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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by JAK
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RE: First-Degree Murder Conviction: Luis Pineda BF 171001A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction in a homicide case today. On November 20, 2019, a Kern County Jury found Luis Pineda guilty of First-Degree Murder with a firearm use enhancement for the killing of Christopher Rodriguez.

On January 21, 2018, at about 1:45 a.m., Pineda was engaged in an argument with the victim, Christopher Rodriguez, outside of the “Red Zone Sports Bar and Grill” on Panama Lane. Shortly after the dispute, Luis Pineda threatened to shoot Christopher Rodriguez, stating that “If you keep talking shit, I’ll come back and pop your ass.” Pineda then retrieved a .40 caliber handgun from his vehicle and shot Rodriguez multiple times. Rodriguez suffered five gunshot wounds, and was rushed to Kern Medical, where life-saving efforts were unsuccessful. Pineda was arrested later in the morning, and the handgun used in the murder was also located at his residence. Analysis by the Kern Regional Crime Lab confirmed that shell casings from the murder scene were fired from the recovered .40 caliber handgun.

Advised of the conviction, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented: “Those who choose to resolve petty disputes with deadly violence will continue to be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. This conviction keeps a killer off the streets and brings us another step closer to reversing recent rises in violent crime.”

Pineda faces maximum sentence of 50 years-to-life in prison at his sentencing, which is scheduled for February 4, 2020 in Department 7 of the Kern County Superior Court.

Luis Pineda:

