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Parole Denied for Attempted Murderer Manuel Vela
CDC #BA9701; Court Case #BF162332A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to Attempt Murderer Manuel Vela. On December 13, 2023, BPH found that Vela continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Peter Zerbib.

On November 22, 2015, Vela stabbed two victims after an argument. The male victim sustained deep lacerations to his neck, abdomen and suffered from a punctured lung. The female victim suffered lacerations to her head, left palm, left arm, right bicep, and right wrist.

On July 18, 2016, a Kern County Jury found Vela guilty of Attempted Murder causing Great Bodily Injury, two counts of Assault with a Deadly Weapon and other related charges. On September 12, 2016, a Kern County Judge sentenced Vela to Life with possible parole after 7 years.

At the hearing, the board noted Vela only had short crime free intervals and was on Post-Release Community Supervision at the time of the life offense. Vela had not remained discipline-free in prison and maintained negative peer interactions. Vela also failed to address a history of problems with domestic violence and continued association with Criminal Street Gangs while in prison.

The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. BPH has the option of denying an inmate parole for a period of 15, 10, 7, 5 or 3 years. Vela's commissioners issued a three-year denial.

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "A person who has such a troubling track record should not be allowed to roam free among our community. I am relieved that the Board of Parole Hearings denied release and prioritized the safety of our public."

Manuel Vela:

