



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

7/18/17

VISALIA MAN SENTENCED TO 32 YEARS IN PRISON FOR ASSAULT

On July 14, 2017, in Department 6 of the Tulare County Superior Court, Visalia Division, Judge Gary Paden sentenced Bobby Lee Martin, age 55, of Visalia, to 32 years in prison for assault and dissuading a witness. On May 18, 2017, a Tulare County jury convicted Martin of assault with force likely to produce great bodily injury with the special allegation of personal infliction of great bodily injury and dissuading a witness from reporting a crime. The convictions are considered a strike under California's "Three Strikes Law."

Prior to trial, Martin pleaded no contest to additional charges of transportation for sale of methamphetamine, possession for sales of methamphetamine, felon in possession of a firearm, and felon in possession of ammunition.

Martin possesses two prior strikes, the first for assault with a deadly weapon in Los Angeles County in 1981 and the second for battery with serious bodily injury in Tulare County in 2004. Since 1981, Martin has been returned to state prison and / or county jail a total of 29 times for offenses such assault with a deadly weapon, transportation for sale of cocaine, auto theft, crimes in custody, domestic violence, driving under the influence, dissuading a witness, and violations of parole and probation.

Around 8:00 a.m. on May 31, 2014, an intoxicated Martin entered the home of the adult male victim to discuss the price of the motorcycle Martin was selling. Angered at the proposed financial agreement, Martin, with the motorcycle keys in his hand, grabbed the victim by the throat. Bleeding and close to passing out, the victim begged Martin to stop. Martin strangled the man until he lost consciousness. When the man awoke Martin told him not to contact police because he possessed two strikes, threatening the victim with retaliation. He then fled the scene on his motorcycle. The victim was treated for his injuries at Kaweah Delta.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Katrina Brownson and investigated by the Visalia Police Department.

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