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<u>Jury Finds Marcos Viveros Guilty As Charged In Domestic Violence Attempted Murder Case:</u> <u>BF 181346A</u>

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a jury verdict in a domestic violence case today. On August 12, 2021, in a case prosecuted by Deputy DDA Brandon Stallings, a Kern County jury found defendant Marcos Viveros guilty of all ten charged felony crimes relating to attempted murder, robbery, and domestic violence stemming from incidents on two separate dates.

On April 3, 2019, the Marcos Viveros confronted the female victim about text messages he believed proved her infidelity. Viveros threatened to kill the victim, pointed a semi-automatic firearm at her head and pulled the trigger. Fortunately, the victim deflected the firearm, thus causing it to discharge next to her ear, the fired bullet missing her head completely. Viveros was ultimately arrested and the handgun was seized by law enforcement. When the attempted murder case was first prosecuted, the victim was not cooperative with the prosecution of the case and avoided service of subpoenas and attendance at court hearings. As a result, at one point the case had to be dismissed in December 2019 because of the lack of cooperation form the victim and the inability to move forward on the case due to the lack of the important witness.

Following the dismissal, Viveros and the victim moved to Ventura, California. On March 23, 2020, a bystander witnessed the Viveros attacking the victim and dragging her across the road. When Ventura Police Department investigated the incident, the victim was again uncooperative. While the police were

looking for the Viveros, he returned to the victim's apartment, punched and kicked her, and then robbed her before fleeing.

The attempted murder case and the Ventura robbery case were refiled jointly as one case in Kern County. The victim was again uncooperative and again did not appear for court, but based on the seriousness and continuing violence, the victim was compelled to testify despite the lack of cooperation. At trial, the victim ultimately testified to the abuse that she suffered from Viveros and how it affected her. Kern County Sheriff's Office Senior Deputy Carly Snow testified to the Cycle of Violence in domestic situations and how many victims of domestic violence don't realize the destructive cycle of domestic violence, how it affects the willingness to participate in prosecutions, and how victims of domestic violence can fall into a cycle of violence that can result in continued abuse if the cycle is not broken by intervention by law enforcement, prosecution, social assistance, counseling, or other means.

For the first incident, the defendant was convicted of Attempted Murder with Premeditation and Deliberation with the personal use of a firearm, Assault with a Firearm, Negligent Discharge of a firearm, Criminal Threats, Spousal Abuse and being Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition. For the second incident the defendant was convicted of First-Degree Robbery, Stalking and Spousal Abuse.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating "Victims of domestic violence can become ensnared in a cycle of violence and can feel as if there is no hope of breaking out of it. A combination of social services, counseling, and interventions as well as aggressive prosecution of violent domestic abusers can finally provide justice, protect public safety, and break a cycle of violence before it is too late. We have too many recent reminders of how the cycle of domestic violence, if not broken, can lead to tragedy. This conviction should result in a life sentence for a violent domestic abuser and ensure that no one else is forced into a new cycle of violence at his hands."

Viveros faces a sentence of up to 33 years to life at his sentencing, which is scheduled before the Honorable Judge McNamara on September 29, 2021 in Department 7 of the Kern County Superior Court.