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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Parole Granted for Convicted Murder Huitzilopochtli Cruz Gonzales *CDC #K98898; Court Case #SC069719A*

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) granted release to convicted murderer Huitzilopochtli Cruz Gonzales. On February 8, 2024, BPH found that Gonzales no longer posed a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

At the time of the crime, Gonzales was a gang member. On the night of November 25, 1995, the victim Blas Anthony Trevino went to Aldo's Night Club in Bakersfield. While at the club, a fight broke out between rival gangs. Shots were fired and everyone ran back to the Capri Hotel. In retaliation for the gang fight, Gonzales returned to Aldo's Night Club, encountered Trevino, and stabbed him. Trevino died as a result of three stab wounds to his chest.

On April 7, 1998, a Kern County Jury found Gonzales guilty of murder in the second degree. The Jury also found true that Gonzales murdered the victim for the benefit of the street gang and that he personally used of a deadly or dangerous weapon. On May 28, 1999, a Kern County Judge sentenced Gonzales to 15 years-to-life, plus an additional 3 years.

On February 8, 2024, the BPH focused on Gonzales' significant gang activity both in the community and in prison. Further, the BPH examined his sobriety, parole plans and support in the community. While Gonzales will not be paroled to Kern County, his parole plans included residing in an area where gang activity is present. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. Despite hearing Gonzales' parole plans, the BPH found that Gonzales was suitable for parole and no longer posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Gonzales' parole plan to return to an environment that poses a serious threat to public safety is alarming. I'm disappointed with the Board of Parole's decision."