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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Parole Denied for Convicted Murderer Who Fled Justice for Over Five Years**  
*CDCR #V40706; Kern County Court Case #BF105290A*

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted murderer Jesus Gutierrez. On October 3, 2024, BPH found that Gutierrez continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On May 24, 1998, Gutierrez shot Derrick Luque in the face, killing him, while Mr. Luque was walking with his girlfriend and pushing their child in a stroller in Bakersfield. After the murder, Gutierrez fled to Mexico to avoid arrest. After time passed, Gutierrez moved from Mexico to Minnesota. On October 20, 2003, Gutierrez was taken into custody by law enforcement. Gutierrez avoided arrest and prosecution for over 5 years.

On May 17, 2004, Gutierrez pled guilty to murder in the second degree. On June 14, 2004, a Kern County Judge sentenced Gutierrez to 15 years to life in state prison.

On October 3, 2024, the Board of Parole conducted Gutierrez's third parole hearing. Gutierrez is currently 42 years old. He has served approximately 21 years in state prison. At the parole hearing, the commissioners focused on Gutierrez's institutional behavior, including schemes to circumvent paying victim restitution, violence while committed in prison, gang activity, rehabilitative programming, substance abuse and drug activities in the community and in prison. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Gutierrez was not suitable for parole and posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society. The BPH has the option of denying an inmate parole for a period of 15, 10, 7, 5 or 3 years. Gutierrez's commissioners issued a three-year denial. As such, Gutierrez's next parole hearing could be in 18 months.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “Gutierrez avoided justice for far too long, reinforcing our determination to fight even harder for the victim. Although this third parole denial is a major step, we will continue pursuing justice moving forward.”

Jesus Gutierrez:

