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Transient Man Convicted of Assault with a Deadly Weapon and Attempted Criminal Threats
People v. Rodney Rusco: Kern County Superior Court Case BF200712A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced significant felony convictions today. On November 20, 2024, in a case presented by Deputy District Attorney Samuel Birchfield, a Kern County jury found defendant Rodney Rusco guilty of assault with a deadly weapon and attempted criminal threats.

On August 10, 2024, a security guard at the Town and Country shopping center on Stockdale Highway asked Rusco to leave the premises. The security guard observed Rusco drinking from a wine bottle and loitering just outside of a business in the shopping center. Rusco is a transient individual and has previously been trespassed from this shopping center. Rusco refused to leave and responded with profanity. He then proceeded to show the handle of a kitchen knife that was in his pocket and told the security guard “one stab and you’re done”. Rusco walked away from the guard towards another business, but did not leave the shopping center. The security guard followed Rusco to make sure he left the area. Rusco then set his belongings down near a business and rushed the security guard with a glass wine bottle in his hand. Rusco raised the bottle over his head and swung it down towards the guard’s head. The security guard thought he was going to be hit with the bottle, so he put his arm up to block the attack. The bottle did not strike him, but Rusco’s wrist hit his forearm. Officers with the Bakersfield Police Department arrived shortly after this and took Rusco into custody. The knife and wine bottle were still in his possession.

The Honorable Judge John Oglesby found true that Rusco has a valid prior strike offense from 2016, Rusco had absconded parole when he committed the offense, and other enhancements to be true.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “Security guards play a vital role in safeguarding both businesses and the community. In this instance, the security guard appropriately asked Rusco to leave the premises and was confronted with an escalating situation when Rusco refused and became violent. Rusco’s actions demonstrate a disregard for public safety, and he must now be held accountable for his conduct.”

Sentencing is scheduled for January 7, 2025, in Department 3 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge John Oglesby. Rusco faces up to 10 years in prison.

Rodney Rusco:

