



**GREGORY D. TOTTE**  
**District Attorney**

**NEWS RELEASE**

[www.vcdistrictattorney.com](http://www.vcdistrictattorney.com)

Twitter: [@VenturaDAO](https://twitter.com/VenturaDAO)

Contact: John Poore  
Title: Deputy District Attorney  
Telephone: 805-654-2012  
E-mail: [john.poore@ventura.org](mailto:john.poore@ventura.org)

Approved: CMT   
Date: Friday, September 11, 2020  
Release No.: 20-086

**Ventura County Resident Found Guilty of Hate Crime**

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that on August 31, 2020, a jury found Vidal Fregoso (DOB 11/04/69), of Camarillo, guilty of committing a hate crime against Luther Swayne, a 72-year-old African American. The jury also found Fregoso guilty of additional charges of committing an attempted vandalism and attempted theft. Fregoso faces up to one-year confinement in the Ventura County jail.

On September 25, 2019, Fregoso approached 72-year-old Luther Swayne while on an overnight offshore fishing charter originating in Ventura County. Fregoso used racial slurs and threatened to physically harm Swayne. A witness observed Fregoso attempt to throw Swayne’s fishing pole overboard. The boat’s crew intervened and separated the parties until the fishing boat came back into the dock. Several days after the incident, the Ventura County Sheriff’s Office conducted an investigation into the incident and ultimately arrested Fregoso.

Fregoso will be sentenced on October 5, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. in courtroom 44 of the Ventura County Superior Court.

###

The Ventura County District Attorney’s Office is the public prosecutor for the county’s 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

Follow the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office on Twitter [@VenturaDAO](https://twitter.com/VenturaDAO)