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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Board of Parole Hearings Finds Convicted Murderer Harold Gann Suitable for Parole
CRC #J92222; Court Case #SC063936A**

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) decided to release convicted murderer Harold Gann after a nearly four-hour parole hearing. On July 5, 2023, the BPH found that Gann was suitable for parole and did not pose an unreasonable risk of danger to society. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On December 4, 1995, Gann was convicted of Murder in the Second-Degree and Attempted Murder. The jury found true that Gann used a firearm arm during the commission of both crimes. A Kern County Judge sentenced Gann to 33 years-to-life. Gann had served 28 years in prison for the offenses.

On July 22, 1993, Harold Gann went to the 500 block of Union Avenue in Bakersfield and solicited two different prostitutes over the course of the early morning hours to help him buy cocaine. Gann was able to obtain rock cocaine and smoked it with both his victims. However, after he smoked all the cocaine he bought that day, he wanted more. The victims told Gann they knew where he could get more cocaine, but they needed to see his money first. When Gann did not have enough money to complete his additional purchase, he drove to an ATM located at 3rd Street and Chester Avenue. Both women told Gann they did not want to go and wanted to be dropped off where they had been picked up. Gann parked his truck under the pretext of using the ATM. Gann argued with the two women insisting that they had cocaine with them. Both women told Gann they did not, and Gann did not believe them. Instead of getting money, Gann shot the first female in the head at point blank range, killing her. Gann then pointed the gun at the next victim. The second female struggled to get away and was shot in the hand. After she was shot in the hand, she was able to get out of the truck. As she ran for her life, Gann shot her twice in the back. One of the bullets lodged in her lung. Ultimately, she crawled under a large truck and hid while Gann drove around the area looking for her. Gann's second victim sustained great bodily injury from her gunshot wounds. While she survived, she lost a finger because of being shot in the hand.

The Bakersfield Police Department investigated the case and received information from a concerned citizen about Gann's identity. Gann was arrested for his crimes in 1995. At the time of his arrest for these crimes, Gann was on probation for possession of cocaine and a 9mm handgun.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the release; "Recent changes in parole laws benefit convicted murderers by making release on parole increasingly likely. Gann's crimes were horrific and the finding that he is suitable for parole before even serving the minimum term of his life sentence does not pay proper regard to public safety."