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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Re: Jury Trial Murder Conviction: Marvinesha Johnson: BF 177708A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant conviction in a homicide case today. On November 12, 2020, a Kern County jury convicted Marvinesha Johnson of Second-Degree Murder along with enhancements for Personally Discharging a Firearm Causing Death, and Resisting/Delaying a Peace Officer. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Richard Choi.

In the evening hours of August 5, 2019, the victim, Brent Cannady, and a friend exited an apartment in Central Bakersfield near the 3300 block of Q street. Having heard noises outside, the men exited the apartment to see Johnson in possession of the friend's bicycle. The men retrieved the bicycle from Johnson, who began yelling at Cannady. Johnson followed the men back to the apartment and threatened to kill Cannady before pulling a firearm from her bag and firing four shots at Cannady. Cannady was struck four times by the shots, which were fired less than five feet away from the victim. Cannady died from his injuries the next day, despite efforts at medical intervention. Johnson left the immediate area, but was apprehended less than 15 minutes after the murder, about a block from the shooting by responding officers of the Bakersfield Police Department. Johnson was found in possession of a 9mm handgun that was determined to be the murder weapon. Johnson attempted to deny responsibility during an interview with detectives. At one point during the interview, Johnson became irate and threw a chair at detectives who were questioning her involvement in the murder.

Advised of the verdict, District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented, "The law is clear that using a firearm to commit any crime is unacceptable, and that is especially true for murder. The District Attorney's Office will seek the highest sentence under the law to ensure that violent criminals are taken off of our streets."

The sentencing date is set for December 10, 2020 in department 3 before the Honorable Judge John Oglesby. Ms. Johnson faces up 40 years to life in prison as a result of the convictions.