



# BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Chico Bike Path Shooter To Be Tried As An Adult**

A now 18-year-old youth will be tried as an adult after a finding by the Butte County Juvenile Court that he is unfit to be tried as a juvenile. Deshawn Kelley, 18, of Chico, was charged as an adult today in Butte County Superior Court with attempted murder with great bodily injury and possession of an illegal assault weapon.

District Attorney Mike 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 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 Deshawn 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 that day to confront a high school classmate. However as Kelley was walking down the bike path, he heard a bicyclist coming from behind. Kelley 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 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 rifle in his possession.

Ramsey said his office filed charges in the juvenile court and petitioned that court to have Kelley tried as an adult due to the egregiousness of the crime. After an extensive review over several months of the evidence in the case as well as Kelley's criminal and social background and psychologists' reports, the juvenile court judge agreed last Wednesday that Kelley should be tried as an adult. The judge ordered Kelley to be transferred from the Butte County Juvenile Hall, where he had been detained since his arrest, to the Butte County Jail.

Kelley was arraigned in court this afternoon. Further arraignment and entry of plea are scheduled for September 15. Kelley will remain in custody with bail set at \$1,565,000.