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NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 7, 2015

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**MAN RECEIVES SENTENCE OF 32 YEARS TO LIFE FOR THE MURDER
OF CATHEDRAL CITY POLICE OFFICER KILLED DURING 2011 PURSUIT**

BANNING – Today, Sept. 9, 2016, a Palm Springs man was received a life sentence for the murder of a Cathedral City police officer who died during a 2011 pursuit.

Durjan Germaine Gray, DOB: 6-29-76, was sentenced in case INF1101149 to 32 years to life in prison by Judge W. Charles Morgan at the Banning Justice Center.

The night of March 18, 2011, Cathedral City police Officer Jermaine Gibson tried to pull over a black Ford Mustang but the driver refused to stop, leading Officer Gibson on a high-speed pursuit that headed into Palm Springs. During the pursuit, Officer Gibson's marked patrol car crashed into a palm tree on South Palm Canyon Drive and the Mustang crashed about the same time about 200 yards north of where the officer crashed. Officer Gibson was pronounced dead at the scene. Two men inside the Mustang were ejected but survived.

Before the sentence was handed down, Riverside County Deputy District Attorney Anthony Orlando, who prosecuted the case, read a letter to the judge from Officer Gibson's mother, who was too ill to attend the sentencing hearing.

In her letter, Cheryl Gibson wrote, "When I see other officers in their uniforms, I cry because I see my son walking or talking, or sitting behind his patrol car. I'm distracted at times when I am watching the news about officers being hurt or killed. It reminds me of what happened to Jermaine. I can't even watch a fictional cop movie these days. It is too much for me to handle."

Cheryl Gibson also wrote to the judge about Jermaine's young son: "I have to watch and hear his 5-year-old son ask questions innocently about what has happened to his dad and if he would ever see him again. It saddens me to know that he will never meet him, and that his life was affected when he was only 5 weeks old."

Gray was convicted by a Riverside County jury on July 14, 2016, of second-degree murder with a special allegation of the victim being a peace officer being found true, as well as one count each of driving under the influence causing injury with a special allegation of great bodily injury causing a coma being found true, felony evading a peace officer causing death, and DUI vehicular manslaughter.

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