



**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

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

May 22, 2023

MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:

DDA Cyrus Shahbazian
(661) 868-2755

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by CJZ
DA Press Release #23-16

Juvenile Adjudication Results in True Findings For First-Degree Murder

(Bakersfield) – District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced the outcome of a significant homicide case presented in the Kern County Juvenile Court. On May 19, 2023, after an eight-day bench trial prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Cyrus Shahbazian, the petition alleging that 14-year-old Enrique Nevarez (Juvenile) committed 1st Degree Murder was found to be true. The case involved a shooting murder that occurred on June 15, 2022, in Lamont. The court also found true that the Juvenile discharged a firearm resulting in great bodily injury.

In the late hours of June 15, 2022, Kern County Sheriff's Deputies responded to an alleyway in Lamont after several reports of gunshots. Deputies arrived to find victim David Garcia Bruno (age 19) suffering from 2 gunshot wounds to the chest and attempted to perform life-saving measures but were unsuccessful.

Deputies canvassed the area and located video surveillance at a nearby business, which faced the alley and driveway where the shooting occurred. The video depicts the victim, David Garcia Bruno driving his vehicle into the alley and stopping just north of a driveway. Nevarez is seen exiting the residence and walking past the victim, before running and turning south on Santa Rosa Avenue. After 30 seconds, Nevarez returns wearing a black sweatshirt with a hoodie over his head. As the juvenile walks closer to the victim, he pulls out a concealed firearm and shoots the victim two times in the chest area, killing him. The juvenile stood over the victim for several seconds before walking away. Investigation from the Kern County Sheriff's Department identified 14-year-old Enrique Nevarez as the shooter. On June 21, 2022, the juvenile was arrested while attempting to avoid law enforcement.

Cases handled in the juvenile court that involve specified serious and violent charges are generally open to the public. Hearings on petitions in the Juvenile Court are not determined by a jury, but rather by a judge that hears the evidence and makes a finding on the truth of the allegations. A finding that allegations in the petition are true is comparable to a finding of guilt in an adult criminal case. Under California law, a juvenile

that is under 16 years of age when a crime is committed is categorically prohibited from being prosecuted in a criminal court, and thus will not face the same sentence that an adult or older minor or adult would be subject to if convicted of the same crime in a criminal court.

The disposition hearing, which is comparable to a sentencing in a criminal case, is scheduled for June 12, 2023, before the Honorable Judge Wendy Avila. Generally, a juvenile court's jurisdiction over minors ends on the minor's 25th birthday, and a juvenile – even one with a true finding for first degree murder – will no longer be subject to custody or other conditions imposed by the Juvenile Court after that date.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the result, stating that; “California laws have increasingly entrusted the Juvenile Court system to address even the most serious outbursts of violence from minors under 16 years of age. Under California law, juveniles under 16 are categorically prohibited from being tried in criminal courts and facing criminal sentences, even when they commit heinous crimes, including first-degree murder. Though consequences for juvenile violence are a fraction of what older offenders would face, we will continue to hold juveniles accountable for violent crimes to the extent permitted by law.”