



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

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CASE OF INTEREST

Defendant Convicted for Murder of Gardening Store Owner

DATE: June 9, 2016

CASE: Marlon Palmer

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Andrew Smith, Homicide Unit

Marlon Palmer was convicted by jury for the second-degree murder of Hoa “Rickey” Tuyen.

On February 25, 2014, Mr. Tuyen was found face down on bags of soil in the back of his business, Discount Indoor Gardening. He was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at the hospital. The autopsy report revealed Mr. Tuyen died from asphyxia due to neck compression. There were no witnesses or surveillance video. The District Attorney's Crime Lab developed a DNA profile from fingernail scrapings from Mr. Tuyen. Detectives were notified a cold hit on the DNA profile matched Marlon Palmer.

Palmer was interviewed and denied knowing or having any contact with the victim. He also denied visiting or being in the area of the store, even though cell tower information placed Palmer's phone in the area of Mr. Tuyen's business during the timeframe of the murder.

Palmer was on parole at the time for multiple counts of robbery and assault with a deadly weapon. The Honorable Matthew Gary found two prior strike allegations true, making Palmer a three striker.

Palmer faces a maximum potential sentence of 45 years to life in prison. Sentencing is set for July 15, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 13 before the Honorable Matthew Gary.