bank of America; 45 Spear Street, San Francisco – 12-10-2002

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction; "Bank robberies are inherently violent crimes, and offenders that continue to commit violent felonies are deserving of increased penalties for repeat offenders. For this, Green's ninth conviction for bank robbery, we will be seeking a life sentence to finally put an end to Ray Green's criminal career as a bank robber."

The court found true that Green had in fact suffered eight prior bank robbery convictions, each of which is a violent felony 'strike' under California law.

Sentencing has been scheduled for August 6, 2024, in Department 9 of the Kern County Superior Court, before the Honorable Kenneth Twisselman. Green's multiple prior strike convictions make his potential sentence for the robbery up to 46 years-to-life in prison.

Ray Fitzgerald Green:

