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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) Granted Parole for Convicted Murderer Jose Hernandez
CDC #G59636; Court Case number BF121008A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) granted release to convicted murder Jose Hernandez. On August 18, 2023, BPH found that Hernandez no longer posed a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. This hearing was Hernandez's second parole hearing with BPH. As part of his grant of parole, Hernandez is not to be paroled to Kern County and is prohibited from being in Kern County while he is on parole. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On February 23, 2009, a Kern County Jury found Hernandez guilty of murder in the second degree, gross vehicular manslaughter, driving under the influence with prior convictions, driving on a suspended license, felony child abuse, speed contest with injury along with other crimes and special allegations. A Kern County Judge sentenced Hernandez to 15 years-to-life, plus 8 years in prison.

On October 14, 2007, the victims, a husband and wife (Barbara Blair), were driving on Stockdale Highway. When they reached the intersection of Fairway Drive, Hernandez ran the red light and struck their vehicle going at least 72 miles per hour. Hernandez was racing another vehicle at the time of the crash. Crime scene investigators were able to determine that Hernandez was going approximately 89 miles per hour 5 seconds before the crash. Hernandez had a blood alcohol level of .195, more than double the legal limit. His license was suspended, and he had 7 prior driving under the influence convictions. Hernandez's 2-year-old daughter was also inside his vehicle when he crashed. His 2-year-old daughter was not secured in a car seat and received facial injuries requiring extensive stitches.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the release saying, "I remember this case well and am aware that the murder of Ms. Blair was devastating for her family and for the community. I am very disappointed that the Board of Parole Hearings chose to parole this killer who inflicted such pain and

suffering for so many. I wish that members of the Parole Board stood for election and were directly accountable to voters.”

Jose Hernandez:



Victim, Barbara Blair:

