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Roberts and Parra Found Guilty of Murdering CDCR Counselor

People v. Robert Roberts Jr. and Sebastian Parra: Kern County Superior Court Case BF191473AB

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant murder conviction today. On August 2, 2024, a Kern County Jury found defendants Robert Roberts Jr. and Sebastian Parra guilty of murder and attempted robbery. Roberts Jr. was also convicted of a special circumstance of murder during the commission of an attempted robbery, intentionally discharging a firearm causing death, and an additional count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. It was also found true that Roberts had a prior strike conviction. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney John Allen.

On August 24, 2022, Benny Alcala Jr, a Correctional Counselor with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), left his wife and children to go to Target on Stockdale Hwy in Bakersfield. The victim bought some groceries and began charging his vehicle at the Electrify America charging stations located in the Target parking lot. At 8:25 p.m. he was approached by Roberts and Parra. Roberts, using a firearm supplied by Parra, confronted Benny Alcala in an attempted robbery. Roberts pursued Benny Alcala Jr. onto Stockdale Hwy. As Alcala attempted to flee, Roberts discharged a total of six rounds. One of those rounds struck the victim's arm, while the other struck his back, which proved to be rapidly fatal. Roberts and Parra left the scene.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "No one could have imagined that a simple grocery store trip would end in such tragedy. The District Attorney's Office remains committed to advocating for all crime victims and is proud to have achieved this conviction to bring justice for Benny Alcala Jr. and his loved ones."

Sentencing is set for October 2, 2024, in Department 2 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge Judith Dulcich. Robert Roberts Jr. faces life in prison without the possibility of parole, while Sebastian Parra faces up to 25 years to life in prison.

Robert Roberts Jr.:



Sebastian Parra:

