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Parole Denied for Repeat Violent Offender
Richard Brown CDCR #D73514; Court Case number DF008888A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted three-striker, Richard Brown, age 60. On November 16, 2023, BPH found that Brown continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Jamila Ha. Brown had convictions from multiple different counties, but the Kern County District Attorney's Office was the only office present at the hearing.

On October 31, 1994, Brown, while incarcerated, attacked another inmate, using a dumbbell weight, striking the victim over the back of the head repeatedly, causing significant injury. Brown was convicted of attempted murder.

On October 17, 1995, Brown, while incarcerated, repeatedly stabbed another inmate with an inmate manufactured weapon, resulting in several stab wounds to the lower left region of the victim's back. Brown was convicted of assault with force likely to cause great bodily injury.

On November 3, 1995, Brown used an inmate manufactured weapon to stab his cellmate multiple times while he was asleep. Officers seized the inmate manufactured weapon that Brown possessed, which measured to be seven inches long. The victim suffered severe injuries and required immediate medical attention. This offense resulted in Brown's life sentence. Brown is currently serving a 69 year to life sentence.

On November 29, 2007, Brown was found with a weapon while in prison at Kern Valley State Prison in Delano.

On November 9, 2017, a correctional officer was attempting to assist Brown, who had been injured, when Brown spit blood in the face of the assisting officer. Brown stated, "I have AIDS and hepatitis, now you do". When asked about the incident Brown said, "I definitely spit blood in the officers face. In my opinion, he had it coming, I hope it robbed him of his peace of mind for a while."

Brown 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. Brown is serving two 25-life sentences plus an additional 19 years. He has served almost 36 years in prison and is 60 years old, thus making him eligible for potential elderly parole.

The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Brown was not suitable for parole and posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society. The BPH has the option of denying parole for 15, 10, 7, 5 or 3 years. Brown's commissioners issued a 10-year denial.

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 sooner than ever before. Ensuring that Kern's interests are represented at parole hearings for life-sentenced inmates remains an important method of protecting public safety."