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Smith Convicted of Attempted Murder Among Other Charges After Two Night Club Altercations
People v. Tanajae Smith: Kern County Superior Court Case BF193067A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a jury verdict in a case involving two shootings. On January 7, 2025, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Jamila Ha, a Kern County jury convicted Tanajae Smith, age 25, of attempted murder, attempted voluntary manslaughter, assault with a semi-automatic firearm, shooting at an occupied vehicle, shooting from a vehicle, and three counts of possession of an unregistered firearm. The jury also found true that Smith committed the attempted murder with premeditation and deliberation and personally discharged the firearm.

On October 9, 2022, Smith went to Casa Tequila Lounge where a verbal altercation ensued between Smith and the victim. Smith possessed a firearm and lied in wait for the victim to leave with his three friends. Officers with the California Highway Patrol responded to Highway 58 near Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and learned the victims were struck at least five times by gunfire, while traveling eastbound. The driver of the vehicle suffered a gunshot wound to the chest. On December 30, 2022, Smith went to Brix Lounge where another verbal altercation ensued between his friends and six victims. Smith again possessed a firearm, lied in wait for the victims to leave, and followed them. Deputies with the Kern County Sheriff's Office were dispatched and learned the victims were struck while traveling southbound on Calloway, at least nine times. Smith was the shooter in both incidents.

On January 9, 2023, Officers with the Bakersfield Police Department (BPD) conducted a traffic stop on a suspect vehicle. Smith was the driver and unlicensed. Officers searched the vehicle and found a loaded firearm on the driver floorboard. Through investigations, it was determined the firearm seized during the traffic stop was the same firearm Smith fired in both shootings. The vehicle that BPD stopped was also the same vehicle Smith fired out of during both incidents.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Individuals like Tanajae Smith demonstrate complete disregard for human life, utilizing firearms to commit acts of violence. These individuals pose great risk to public safety, and we will pursue the maximum punishment to hold them accountable."

Sentencing is set for February 5, 2025, before the Honorable Judge Kenneth C. Twisselman in Department 9 of the Kern County Superior Court. Smith faces up to 27 years to life in prison.

Tanajae Smith:

