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Wasco Gang Members Convicted of Assault Among Other Charges

People v. Joel Arrazate Jr. and Anthony Arreola: Kern County Superior Court Case SF020978AB

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a jury verdict in a case involving a neighborhood gang shooting in Wasco, California. On June 4, 2025, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Jamila Ha, a Kern County jury convicted Joel Arrazate Jr., age 26, of assault with force likely to cause great bodily injury and felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. Anthony Arreola, age 25, was convicted of assault with a semi-automatic firearm, assault with force likely to cause bodily injury, and felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. The jury also found true that Arreola personally discharged the firearm. Both defendants admitted to gang enhancements on all convicted charges and participation in the Varrio Wasco Rifa criminal street gang during the commission of the crime.

On August 7, 2022, Arrazate and Arreola confronted a father and son at their apartment in Wasco. Demanding gang “taxes” on behalf of their gang, they escalated the situation after the victims refused to comply. Arrazate instigated a physical altercation and Arreola joined in, causing minor injuries to the father. After the physical altercation at the apartment complex, Arrazate and Arreola fled to the street where their getaway car was parked, but did not leave the scene. Instead, they reengaged with the victims in the street. Arreola fired six rounds from a semi-automatic handgun toward the victims. A third suspect also fired at the victims, striking the son in the leg.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “Gang activity undermines the well-being and safety of our communities, putting families at risk. Such behavior is intolerable, and those responsible will face consequences that match the severity of their crimes.”

Sentencing is set for July 14, 2025, before the Honorable Judge David R. Zulfa in Department 18 of the Kern County Superior Court. Both Arrazate and Arreola each face up to 28 years in prison.

Joel Arrazate:



Anthony Arreola:

