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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Parole Denied for Convicted Kidnapper Ariel Pacheco
CDC #BP3857; Kern County Court Case #SF020130A

(Bakersfield) - District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted kidnapper Ariel Roberto Chic Pacheco, age 29. On July 18, 2024, BPH found that Pacheco continued to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On October 13, 2020, at approximately 5:20am, a mother exited her vehicle to drop her son off at a Lost Hills residence for babysitting. When returning to her four-door truck to head to work, she was completely unaware that Pacheco was waiting for her in the rear passenger compartment of the truck. When the victim drove away, a gloved hand covered her nose and mouth. The victim struggled to get free and briefly lost control of the truck. Pacheco told her to "drive well". As she drove, Pacheco kept one hand over her mouth and he used his other hand to hold what was later determined to be an imitation firearm to her head. Pacheco instructed the victim where to drive and asked her if there was someone who would pay money for her return. Ultimately, the victim was able to convince Pacheco that the only money she had was in her purse. Pacheco took 150 dollars from the victim.

On May 28, 2021, a Kern County Jury convicted Pacheco of kidnapping for robbery, kidnapping, 2nd degree robbery, criminal threats, false imprisonment, and attempting to dissuade a victim from reporting a crime. On July 21, 2021, a Kern County Judge sentenced Pacheco to life with possibility of parole after seven years.

On July 18, 2024, the BPH conducted Pacheco's initial parole hearing. At the parole hearing, the commissioners focused on Pacheco's criminal history in Guatemala and the United States. Pacheco's commissioners questioned the inmate about his insight into the life crime, impact on his victims, substance abuse history, rehabilitative programming, institutional behavior, and plans for release that would mitigate risk of re-offense. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The Board of Parole found that Pacheco 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. Pacheco's commissioners issued a three-year denial. As such, Pacheco's next parole hearing date could potentially be in 18 months.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Pacheco went to extreme measures to carry out a robbery, putting the life of an innocent mother at risk. His time served in prison has not been sufficient, and his release would pose a significant threat to our community."