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Parole Denied to Convicted Murder Jeffrey Thomas Hardin Jr.
CDC#AS4034; Court Case # BF133303A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted murder Jeffrey Hardin Jr. On March 12, 2024, BPH found that Hardin continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On August 4, 2010, Hardin Jr. stabbed Michael Kabonic while he was asleep. A few days before the murder, Hardin moved into a family member's home while he awaited treatment for his substance abuse problems. The victim was also living in the home.

On August 4, 2010, the victim came home from work and went to bed early. Hardin had been acting bizarrely throughout the day. After behaving bizarrely at the dinner table, Hardin was told to eat his dinner in his room. Hardin took his dinner to the bedroom he was sharing with the victim. A short time later, the witnesses in the house heard the victim scream "you are stabbing me." They ran to the bedroom and found Hardin sitting on Michael Kabonic's stomach. The victim was lying in a pool of blood and there were blood stains on the walls. Hardin then pulled a large cutting knife out of the victim's neck and went toward where one of the witnesses was standing. That witness fled. Ultimately, Hardin was found during the early morning hours of August 5, 2010, after he crashed the vehicle he was driving into a guardrail. Hardin admitted killing the victim.

In November of 2013, a Kern County Jury found Hardin guilty of one count of murder. A Kern County Judge sentenced him to 15-years-to-life.

On March 12, 2024, the Board of Parole focused on Hardin's ability to manage his mental health and substance abuse issues both inside prison and in the community. This hearing was Hardin's initial parole hearing.

The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the Board of Parole to deny parole. The Board of Parole has the option of denying an inmate parole for a period of 15, 10, 7, 5 or 3 years. Hardin's

commissioners issued a three-year denial. As such, Hardin's next parole hearing date could potentially be in 18 months.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented, "There is no justification for this heinous murder. Parole decisions like this one are crucial for ensuring the safety of our community."

Jeffrey Hardin Jr:

