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MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by Joseph Kinzel

Re: Conviction on Premeditated Attempted Murder, People v Lara BF166835A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer and Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood announced a significant conviction today in an attempted murder case that occurred in November 2016.

On April 5th, 2019, a Kern County jury found Jose Lara guilty of all charges, which included First Degree Attempted Murder, robbery, and assault with a deadly weapon.

On November 1, 2016, The Kern County Sheriff's department responded to a Casa Loma area residence to find the victim suffering from a gunshot wound to the abdomen. Despite excruciating pain, the victim was able to provide the Deputies with the first name of his assailant. The investigation later determined that the night before, there had been a dispute over stolen items. Jose Lara left the victim's residence, only to return later in the early morning hours and shoot the victim while he was in bed, point-blank, with a 12-gauge shotgun. Immediately following the shooting, Jose Lara took the victim's cell phone, leaving the victim powerless to call for help.

Kern County Sheriff's Detective Darin Grantham was the lead investigator in the case. The victim's family is thankful to all the Deputies and Detectives for their hard work and dedication to the multi-year investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Garrett Rice. Sentencing is scheduled for May 20, 2019, where the defendant faces a potential sentence in excess of 40-years-to-life.