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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Guilty Verdicts Reached In Shooting-Homicide Case: People v. Daniel Lopez Santiago: Kern County Superior Court Case #BF183555A

Bakersfield -- Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a jury verdict in a homicide case today. On February 15, 2023, a Kern County jury returned verdicts finding the defendant, Daniel Lopez Santiago, age 22, guilty of the first-degree murder of Gregory Aguilar with an enhancement for use of a firearm. In the second count, Santiago was found guilty of attempted first-degree murder with use of a firearm and the jury found true that during the attempted murder Santiago inflicted great bodily injury upon the female victim.

The jury was unable to reach a unanimous verdict as to co-defendant Alfredo Naranjo. After a mistrial was declared due to the 'hung jury,' a date for Naranjo's retrial was set for April 3, 2023.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Larry L. Fields.

On December 15, 2020, just before 4:00p.m., Officers with the Bakersfield Police Department responded to a ShotSpotter Activation in the 1400 block 38th Street in Bakersfield. Upon arrival, officers located two victims of gunshots. Gregory Aguilar suffered multiple gunshot wounds and was pronounced dead at the scene. The second victim, a woman; was also located suffering multiple gunshot wounds and was taken to Kern Medical Hospital for treatment, where she survived her injuries.

Gregory Aguilar and the surviving female victim were walking northbound in the area of K Street and 38th Street when they were approached by a vehicle that stopped in the road. Daniel Lopez Santiago stepped out of the vehicle and began firing a 9mm semiautomatic handgun at the two victims. Alfredo Naranjo is alleged to have been the driver of the vehicle used to facilitate the murder.

Bakersfield detectives, working with LA County Sheriff's detectives, located the suspects and the vehicle in a Palmdale mobile home park where Lopez Santiago's relatives live. BPD detectives also seized a 9mm semiautomatic handgun from the residence where Lopez Santiago was visiting which was subsequently connected to the murder based upon analysis from the Kern Regional Crime Lab.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating, "Diligent investigation from the Bakersfield Police Department, combined with the analysis by our first-class Crime Lab, were essential to solving this case of senseless violence."

The sentencing for Lopez Santiago will be held on March 16, 2023 in Department 4, where Santiago will face sentence in excess of 75 years to life in prison for the convictions.

Daniel Lopez Santiago:

