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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

June 22, 2022

Chico Bike Path Shooter Pleads to Attempted Murder

In Butte County Superior Court today, a now 19-year-old youth admitted his guilt for attempting to murder a Chico resident on the bike path near Rio Lindo Avenue in Chico when the youth was 17 years old.

Deshawn Kelley, 19, of Chico, pleaded guilty today to attempted first-degree murder. Kelly had committed the crime when he was 17 years old and his case began in juvenile court, where the district attorney's office asked the court to send him to adult court.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said that after over a year of hearings in the Butte County Juvenile Court, Kelley was found by the judge to be "unfit" to be tried as a juvenile and his case was transferred to the Butte County Superior Court as an adult.

Ramsey said the charges stem from a May 13, 2020 shooting on a bike path near Rio Lindo Avenue in Chico. At approximately 5:30 p.m. that day, Chico Police dispatchers received numerous 911 calls regarding gunshots in the area. A nearby officer arrived in under one minute and found a 23-year-old male severely wounded on the bike path with numerous gunshot wounds.

The male victim was transported to Enloe Hospital with life-threatening injuries involving no less than seven gunshot wounds. The victim survived the shooting despite the extensive injuries he suffered. After a month in the ICU and multiple surgeries, the victim was eventually discharged from the hospital and began a lengthy recovery process that continues to today.

Ramsey said an extensive investigation ensued and through surveillance videos, witness statements, and phone records, officers identified Kelley, who was 17 at the time, as the shooter.

Chico police detectives determined that Kelley went to the bike path with a semi-auto pistol to confront a high school classmate. However as Kelley was walking down the bike path, he heard a bicyclist coming from behind. Kelley then hid in bushes at the side of the path and waited until the 23-year-old male was approximately three to five feet away. Kelley then jumped out of the bushes and unloaded the entire magazine of his gun at the victim.

The victim told detectives that Kelley did not say anything to him before the unprovoked shooting. The investigation determined Kelley and the victim did not know each other and there

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was no motive for the shooting.

Detectives later learned that Kelley fled to Southern California after the shooting. On June 17, 2020, Chico Police located and arrested Deshawn Kelley, who had an AR-15 assault-type “ghost gun” in his possession.

As part of his plea today, Kelley agreed to waive all his previous in-custody credits. Kelley is due in court on July 20, 2022 for sentencing. Kelly faces a term of seven years to life in state prison. In the meantime, he remains in custody in Butte County Jail with no bail.

