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Demetrius Ford Guilty of Voluntary Manslaughter for Killing Superior Grocer Employee
People v. Demetrius Ford: Kern County Superior Court Case #BF195246A

(Bakersfield) – District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant murder verdict today relating to the death of 54-year-old Juan Urvina. On July 11, 2025, a Kern County jury found Demetrius Ford guilty of voluntary manslaughter, assault with force likely to cause great bodily injury, and involuntary manslaughter. Several circumstances in aggravation were also found true. This case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Cole Sherman.

On the late night of January 1, 2023, Ford and his friend went to the Superior Grocer on Union Avenue to get more drinks for a party they were attending. After realizing the store was closed, Ford backed his vehicle into the parked truck of an employee, who was sitting inside his truck waiting for his midnight shift to begin. After a short verbal exchange and as Ford was starting to walk back to his vehicle, the employee used his phone to take a picture of Ford and the suspect vehicle. Ford became angry, approached, and began hitting the employee who took his picture. Two other Superior Grocer employees, including Juan Urvina, were also in the parking lot and they came to the aid of the employee Ford was attacking. Ford's friend also involved himself in the physical incident initiated by Ford.

While acting as a peacemaker, Urvina was thrown to the ground by Ford, who then turned his attention back to assaulting the other employees. As Ford and his friend were assaulting one of the employees, Urvina got up and approached his co-worker who was being attacked. Before Urvina could help, Ford forcefully punched Urvina in his face, causing him to immediately go limp, and fall down, with the back of his head striking the concrete surface. Urvina was transported to Kern Medical, but he never regained consciousness and was declared deceased the next day while at the hospital.

Assistant District Attorney Joseph Kinzel commented: "Ford's decision to violently assault three employees without provocation was senseless and tragic. Ford assaulted a smaller and older man despite his clear physical advantage. Ford's complete disregard for the value of Mr. Urvina's life warrants the prison sentence that he should receive."

Sentencing is scheduled for August 19, 2025, before the Honorable John Oglesby in Department 3 of the Kern County Superior Court where Ford faces a sentence of up to 11 years in prison.

Demetris Ford:

