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Board of Parole Hearings Denied Parole for Convicted Rapist Louis Light
CDC #J52194; Court Case number SC060688A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted rapist Louis Light, age 52. On September 29, 2023, BPH found that Light continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On November 8, 1994, the victim, a local real estate agent, received a phone call to show a vacant house for sale in a neighborhood near Old River Road and White Lane in Bakersfield. An hour later, law enforcement received a 911 call from the victim needing help because she had been raped.

Within an hour of the call, the victim arrived at the vacant house early and thought she was alone. What she did not know was that Light and another male were waiting for her. As she started opening the blinds inside the house, a male ordered her to the floor from behind holding a large dowl. When she tried to run away, Light appeared and blocked her exit. Light grabbed her and pulled her into the kitchen. Both men forced the victim to the ground. Light ordered the victim to keep her face down, her eyes closed, or they would hurt her. The two men took her jewelry and other personal items and Light proceeded to sexually assaulted and rape the victim.

At trial, a Kern County Jury heard evidence that the victim's sexual assault exam showed evidence of nonconsensual sexual intercourse. The physical evidence collected from the victim during this exam showed the presence of Light's semen and saliva.

On January 27, 1995, a Kern County Jury found Light guilty of two counts of forcible rape, with personal use of a deadly weapon, and personally inflicting great bodily injury, one count of forcible acts of sexual penetration with personal use of a deadly weapon, one count of sexual battery with personal use of a deadly weapon, residential burglary, and robbery. Light was sentenced to 52 years in state prison.

Light is being considered for early release pursuant to Elder Parole considerations. In California incarcerated persons are eligible for the Elderly Parole Program after reaching age 50 and being

continuously incarcerated for 20 years, in most cases. Light's first hearing with the Board of Parole was in 2020. While Light has served almost 29 years of his sentence, he still has 12 years remaining before his minimum eligible parole date.

The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the Board of Parole to deny parole. After an approximately 4 ½ hour hearing, the Board of Parole found that Light was not suitable for parole and posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society. The Board of Parole has the option of denying parole for 15, 10, 7, 5 or 3 years. Light's commissioners issued a three-year denial. As such, Light's next parole hearing date could be as soon as 18 months.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the release saying, "Elder parole laws are allowing violent criminals the possibility of being released back into our communities. Those who have committed heinous crimes must serve their full sentence for the protection of our public."