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Landcraft Found Guilty of New Years Day Murder
People v. Kenneth Landcraft: Kern County Superior Court Case #BF202631A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction today. On December 3, 2025, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Cyrus Shahbazian, a Kern County jury found Defendant Kenneth Landcraft guilty of First Degree Murder with the use of a deadly weapon.

In the late hours of New Years Day 2025, Paul Camarillo Jr. was heading home, walking along Kern Street. During this time, Landcraft was sitting in a parked car by an alleyway between Tulare and Kern Streets. Landcraft observed Camarillo Jr. walk past his vehicle and drove around the block, waiting for him on the other end of the alley.

Landcraft then exited his car and approached Camarillo Jr. with a hunting knife. Landcraft swung the knife, stabbing Camarillo Jr. through the shoulder and puncturing his lung. Camarillo Jr. escaped but succumbed to his injuries shortly after.

Officers with the Bakersfield Police Department canvassed the area and located video surveillance that identified Kenneth Landcraft as the suspect. On January 2, 2025, Landcraft was arrested in the same vehicle, wearing the same jacket and shoes as shown in the video surveillance.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "It was a tragic New Year's Day for our community, marked by yet another senseless act of violence. Camarillo Jr. was nearly home when his life was unjustly taken. Landcraft's actions were both deliberate and heinous, and as a result of this conviction, he now faces a life sentence."

Sentencing is scheduled for January 9, 2026 before the Honorable Judge Bradshaw in Department 5 of the Kern County Superior Court. Landcraft faces 26 years to life in prison.

Kenneth Landcraft:

