



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
ADA Joseph Kinzel
(661) 868-1131

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**Superior Court Judge Gloria Cannon Enters Into Court-Diversion Agreement With Defendant
Julie Solis For Trespassing Charges
Kern County Superior Court Case BM 956276A**

(Bakersfield) – On January 11, 2021, Julie Solis entered the local office of Congressman Kevin McCarthy. At the time, the office was closed to the public as a result of the covid pandemic. The exterior doors of the office were locked, but Solis managed to gain entry when she caught the door before it closed after a deliveryman left out of the door. When she entered, Solis was told that the office was closed, and that she was not welcome, and could not remain in the office.

Rather than obeying the lawful request to leave the property, Solis remained, and live-streamed her presence inside the office. During the live stream, Solis remained in the lobby and refused multiple requests to leave. The Bakersfield Police Department was notified of the ongoing incident and officers arrived to address the continuing trespassing violation. Despite Solis' continuing presence in obvious and continuous violation of trespassing laws, officers and the staffers gave Solis opportunity to write a "comment" form that Solis claimed she was there to complete. Rather than completing a form, Solis chose to continue to broadcast to what she estimated was fifteen people that she had hoped were going to show up to the office with her. She encouraged others to join her, though few arrived, by providing the address for the office and declaring her intent to "sit here until I talk to Kevin McCarthy." The congressman was not present in the office, a fact which Solis had already been told.

Solis continued to refuse to leave, and it became apparent that she had no intention of filling out a "comment" as she had requested during her trespass, and she spent her time holding up her phone, and commenting to whoever was listening to her live stream. Only after spending 15 minutes and claiming that she wanted to "write a book," yelling and berating everyone present was Solis finally placed under arrest for trespassing. In total, Solis remained in the office for more than 45 minutes, was repeatedly told that she was trespassing and not welcome before she was finally arrested for trespassing.

Solis' behavior was an obvious political stunt, and despite efforts to resolve the situation without her arrest, it was clear that Solis had no intention of respecting the law. After her arrest, the Kern County District Attorney's Office charged Solis with two counts of misdemeanor trespassing, covering both the unlawful entry and refusal to leave the office.

In the court hearings that followed, the case went before 5 different Judges, in 14 different hearings. At no time was diversion offered by any of the 5 judges that the case went in front of on those 14 occasions. On July 6, 2022, the case went, for the first time, before Judge Gloria Cannon, the sixth Judge before whom the case was brought. The purpose of the assignment of the case to Judge Cannon was for the scheduled jury trial to begin. Rather than begin the jury trial, Judge Cannon chose to unilaterally offer Solis pretrial diversion for both trespassing charges over the explicit objections of prosecutors.

Judge Cannon offered diversion over the objections of prosecutors and did so without hearing a single witness or watching a single minute of the multiple videos involved in the case. By offering Solis diversion, Judge Cannon allows Solis the opportunity to ultimately have the case dismissed without any trial being held or conviction obtained if Solis completes the terms required by the Judge. Though Judge Cannon had a wide discretion to order any terms of the diversion deemed necessary, the only terms she imposed was for Solis to stay away from the scene of the crime and not commit any new law violations for the next six months.

The ability for Judges to unilaterally enter defendants in pretrial diversion programs derives from a 2021 law that allows judges to grant diversion, thus allowing defendants to avoid trial and conviction, on nearly every misdemeanor charge. The California law is now codified in Penal Code Section 1001.95 and places no standards on what terms of "diversion" are appropriate for what charges, or who should be eligible for it. The law was unique in that it was among the first forms of broad diversion that allows judges to place defendants into diversion over the objections of the District Attorney.

Diversion must be accepted by the defendant to become valid. Solis accepted the Judge's terms, and thus chose to avoid a criminal trial where evidence would have been presented regarding her alleged crimes, including the video she took of herself committing them. Far from any "vindication," or evidence of any innocence, Solis' decision to accept the Judge's "diversion" is a product of Solis taking advantage of a judge in a state that has policies specifically allowing for this absurd result to occur.

Judge Cannon's diversion deal with Solis comes after other major cases have been similarly treated by Judge Cannon. Within the past two months, Judge Cannon has allowed defendants to avoid trial and conviction by granting diversion on two separate vehicular manslaughter cases, each of which involved crimes causing the death of the victim in cases BM959763A and BM945227A.

Solis faced up to six months in jail if convicted on the trespassing charges.

Assistant District Attorney Joseph Kinzel commented on the case; "When someone goes to the trouble of broadcasting themselves blatantly violating trespassing laws for a political stunt, they should face consequences. Judge Cannon handed out a "get out of jail free" card to Solis and did so over the D.A.'s objection and without hearing any testimony or viewing the evidence in the case. Judge Cannon did what five Judges before her refused to, and chose to do it on the day that the trial was finally supposed to begin. This comes in the wake of Judge Cannon granting diversion in multiple vehicular manslaughter cases just weeks earlier. To say that the ruling a disappointment is a gross understatement."