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Parole Denied for Attempted Murderer Giovanni Herrera
CDCR #E08315; Court Case #SC072283A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted attempted murderer, Giovanni Herrera. On December 1, 2023, BPH found that Herrera continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. This was Herrera's first parole hearing. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gordon Isen.

In 1998, Herra was convicted of Attempted 2nd Degree Murder, 1st Degree Robbery, Assault with a Firearm, Cruelty to Animals, Evading a Peace Officer while driving Recklessly, Escape from Custody with Force, along with firearm enhancements, and two prior strikes.

On October 22, 1997, Herrera and two friends drove to the victim's home who were husband and wife. They approached the husband, drew a pistol, ordered him to the ground, and struck him in the head with a shotgun. The wife then ran to alert neighbors and seek help. Herra threatened the husband with his life if he did not secure the return of his wife. The assailants then entered the victims' home, shot the victims' dog, and robbed the husband of his money and keys. The husband was able to run away but was shot as he attempted to escape. Herrera and his crime partners then left, stealing two vehicles belonging to the family. In their attempt to evade law enforcement after the attack, the assailants engaged in a high-speed chase, which ended when Herrera crashed one of the couple's cars. Two weeks later, Herrera made an unsuccessful attempt to escape from custody.

Herrera 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. Herrera is currently serving a 184-year sentence. He has served 28 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 has the option of denying parole for 15, 10, 7, 5 or 3 years. Brown's commissioners issued a 5-year denial.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented, “Giving someone the opportunity to serve only a small portion of their sentence after three strikes is outrageous. While it's good news that Herrera was denied release for 5 years, it's unfortunate that this won't be the last time his case will be reviewed.”

Giovani Herrera

