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Saldivar Jr. Found Guilty of Evading Peace Officer After Stealing Vehicle
People v. Arturo Saldivar, Jr.: Kern County Superior Court Case SF021324A

(Shafter) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction today. On September 18, 2024, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Joe L. Alindajao, a Kern County jury found defendant Arturo Saldivar, Jr. guilty of Felony Evading of a Peace Officer, Driving a Vehicle without Consent of the Owner, and Receipt of Stolen Property: Motor vehicle.

On September 20, 2023, at approximately 10:54 PM, an officer with the McFarland Police Department received a license plate reader alert regarding a stolen vehicle. The officer went to the location of the alert and shortly located the vehicle. The officer attempted to stop the vehicle, however, the car accelerated at a high rate of speed. During the pursuit, the driver (Saldivar) reached speeds of 95 MPH and drove in the opposite lane of travel at various times. The officer ultimately lost a visual of Saldivar and ended his pursuit.

Approximately one hour later, a Deputy observed Saldivar pulling out of an apartment complex in the city of Wasco. After seeing Saldivar in the driver's seat of the vehicle, the Deputy attempted to conduct a traffic stop, however, Saldivar began to accelerate at a high rate of speed through a residential neighborhood. The Deputy pursued Saldivar and observed him commit multiple traffic violations. During the short pursuit, Saldivar then drove into an orchard field where he abandoned the vehicle. A few moments later, Saldivar was contacted at a residence three blocks from where the stolen car was abandoned. Evidence from the crime scene linked Saldivar to the crime.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Saldivar not only stole property that wasn't rightfully his, but he also put the lives of law enforcement officers and community members at risk with his reckless attempt to escape. Thankfully, no one was harmed, and this conviction ensures justice has been served,"

Sentencing is set on October 22, 2024, in Department F of the Kern County Superior Court – Shafter Branch before the Honorable Judge Wendy Avila. Saldivar faces up to 4 years, 8 months in prison.

Arturo Saldivar:

