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District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant jury trial conviction on a domestic violence case today. On Friday June 19, 2020, a Kern County jury found James Henderson guilty of first-degree robbery, false imprisonment with violence, and vandalism for crimes occurring during an October 2019 domestic violence incident. The jury also found Henderson personally used a deadly or dangerous weapon in the commission of the crimes. The case was prosecuted by DDA Cole Sherman.

On October 8, 2019, at 5:45 pm, the victim was inside her apartment in downtown Bakersfield when Henderson, her ex-boyfriend, forced his way inside, damaging her apartment door. Henderson then threatened the victim with a hammer and demanded that she give him money. In fear for her safety, the victim gave Henderson the money she had. However, Henderson was not satisfied, and he forced the victim to walk around the apartment complex to find him more money. While holding the hammer, Henderson took the victim to a neighbor's apartment and made her ask the neighbor for money. When the victim spoke to the neighbor she was crying and shaking. Rather than give her money, the neighbor called 911 and let the victim stay in his apartment until law enforcement arrived.

Officers from the Bakersfield Police Department responded to the scene where they located Henderson and found him in possession of the hammer and the victim's money.

Additionally, the court found true allegations that Henderson had suffered two prior convictions for serious or violent "strike" offenses, including one for gang-related narcotics offenses and one for a second-degree robbery. The conviction on the current case qualifies Henderson for "third strike" sentencing of up to 33 years-to-life in prison.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating that "Repeat offenders who refuse to stop committing serious and violent crimes are exactly why the three-strikes law was passed. Criminals who victimize our community time and time again face the higher punishment that comes with a third strike conviction."

Sentencing is scheduled for July 16, 2020 before the Honorable Brian M. McNamara.