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Guilty Verdict Reached in Significant Gang Related Homicide
People v. Darius Dewayne Key: Kern County Superior Court Case BF195789A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a jury verdict in a significant homicide case today. On February 6, 2025, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Joseph Marcano, a Kern County jury convicted Darius Dewayne Key of one count of First-Degree Murder and one count of First-Degree Attempted Murder for his role in the shooting that took the life of 27-year-old Johnasen Lee Crummie and left another victim paralyzed from the waist down. Following the guilty verdict for murder and attempted murder verdicts, Mr. Key entered an admission that the crimes were committed for the benefit of a criminal street gang.

During the afternoon of Saturday, February 11, 2023, at approximately 2:00 p.m., Darius Key and another suspect traveled from south Bakersfield to a residence located in East Bakersfield. Just prior to 2:12 p.m., Key drove by an apartment complex located on Clifton Street where the victims were observed standing outside the front of the residence. Key drove by the victims twice before parking down the street approximately a block away on E. 3rd Street. While Key waited in his vehicle, an armed suspect exited the front passenger side, walked across the street and stalked the victims from a concealed location on the north side of the residence. While women and children were socializing inside the apartment, the armed suspect fired a 9 mm handgun at the victims four times, killing Mr. Crummie and seriously injuring the second victim. After firing his weapon, the shooter returned to Key's vehicle. Key then drove and fled back towards southeast Bakersfield.

Investigation revealed that Key was associated with the "Country Boy Crips," a criminal street gang predominately active in southeast Bakersfield. Based on findings, the shooting took place within territory of the "East Side Crips," a criminal street gang that is historically rivaled the gang that Key associates with.

The investigation was handled by detectives from the Bakersfield Police Department who identified Key's vehicle and determined the path he traveled before and after the shooting based on video surveillance footage and cell phone records analysis.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “While gang members often work together to commit violent crimes, the law holds every participant accountable—not just the one who pulls the trigger. With this conviction, we reaffirm that those are involved in the commission of a crime, even as the getaway driver, will face serious legal consequences.”

Sentencing will take place on March 10, 2025, in Department 4 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Charles R. Brehmer. Mr. Key faces life in prison.

Darius Dewayne Key:

