



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KENNETH M. RUSSELL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

September 5, 2025
MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
DDA Bobby Singh
(661) 868-7619

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by CJZ
Press Release #25-101

**Gutierrez Convicted for Killing One, Seriously Injuring Another After Driving on
Wrong Side of Highway During Police Pursuit**
People v. Manuel Vincent Gutierrez: Kern County Superior Court Case BF186487A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction. On September 4, 2025, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Babbanjit “Bobby” Singh, a Kern County Jury found Manuel Vincent Gutierrez guilty of First Degree Murder, Attempted Murder, Evading a Peace Officer Causing Death, Evading a Peace Officer Causing Serious Bodily Injury, Driving on Opposite side of the Highway, Reckless Evading Peace Officers, Possession of a Firarm by a Felon, and Assault with an Automobile.

On June 6, 2021, at approximately 9:21 p.m., a Barstow Police Officer arrived at the Walmart in Barstow regarding a suspicion person making threats in the parking lot. Upon arrival, Gutierrez immediately accelerated towards the officer’s patrol vehicle. The officer conducted a U-turn and began pursuing Gutierrez’s Tahoe. Gutierrez got onto I-40, I-15, then to Hwy 58 in Kern County. During the 97-mile pursuit, Gutierrez exited HWY 58 westbound and entered the eastbound on-ramp while continuing to drive in a westbound direction. While Gutierrez was driving the wrong way on the highway, he drove in and out of traffic until he intentionally drove head-on into a vehicle that was occupied by two passengers, a husband and wife. The husband was severely injured by the crash and spent two weeks unconscious. The wife, Sheree Fishgold (age 62), was pronounced dead at the scene of the collision. A search of Gutierrez’s Tahoe revealed a loaded firearm.

Following the jury’s verdict, the Court found Gutierrez had prior convictions for assault with a deadly weapon and first-degree burglary.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “Gutierrez’s actions were more than negligent or reckless, he deliberately and intentionally caused a head-on collision at highway speeds with an intent to kill, which the jury correctly identified as first degree murder.”

Sentencing is scheduled for October 16, 2025, before the Honorable Judge John R. Brownlee in Department 6 of the Kern County Superior Court. Manuel Vincent Gutierrez is facing life in prison.

Manuel Vincent Gutierrez:

