



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 28, 2018

JAMES DEAN CONVICTED OF MURDER FOR JULY 2017 KILLING

James Ryan Dean (26, of Fresno) has been convicted of murder for the July 2017 shooting death of Augustine Velasco, Jr. in Central Fresno, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office has announced.

Today, Mr. Dean was convicted by a Fresno County jury of Second Degree Murder, along with an allegation that he personally and intentionally discharged a firearm that caused the death. Mr. Dean was also found to have a prior "Strike" conviction for Residential Burglary in 2013.

The July 8, 2017 murder was committed during an argument over a child custody exchange. Mr. Dean was arrested on July 10th and was booked into the Fresno Jail. Since being held in custody, Mr. Dean has been charged in two (2) additional Criminal Complaints with Being in Possession of a Weapon while in a Custodial Facility. Those criminal charges remain pending.

As a result of today's conviction, Mr. Dean faces a sentence of up to sixty (60) years to life in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation when he is sentenced by the Honorable Judge Petrucelli on November 8, 2018, in Department 61 of the Fresno County Superior Court. However, upon reaching age sixty (60) and after serving twenty-five (25) years, Mr. Dean will be eligible for release under the Elderly Parole Program.

The Media may email FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov or contact Administrative Assistant Geri Benavides at (559) 600-4441 with questions.

[2017H18666]