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**Kern County Judge Denies Resentencing Petition Filed by Convicted Murderer of
Bakersfield Police Officer David Nelson**
People v. Julian Carlos Hernandez: Kern County Superior Court Case BF160644A

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the 2nd Degree Murder Conviction was upheld and resentencing was denied for defendant Julian Carlos Hernandez, the man convicted in the killing of Bakersfield Police Officer David Nelson. On June 24, 2026, nearly 11 years from the date of Officer Nelson’s death, the Honorable Judge John Lua ruled that the evidence proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant was guilty of 2nd degree murder and denied the defendant’s petition for resentencing.

On April 5, 2018, a Kern County Jury found Hernandez guilty of second degree murder, evading an officer causing death, possessing a firearm as a felon, possessing ammunition as a felon, and carrying a loaded firearm as a felon. On May 4, 2018, Hernandez was sentenced to 31 years to life in prison.

California’s Senate Bill 1437 was enacted in 2019, providing relief to convicted murderers who claimed they were not major participants in their crimes and/or did not act with an express or implied intent to kill. Hernandez filed a petition for relief pursuant to this law. The court had initially denied the defendant resentencing petition on December 13, 2022, however on March 21, 2024, the Fifth District Court of Appeal reversed the decision and ordered the trial court to hold an evidentiary hearing.

At the June 24, 2026 hearing, Deputy District Attorney Cole Sherman argued that the evidence presented at trial established Hernandez was the actual perpetrator who acted with implied malice. Furthermore, Hernandez led police on a high-speed chase with conscious disregard for human life, and he caused the death of Bakersfield Police Officer David Nelson during that pursuit. The Petitioner held a grudge against Bakersfield Police officers due to his belief that his wife had an affair with a Bakersfield Police officer, and the Petitioner intended to use a shotgun at the end of the pursuit to have a shootout with police. Based on the evidence presented at the trial, the Kern County District Attorney’s Office argued that Hernandez is guilty of second degree murder, as the actual perpetrator who acted with implied malice. After

considering the evidence, Judge Lua denied Hernandez's petition for resentencing, leaving his second-degree murder conviction and sentence in place.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Resentencing petitions are now filed in nearly every felony case, consuming resources across the justice system, and most importantly, causing unnecessary harm for families who deserve closure. Preserving a conviction requires successfully defending it at every stage of the judicial process and we are pleased that the evidence presented throughout these proceedings continues to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Hernandez is responsible for the murder of BPD Officer David Nelson."