



**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

**ANDREA S. KOHLER**  
Assistant District Attorney

**CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**JOSEPH A. KINZEL**  
Assistant District Attorney

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**CONTACT:**  
**Garrett Rice**  
**(661) 868-1138**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Approved by JAK**  
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**Case Resolution: People v Logan August & Derrick Penney, BF173608AB**

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a resolution in a significant plea in a case involving two former Kern County Sheriff Deputies accused of stealing marijuana seized by the Sheriff Department.

In early 2017 Deputies Logan August and Derick Penney entered a plea agreement with Federal Prosecutors of the United States Attorney's Office that acknowledged conspiring with former BPD Officer Patrick Mara to sell marijuana seized from an illegal marijuana grow site. This Federal plea was negotiated without consultation of the Sheriff's Department or the Kern County District Attorney's Office.

Upon learning of the of the Federal plea, KCSO Commander Erik Levig began an investigation in conjunction with the District Attorney Investigator Don Krueger to learn the true extent of the crimes committed by any member of KCSO. This year-long investigation revealed several new offenses committed by August and Penney.

Investigators learned that August had assisted other law enforcement agencies in transporting seized marijuana from a crime scene to the Sheriff's property room for booking and storage. Much of the marijuana was considered high-grade, and in vacuum sealed containers. In March of 2015, August entered the property room under the false premise of removing that marijuana for burial and destruction and took 351 pounds of marijuana.

Despite being a uniformed Deputy, August had no authority or legitimate purpose to remove this seized marijuana from the property room. KCSO procedures dictated that only specific persons could remove marijuana for this purpose, and the destruction process of marijuana was closely guarded and monitored. The investigation confirmed that August never attempted to have the marijuana disposed of, and the location of the stolen marijuana was never discovered.

Investigators discovered that August concealed the theft by falsifying evidence destruction forms and police reports. These false forms and reports might have been noticed by a Supervising Deputy if they had not been signed for approval in the KCSO computer system by Penney, whose actions precluded the possibility of their discovery.

On August 6, 2020 Logan August entered a plea of no contest to all Fifteen charges alleged against him. The no contest pleas are an "open plea," a term used when a criminal defendant enters guilty or no contest pleas to all charged offenses without any promise of leniency or negotiated sentence from either the prosecutor or the judge. A plea to all charges subjects Logan August to the potential of a significant prison sentence of upwards of ten years, though the Judge that conducts the sentencing has wide discretion on the ultimate sentence imposed.

August will be sentenced by Honorable Judge Judith Dulcich on October 13, 2020.

On August 6, 2020 Derrick Penney entered a no contest plea to two Felony counts of Penal Code 118.1, falsifying a police report. He will serve 90 days in custody and be placed on Probation for his involvement in the case.

This case was investigated and prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Garrett T. Rice.