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Man Found Guilty of Ridgecrest Armed Home Invasion Robbery
People v. James Andrew Doster: Kern County Superior Court Case RF009297A

(Bakersfield) - District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a jury conviction in a case involving an armed home invasion robbery arising out of Ridgecrest. On August 1, 2024, the jury found the defendant, James Doster, guilty of First-Degree Residential Robbery, First-Degree Burglary, and Shooting At An Inhabited Dwelling, amongst other related charges and enhancements for firearms use and discharge, as well as causing great bodily injury to the victim. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Joseph Kinzel.

On September 15, 2023, at about 1:20a.m., James Doster forced entry into a 63-year-old woman's home in Ridgecrest. Doster broke a window to gain entry and kicked open the woman's bedroom door before making demands of the victim. At one point, the victim attempted to flee the residence, but Doster caught her, then struck her on the head with a handgun, before firing a shot from the handgun. Doster forced the victim back inside and took from her a cellular phone that she had used – unbeknownst to Doster—to contact a relative while the crime was occurring. The relative, who received the call and heard the victim screaming, called 9-1-1 and directed police to the victim's home.

Ridgecrest Police Officers responded immediately, and within 10 minutes of the 9-1-1 call being placed, had detained Doster in an area within only a few blocks from the victim's home. Doster was identified by the victim as the assailant, and additional evidence, including the firearm used during the robbery and clothing worn by the assailant, were found hidden in the area near where Doster was apprehended. DNA analysis from the Kern Regional Crime Laboratory confirmed a link between Doster and the discarded evidence.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction; "Home invasion robberies by armed intruders strike at the heart of public safety and can impact victims long after the crime has occurred. The law does not look kindly upon those that prey on victims while they sleep in their homes, and we will argue for Doster to receive the decades-long sentence that justice demands for his crimes."

Sentencing has been set for August 29, 2024, before the Honorable Judge David Zulfa in Department 18 of the Kern County Superior Court, where Doster faces a sentence of more than 32 years.

James Andrew Doster:

