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Trial Verdict and Sentencing For Fentanyl Smuggling and High Speed Pursuit: BF183483A: Luis Massie

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a jury verdict and sentencing in a significant felony case today. On November 05, 2021, in a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Joseph J. Mendoza, a Kern County jury convicted Luis Massie of one count of Bringing Fentanyl into a Jail Facility, one count of Reckless Evading a Peace Officer, one count of Receiving a Stolen Motor Vehicle, one count of Unlawful Driving of a Motor Vehicle, and one count of Simple Possession of Fentanyl. The court also found it true Mr. Massie had a prior qualifying 'strike' offense for gang activity and possession of a stolen vehicle. It was also found true that Massie committed several of the above offenses while he was released on bail in another criminal case.

On November 19, 2020, Massie was observed entering a stolen vehicle and attempting to drive away. Several months later, Mr. Massie was again observed driving a separate stolen vehicle on March 3, 2021. On that date, Mr. Massie led police on an approximately 2.5-mile high-speed vehicle pursuit in North Bakersfield during which he drove at speeds reaching approximately 75-mph in a 45-mph zone, failed to yield at several stop signs, and ran a red traffic light. After losing control of the vehicle, Massie attempted to flee on foot but was apprehended by pursuing officers. Upon his arrest and booking, police discovered Massie was attempting to smuggle 6.43 grams of Fentanyl into the jail facility. The Fentanyl was in the form of a dark brown tar-like substance which closely resembled the physical characteristics of Heroin. Massie admitted he did not tell police about the substance because he had snuck in narcotics previously and thought he would get away with it.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction and sentence, stating: "Fentanyl continues to find its way into our community, and this highly dangerous drug is being mixed with other illicit drugs, which increases the potency and risk of death exponentially. The successful arrest and prosecution of those that traffic or smuggle this dangerous drug into the community is an important element of public safety."

On December 7, 2021, the Honorable Judge John Oglesby sentenced Mr. Massie to 15 years, 4 months in state prison.