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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia J. Zimmer announced a verdict in a significant gang case today.

On August 22, 2019, a Kern County jury found Anthony Laws guilty of one count of first-degree murder with the special circumstance of gang participation, along with charges of attempted murder, conspiracy to commit murder, illegal possession of a firearm, and active participation in a criminal street gang.

The jury heard evidence of how Anthony Laws opened fire on Darnell Dickerson and Brian Anderson shortly before 9:00 pm on July 9, 2015. Laws, a member of the Country Boy Crips criminal street gang, had received information shortly before the shooting that members of a rival gang were hanging out at an apartment complex on Palmacia Drive. Laws and other members of the Country Boy Crips drove to that apartment complex to confirm the presence of rival gang members. Once there, Laws and another subject got out of their car and crept up on the victims. Laws called out the rival gang and then fired six rounds from a semi-automatic firearm at his targets. The victims ran from the gunfire but Brian Anderson was hit in the torso and died from the wound later that evening. Brian Anderson was not a gang member and had no criminal history.

During the assault, Laws was shot in his hand by the other subject who participated with him in the assault. Investigators from the Bakersfield Police Department were able to collect blood samples from the crime scene while they were still fresh. DNA analysis from the Kern Regional Crime Lab determined that Laws' blood was mixed with the blood of Brian Anderson that was found at the scene of the shooting.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented that "The prosecution of violent gang members continues to be a top priority of this office. This case is another example of how effective investigation from BPD combined with the power of enhanced DNA analysis at the crime lab can bring a killer to justice."

A sentencing date will be set for Anthony Laws on Tuesday, August 27, 2019. Laws faces a maximum sentence of life without the possibility of parole. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney William Schlaerth in Kern County Superior Court case BF 165010 A.

Anthony Laws:

