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Jury Returns Verdict of First-Degree Murder Against Man For Shooting Woman Nine Times
People v. Samuel Brown: Kern County Superior Court Case BF182240A

(Bakersfield) - Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant homicide conviction today. In a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Stephanie Zigler, a Kern County jury found Defendant Samuel Brown guilty of First-Degree Murder, Personal Use of a Deadly Weapon, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Transportation of Methamphetamine while Armed with a Firearm, Possession of Methamphetamine for Sale while Armed with a Firearm, Attempted Carjacking as well as Assault on an Elder. The trial centered around crimes that spanned two separate dates in 2020.

On June 16, 2020, Samuel Brown trespassed on the property of a man that owns a 3 -acre property in Shater/Wasco area, where tractors and trailers are stored. After suffering a string of thefts of copper and metal thefts, the victim and a friend were working on the property and spotted Brown driving a U-Haul truck on property. The 70-year-old victim sought to contain Brown's escape from the property by blocking his path with a pickup truck. Brown exited the U-Haul, pulled the victim out of his truck and punched him repeatedly. Meanwhile, Shavonna Wilson, who was with Brown, drove the U-Haul into the victim's truck, pushing it out of the way and securing Brown and Wilson's escape.

On August 22, 2020, Brown shot his girlfriend, Shavonna Wilson at least 9 times in a motel parking lot, including eight times in the back. Witnesses saw Brown placing Shavonna's lifeless body in the passenger seat of his vehicle immediately after hearing the shots. Brown then went back to the parking lot and retrieved Shavonna's purse and phone. After placing Shavonna and her belongings in the vehicle the defendant opened his trunk and placed something in the driver's side area of his trunk. Brown then dropped Shavonna off at Kern Medical Center and left without informing any medical staff as to who she was or what had happened.

Investigators were able to identify and locate Brown less than two hours after the shooting, and officers with the Bakersfield Police Department attempted to conduct a traffic stop of Brown. Brown failed to yield and led officers on a high-speed pursuit on Hwy 99 between South Bakersfield and the Hwy-99/Interstate 5 split in Southern Kern County. The pursuit concluded only after officers deployed spike

strips that disabled Brown's vehicle. A search of the vehicle revealed nearly one pound of methamphetamine and substantial blood stains in the vehicle as well on Brown's clothing.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating; "There are those whose long history of crime culminates into a crime so violent that they prove themselves unsafe to be anywhere but the state prison. Three strikes laws serve as California's last defense against recidivist, violent offenders by requiring substantially longer prison sentences for criminals that repeatedly victimize others."

Brown faces 123 years to life in prison, with a potential elevated sentence due to Brown's two prior "strike" convictions. Sentencing is set for June 23, 2023 before the Honorable John Lua in Department 5 of the Kern County Superior Court.

Samuel Brown:

