



## COUNTY OF FRESNO

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### NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 42 CHARGED AS PART OF “OPERATION NO FLY ZONE” TARGETING GANG VIOLENCE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Forty-two individuals were charged today in 19 separate felony cases stemming from Operation No Fly Zone, a multi-month, multi-agency effort to target violent street gangs and human traffickers in Fresno.

In *People v. Marcello Della et al.*, 18 total individuals have been charged with 49 felony offenses in connection to a street gang conspiracy. The lead defendant, Marcello Della, is presently awaiting trial for the murders of Michael Jenkins and Cruz Garcia on January 1, 2021, and is being charged with two additional murders. The first, of Jaylin Johnson, occurred on December 29, 2020, while the second, of Javonte Askew, occurred on March 9, 2022, and is alleged to have been ordered by Della from inside the Fresno County Jail.

In addition to Della, Terron Johnson has been charged with both the murders of Jaylin Johnson and of Javonte Askew. Rafer Alston has been charged with the murder of Javonte Askew.

Eleven other individuals have been charged in the case involving the murders of Johnson and Askew with Conspiracy to Commit Murder, including Savon McMillan, Ronnie Latre, Rickey Newton, Lorenzo Leavy, John McDaniel, Journi Steele, Laura Soza, Leonard Smith, and Anthony Trice.

In addition to the murders of Johnson, Jenkins, Garcia and Askew, the murders of Robert Lockhart and John Ellis on June 5, 2020, have been alleged as acts in furtherance of this conspiracy. Additional attempted murders have also been alleged as well as two intercepted plans by members of the conspiracy to shoot at individuals within crowded bars.

Finally in *People v. Della et al.*, additional charges for Conspiracy to Obstruct Justice have been filed against Desiree Reyes, Brittany Garcia, and Deandre Steele, and charges for gang assault have been filed against Peter Carrillo.

In *People v. Deandre Steele et al.*, 13 total individuals have been charged with 58 felony counts against at least 12 separate victims, including the lead count of Conspiracy to Commit Human Trafficking. Charged defendants include Deandre Steele, Ronnie Latre, Savon McMillan, Lorenzo Leavy, Taylor Washington, Lawyer Davis, Shaquale Odom, John McDaniel, Devon Randolph, Donald Steele, Kawan Kendrick, and Kendrick Turner.

In addition to the *Della* and *Steele* cases, in *People v. Joseph Packard et al.* Joseph Packard and Laura Soza have been charged with Conspiracy to Commit Murder.

Also charged in connection with this investigation are Alexza Conerly, Kyra Cushingberry, Maurice Golden, Maudrece Graves, Kapri Johnson, Joseph Madden, Trajohn Nelum, Iridian Thorn, and Dewayne Thomas, and Anquinita Skinner in separate cases involving human trafficking, pimping/pandering, illegal gun possession, and/or accessory after the fact.

Arraignment on all nineteen cases is expected for Tuesday, April 19 in the Fresno Superior Court.

Media may email [FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov) or contact Assistant District Attorney Jerry Stanley at (559) 600-3141 with questions.

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