

330 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 531-4040
SanDiegoDA.com



DWAIN D. WOODLEY
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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Contact: [Steve Walker](#) (619) 843-7977
[Tanva Sierra](#) (619) 531-3315
En Español [Barbara Medina](#) (619) 531-3305

Prison for Man Dressed as Grandma to Rob and Murder Storeowner in 2018

Smart Streetlamps Crucial in Identifying Suspects

San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan announced today that 55-year-old Kevin Cartwright, who was convicted by a jury of first-degree murder with special circumstances, was sentenced to life in prison without parole plus 70 years to life for the 2018 murder of Ghedeer “Tony” Radda, 49, at Bottom Price Flooring in East Village.

A jury found Cartwright guilty of murder, two robberies, burglary and being a felon in possession of a gun and ammunition on June 1. His co-defendant, Lorena Espinoza, 38, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in November 2021 and was sentenced to 16 years to life in prison in January.

“I am grateful to the prosecution team for bring justice in this grisly murder of a business owner, who was doing his best in life,” DA Summer Stephan said. “Although nothing can bring the victim back, I hope his family feels a measure of justice with today’s sentence.”

In October 2018, the defendant enlisted his romantic interest, Espinoza, to rob the victim’s flooring business. Espinoza went into the building wearing a purple wig and lured the victim into the back of the store. Cartwright then stalked the victim from the front of the store, sneaking up on him, jumping him and shooting him. He wore a granny mask and gloves to carry out the attack and he stole Radda’s wallet and broke into the cash register.

The two left the store but did not leave behind fingerprints or DNA.

“There was no way to identify either of the defendants except for one detail,” DA Stephan said. “The city of San Diego had just completed installing 3,200 smart streetlamps and the footage captured the defendant taking off the granny mask in front of the street camera. Thanks to these cameras, we were able to identify, prosecute and convict these killers.”

The prosecution team was led by Deputy District Attorney Matthew Greco.

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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.