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MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Re: Trial Kidnap/Sex Assault Verdict in Ride-Sharing Case: Adrion Smart: BF183731A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a verdict in a major Kidnapping and Sexual Assault case today. On September 30, 2021, a Kern County jury found defendant Adrion Trevor Smart guilty of six felony charges, including: Forcible Oral Copulation, Kidnapping for Purposes of a Forcible Sex Crime, Carjacking, Robbery, and Reckless Evasion of Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle. The jury also found true additional allegations that the crimes involved the use of a firearm and caused great bodily injury to the victim. Deputy District Attorney Samantha Allen presented the evidence to the jury that resulted in the convictions.

On January 1, 2021, Adrion Smart used the Uber ride-hailing service to arrange for a ride. During the trip he solicited the driver for sex, which the male Uber driver rejected. When the Uber vehicle arrived at the destination, Smart pulled a firearm on the driver and forced the victim to pull down his pants and Smart orally copulated the victim while holding him at gun point. Smart then assaulted the victim with the firearm when the victim attempted to crash the vehicle in order to draw attention and escape. Smart threw the victim out the vehicle and left him in the street, then took the victim's vehicle, wallet, and phone. The victim sought help from a nearby residence.

Two hours later, Smart was found in possession of the victim's vehicle and fled when a Bakersfield Police officers tried to stop the car. During his escape attempt, Smart led the officer on a seven-mile vehicle pursuit which ended with Smart crashing the victim's vehicle. The Kern County Crime Laboratory conducted analysis that found DNA evidence linking Smart to the crime.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction: "Across the county, ride-sharing services have been linked to thousands of sexual assaults every year. Increases in violent crime affect every sector of our society and place more people at risk of unprovoked assaults. Ride-sharing services that effectively place strangers in the same vehicle together expose all parties to risks that are unique to the way these services are provided. Users and drivers of ride-sharing services should take precautions, including travelling with trusted friends, sitting only in the back seats, and sharing trip details with friends and family. Drivers can benefit from video surveillance and verifying names of riders and

discouraging or not allowing front-seat riders.”

Smart faces a sentence as high as 75 years to life in prison and sex offender registration as a result of the convictions. Sentencing will be held on November 2, 2021, by the Honorable Superior Court Judge John Brownlee.

Adrion Smart:

