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Martinez Convicted of East Bakersfield Assault with a Firearm
People v. Jose Martinez: Kern County Superior Court Case BF191149A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant felony assault conviction today. On September 5, 2024, in a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Jaycie Knox, a Kern County jury found defendant Jose Martinez guilty of assault with a semiautomatic firearm and negligent discharge of a firearm.

On July 16, 2022, at approximately midnight, the victim picked up his female friend from her residence in an East Bakersfield. Text messages showed that Martinez, who was neighbors and had a prior relationship with the female, was angered by seeing the female get into the car with the victim. Later that night, the victim drove his friend back to her residence and found that Martinez was waiting for them on the corner of the street with a firearm in hand. Martinez approached the victim's driver-side window and threatened to shoot the victim if he did not get off "his block." Worried for his safety, the victim began to drive away when Martinez discharged the firearm at the back of the fleeing vehicle – striking the victim. The victim suffered a gunshot wound to his lower back.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented: "Gun violence is an unacceptable threat to our community, and we are constantly working to put an end to it. This conviction is a significant step forward in our pursuit of justice, as we aim for the maximum penalty under the law."

Sentencing is set for October 4, 2024, in Department 18 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge David Zulfa. Martinez faces upwards of 20 years in prison.

Jose Martinez:

