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For Immediate Release

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Man Convicted of Shooting SDPD Officer During Foot Chase Sentenced to Prison

Defendant was Driving Stolen Vehicle when Stopped by Police

San Diego County District Attorney [Summer Stephan](#) said today that a 32-year-old man, who shot a San Diego Police Department officer after being pulled over in a stolen truck, has been sentenced to prison.

J.C. Blake Sartor, who was convicted of attempted murder, assault on a peace officer, shooting at an inhabited structure and other felony counts was sentenced today to 38 years-to-life in state prison. A jury found guilty of the crimes on July 10.

“This case demonstrates why traffic stops can be among the most dangerous situations peace officers on patrol encounter,” DA Stephan said. “Fortunately, Officer James Romero survived the attempt on his life and I’m proud of our prosecution team’s dedicated work to deliver justice on his behalf and on behalf of the community.”

In June 2023, SDPD Officer Romero attempted to pull over Sartor who was driving a stolen vehicle. Sartor abandoned the truck and fled on foot through a narrow passage in an apartment complex. The officer pursued Sartor who fired two shots during the chase. One bullet struck Officer Romero, seriously wounding him in the arm and another bullet hit a building in the apartment complex. Officer Romero was treated for his injuries at the hospital and released.

The suspect initially eluded police who lifted fingerprints and DNA from the stolen truck, allowing them to identify Sartor as the driver. A manhunt ensued, and Sartor was located at a house in Kearny Mesa. When he was arrested, Sartor was in possession of the same gun used to injure Officer Romero.

“Every day when our officers put on their uniform to protect and serve, they risk not coming home to their families,” said San Diego Police Chief Scott Wahl. “This incident underscores the dangers inherent in routine police work. We are deeply grateful that Officer Romero is still with us and to the prosecution for delivering justice and closure to him and his family.”

According to the Fraternal Order of Police, about 325 peace officers are shot each year in the line of duty, with about 50 being killed by gunfire.

Deputy District Attorney Clay Biddle in the DA's Superior Court Division prosecuted this case.

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About the San Diego County District Attorney's Office

The San Diego County DA's Office prosecutes all felony crimes in the county and misdemeanor crimes committed outside the City of San Diego. The office files about 40,000 criminal cases a year and balances prosecution with numerous crime prevention programs. District Attorney Summer Stephan leads the office of more than 1,000 dedicated employees who pursue fair and equal justice, and support victims daily across San Diego County.

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