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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fugitive Found Guilty of First Degree Murder
People v. Kira Burton: Kern County Superior Court Case BF190387A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction today. On June 18, 2025, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Taconi, a Kern County jury found Defendant Kira Burton guilty of one count of First Degree Murder with the Special Circumstance, Shooting from a Motor Vehicle.

On March 22, 2022, the victim, Michael Rico Stubbs, was stopped at a red light at the intersection of California and P Street in Bakersfield when Burton drove up next to the victim's vehicle, rolled down his window and fired several shots into the car. The victim was shot in the neck and head and succumbed to his injuries on scene. Several vehicles were subsequently damaged in a vehicle collision that resulted from the victim losing control of his car.

Video surveillance revealed that Burton had been following the victim's vehicle for several blocks leading up to the shooting. Burton fled town the next morning, initially traveling to Los Angeles and ultimately ending up in North Dakota where he stayed until his arrest on June 14, 2022.

Burton's vehicle was hidden on an abandoned property in Lamont on May 5, 2022. Through extensive investigation, detectives with the Bakersfield Police Department were able to determine that Burton was driving the vehicle at the time of the shooting.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Following a brutal act of violence that claimed a life and threatened the safety of the community, Burton attempted to evade the consequences of his actions. It took thorough investigation and prosecution to bring him to justice and secure this conviction successfully."

Sentencing is set for July 18, 2025, in Department 2 of the Kern County Superior Court before the Honorable Judge Judith Dulcich. Kira Burton faces life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Kira Burton:

