

Brothers plead not guilty to attempted murder

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Robert DeLeon, second from left, and brother James DeLeon, right, are arraigned on attempted murder charges Tuesday at Monterey Superior Court in Salinas. / Travis Geske/The Salinas Californian

Salinas, are accused of assaulting the 55-year-old man Oct. 11 because he often loitered around the business.

Robert DeLeon was charged with attempted murder with enhancements of use of a deadly weapon and causing great bodily injury. DeLeon, accused of using a bat in the incident, faces an additional charge of assault with a deadly weapon. Meanwhile, his younger brother is charged with attempted murder and assault by means likely to cause great bodily injury.

Robert DeLeon remains in Monterey County Jail, held on \$880,000 bail. His brother is also held on \$530,000 bail at county jail.

On Tuesday, Monterey County Superior Court Judge Timothy Roberts also told the two defendants that they are prohibited from any contact with the victim in the case, identified as Raymond Anderson.

The DeLeon brothers are expected to return to court Dec. 19.

Juliet Peck, a Salinas attorney who represents James DeLeon, said there will be a great deal of review and preparation in the case, which contains serious allegations. Peck also remarked on her client's impact in the community, which she said includes demonstrated dedication to revitalizing of Oldtown Salinas.

"Certainly James has a very good reputation," she said. "He's referred to as a gentle giant. Others have referred to him as a teddy bear."

What's next

Robert DeLeon, 43, and James DeLeon, 32, are expected to return to court Dec. 19.

Two brothers pleaded not guilty Tuesday to charges that they beat a homeless man nearly to death last month in Salinas.

Robert DeLeon, 43, and James DeLeon, 32, owners of the XL Grindhouse restaurant in Oldtown

For most of his court appearance Tuesday, Robert DeLeon kept his face averted from the camera lenses of the various media representatives in the audience.

According to Salinas police, officers were alerted Oct. 13 of the attack when a concerned citizen called 911. Police have said the citizen had contact with Anderson, who had been beaten two days prior. The citizen believed Anderson “was not acting right,” police said.

The responding officer found Anderson was seriously injured and called for medical personnel for evaluation. Police said Anderson, who had visible injuries to his face and head, told the officer and medical personnel he was assaulted near XL Grindhouse. He was taken to a local hospital, police said, but his condition quickly deteriorated and he fell into a coma. Ultimately, Anderson was flown by air ambulance to a Bay Area hospital. He remained in a coma for several days and is still recovering from his injuries, police said.

During the course of their investigation, detectives said, they identified the DeLeon brothers as the alleged attackers. The brothers were arrested Nov. 21 on suspicion of attempted murder on the same block where their business is in Salinas.