



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

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

April 28, 2021

MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
ADA Joseph Kinzel
(661) 868-1131

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by JAK
Press Release #21-34

Statement From District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer Regarding Ex-Employee Social Media Posts

The Kern County District Attorney's Office has been made aware of social media posts which appear to be made by a former employee who previously was employed as a Deputy District Attorney in the Kern County DA's office. The social media posts at issue appear to have been posted from the former employee's personal social media account shortly after the employee's final day working for Kern County. The posts portray the former employee and three current employees at locations in the community that have suffered more than their fair share of gang violence and include added commentary to the photographs that are disrespectful and inexcusable.

When the photographs and commentary were brought to the District Attorney's attention, the District Attorney ordered a full investigation into the circumstances that led to the photographs and social media posting. While rules governing personnel matters require confidentiality in their handling, the District Attorney will ensure that appropriate action will be taken based upon the findings of the investigation.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer provided a statement regarding the issue:

"For decades, I have spent a career dedicated to improving and protecting areas of our county affected by gang violence. Let me be clear: It is unacceptable and inexcusable that a former employee would post something so offensive and disrespectful to the communities we work so hard to protect. The attitude, commentary, and behavior of the former employee does not reflect the values of the hundreds of employees at the District Attorney's Office and does not reflect the behavior and values that I demand from all employees. I have directed a full investigation into the conduct of the former employee and others involved and will take every action necessary to ensure that such a betrayal to our community and to the values of this office are not allowed to recur."

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer has posted a personal video message to the District Attorney's Facebook page addressing the issue that media members are invited to reference and broadcast at their discretion.