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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: June 11, 2024
Re: Paul Cook
Career Criminal Convicted

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Paul Cook, age 34, of Richmond, CA was convicted on May 24, 2024, of robbery and assault with a deadly weapon. Sentencing enhancements for personally using a firearm and personally using a deadly weapon were also found true. Deputy District Attorney Kirk Brennan prosecuted the case for the People.

On 11/18/2023, Cook and his girlfriend, Tamiaka Ramsey, lured a delivery driver with a licensed cannabis dispensary to a Modesto address by placing an online order for marijuana. When the delivery driver arrived, Cook approached the driver with a pistol and demanded his property. When the victim driver hesitated to comply, Cook pulled out a knife and waived it along the victim's torso. Cook also repeatedly punched the victim in the head and threw him to the ground before lunging at the victim with the knife. The victim pointed out that his wallet had fallen to the ground causing Cook to cease his attack and pick up the victim's wallet. Cook and Ramsey then went into the victim's vehicle and stole the marijuana being delivered along with other items. The investigation by the Modesto Police Department eventually led to the apprehension of defendant and his girlfriend in the city of Hercules.

On Friday, May 24, 2024, a Stanislaus County jury found defendant guilty as charged of robbery with an enhancement for personally using a firearm and an enhancement for personally using a deadly weapon (the knife), and also found him guilty of assault with a deadly weapon. A bifurcated court trial on circumstances in aggravation was held on Friday, May 31, 2024. The Honorable Judge Bessey found the circumstances in aggravation proven beyond a reasonable doubt. Sentencing will take place at a future court date.

Co-defendant Tamiaka Ramsey previously pled no contest to the charges against her, waiving her right to a jury trial. She will be sentenced June 27, 2024.

Cook was prosecuted as a Career Criminal due to his charges and lengthy criminal history. District Attorney Laugero reinstated Career Criminal Prosecution to hold repeat felony offenders accountable under the California Career Criminal statute. Cook has been convicted of eight felony crimes as an adult.

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