



OCTOBER

COUNTY OF FRESNO

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH**

**LISA A. SMITTCAMP
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 18, 2018

NEKO WILSON ENTERS GUILTY PLEAS TO ROBBERY RELATED TO THE 2009 KERMAN DOUBLE MURDERS OF GARY AND SANDRA DE BARTOLO AFTER A CHANGE TO CALIFORNIA'S FELONY MURDER RULE

Neko Anthony Wilson (36, of Modesto) has entered pleas of "guilty" to two (2) counts of robbery related to the 2009 Kerman double murders of Gary and Sandra De Bartolo, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office has announced.

Mr. Wilson had originally been charged with two (2) counts of First Degree Murder for the killings of the De Bartolos, which happened during the course of a robbery that Mr. Wilson had helped to plan. Today, based on a change to California's Felony Murder Rule, the District Attorney's Office was forced to dismiss the murder charges, allowing Mr. Wilson to plead guilty to two (2) counts of Robbery while admitting that a co-participant was armed.

On September 30, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 1437, which drastically changed California's Felony Murder Rule. As a result of the change, Prosecutors are no longer allowed to prosecute individuals involved in the commission of one of several enumerated violent felonies with murder if someone is killed during that crime, unless that person was the actual killer, acted with the intent to kill, or was a major participant in the crime and acted with a reckless indifference to human life.

As a result of today's guilty pleas, Mr. Wilson faces a sentence of up to nine (9) years in custody. However, he was released from custody today because he has been in custody at the Fresno County Jail since his arrest in 2009. Mr. Wilson will formally be sentenced on November 16, 2018, in Department 60 of the Fresno County Superior Court.

The Media may email FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov or contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions.

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