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Parole Denied to Drive-By Shooter and Attempted Murderer Francisco Espinoza
CDC #V19254; Court Case #BF102502A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted drive-by shooter Francisco Espinoza. On December 28, 2023, BPH found that Espinoza continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On May 10, 2003, a man had gotten into a fight with Espinoza. The next evening, Espinoza and other individuals drove by the man's residence and fired upon the victim's house in retaliation for the fight the day before. At the time of the drive-by shooting, a one-year-old child was outside the home on the porch when the shots were fired. His mother was able to get him safely inside the home before becoming injured as a result of the shooting.

On September 8, 2003, a Kern County Jury found Espinoza guilty of one count of attempted premeditated murder and personal use of a firearm, one count of attempted murder, discharge of a firearm in a grossly negligent manner, discharging a firearm into an inhabited dwelling and four counts of assault with a firearm. A Kern County Judge sentenced him to 11 years plus life with the possibility of parole plus 20 years.

On December 28, 2023, the Board of Parole focused on Espinoza's gang activity in the community at the time of his crime and his institutional behavior. This hearing was Inmate Espinoza's initial parole hearing. Espinoza, age 54, is being considered for early release pursuant to Elder Parole Laws. In California, incarcerated persons are eligible for the Elderly Parole Program after reaching age 50 and being continuously incarcerated for 20 years. Espinoza has served approximately 22 years in prison.

The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the Board of Parole to deny parole. The Board of Parole found that Espinoza was not suitable for parole and posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society. The Board of Parole has the option of denying an inmate parole for a period of 15, 10, 7, 5 or 3 years. Espinoza's commissioners issued a three-year denial. As such, Espinoza's next parole hearing date

could potentially be in 18 months.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “Espinoza must face the full consequences for his actions. Despite obstacles, this office remains committed to upholding justice and protecting our community.”

Francisco Espinoza:

