



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

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

July 21, 2021

MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:

Richard Choi
(661) 868-2728

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by JAK
Press Release #21-50

Re: Trial Conviction: Gang-Related Robbery: Vannoy Sutton and Jerry Bowen BF180086 A+B

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a trial verdict on a gang-related robbery case today. On July 19, 2021, a Kern County jury found both Vannoy Sutton and Jerry Bowen guilty of Robbery committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association of the Bloods criminal street gang along with firearm use during the commission of the robbery and gang-related firearms charges. This case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Richard Choi.

On January 30, 2020 at around 9:00pm, the victim agreed to a meeting with “Bakersfield Buyer,” a username from ‘LetGo,’ which is an app that connects buyers and sellers of used products. Investigators identified “Bakersfield Buyer” as defendant Vannoy Sutton. The meeting was initiated by Sutton for the claimed purpose of buying used video games from the victim. Sutton suggested to meet at 130 Olive Street, in a residential area. The victim drove to the agreed upon meeting location, and upon parking, the victim was approached by Sutton and Bowen. While Sutton looked through the video games, Bowen produced a handgun, pointed it at the victims’ head, and began searching the victim. Sutton and Bowen also searched the victims’ vehicle, locating a handgun, which Sutton and Bowen stole from the victim, in addition to the video games that the victim had brought for sale. Sutton and Bowen fled with the property.

On February 15, 2020, in the early morning hours, Sutton and Bowen were together in a vehicle driven by Sutton, travelling the wrong direction on White Lane, in Bakersfield. Bakersfield Police officers attempted a traffic enforcement stop, leading to a short pursuit that ended when Sutton sped through a residential area and into a dead-end cul-de-sac. During the pursuit, Sutton discarded the handgun stolen from the victim.

Vannoy Sutton failed to appear for the remainder of the trial as the attorneys were delivering closing arguments in the case, having previously been released pending trial upon posting a \$100,000 bail.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer said of the conviction: “Gang related crime is not limited to inter-gang violence, and the consequences of gang violence are felt throughout the community. Gang members often

commit property and violent crimes to perpetuate a lifestyle that values violence and victimization. Enhancements targeting gang and firearm involved crimes are some of the few options remaining to ensure that gang members who victimize the community receive appropriate sentences.”

Sentencing for Bowen is scheduled for August 13 in Department 8, where Bowen faces up to 25 years in prison as a result of the convictions.

Sentencing for Sutton will be scheduled upon his apprehension, where he will also face up to a 25 year prison sentence.

A no-bail bench warrant has been issued for Vannoy Sutton’s arrest. Anyone with information as to the whereabouts of defendant Vannoy Sutton, is encouraged to contact Bakersfield Police Department at (661) 327-7111 or the Kern County Secret Witness Hotline at (661) 322-4040.

Vannoy Sutton:



Jerry Bowen:

