



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

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
DDA Larry L. Fields
(661) 868-2741

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Dollar Tree Employee Convicted for Killing of Store Thief
People v. Dylan Franco: Kern County Superior Court Case BF198372A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a plea agreement in a homicide case today. On August 12, 2024, Defendant Dylan Franco plead guilty to Involuntary Manslaughter with an enhancement for use of a knife.

On February 21, 2024, Bakersfield Police officers responded to 2607 Haley Street in Bakersfield regarding a man down next to the Dollar Tree store. Upon arrival, officers located a male subject, later identified as Aaron Delgado, lying in the lot just west of the Dollar Tree. Numerous droplets of blood were covering several unopened food items leading up to the victim's body. Officers observed Delgado had sustained a stab wound to his back left rib and had a laceration on his hand. Life saving measures were performed immediately however Delgado succumbed to his stab wound and was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Investigation revealed that Franco, a store clerk at the Dollar Tree, confronted Delgado who was in possession of stolen food from the store. Delgado climbed over a fence attempting to escape and after a brief confrontation, Franco ran from the scene. Delgado had walked from the point of the confrontation, but soon collapsed and died. A vegetable knife was found lying under his body.

Delgado's possession of a knife was a substantial factor in the case, and the investigation left questions as to what role, if any, Delgado's possession of a weapon played in the altercation between the two men.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "The taking of a life without legal justification requires consequences, but the individual circumstances in every case must be considered when arriving at an appropriate resolution. That Delgado was armed with a weapon and actively engaged in a brazen theft must be considered in addition to Franco's use of deadly force during the altercation. The resolution was reached with consideration of all of the unique factors involved in the case well in mind."

Sentencing is set for September 10, 2024, in Department 1 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge Eric Bradshaw where Franco faces a sentence of up to 4 years in prison.

Dylan Franco:

