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July 26, 2024
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by: CJZ
Press Release #24-100

Parole Denied for Convicted Murderer Glenn Johnson
CDC #T90967; Kern County Court Case #BF100124A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted murderer Glenn Johnson, age 49. On July 18, 2024, BPH found that Johnson continued to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

During the early morning hours of September 20, 2002, victim Lamar Rufus and his cousin stopped at Fastrip on the corner of South Chester and Ming Avenue in Bakersfield. After seeing people leaving the area in a hurry, they headed back to their cars and observed that Johnson was intoxicated. After the victim and his cousin passed by Johnson and another male, they heard a metallic object hit the ground. The victim said that the male that was with Johnson, "dropped a .38."

When the victim and his family member got to their respective cars, they were told that "east-side" people were "tripping". The victim and his cousin attempted to leave. As the victim's cousin drove away, he noticed someone open the victim's driver's side door. When the cousin returned to the area, he observed Johnson walk toward the victim's vehicle with his male companion who fired 2-3 shots at the victim's head. Johnson then drove his vehicle towards his companion who just shot the victim, and once the companion was in the car, drove away from the scene.

The Kern County District Attorney's Office prosecuted both Johnson and the individual who fired the gun that killed the victim. On March 19, 2003, a Kern County Jury found Johnson not guilty of murder in the first degree, but guilty of murder in the second degree, conspiracy to commit murder, and accessory to murder. On June 23, 2004, the Fifth District Court of Appeals found that sufficient evidence existed to convict Johnson but ordered that a new trial be held on the basis that the court erred related to reasonable doubt jury instructions.

The Kern County District Attorney's Office proceeded to trial for the second time. On April 1, 2005, a second Kern County Jury found Johnson guilty of murder in the second degree, conspiracy to commit

murder, and accessory to murder. Again, on Appeal in August of 2006, the Fifth District Court of Appeals did not overturn Johnson's conviction related to eyewitness testimony related to Johnson's involvement in the murder. The court of appeal refused to reweigh the facts the jury decided were true at the second trial. However, the appellate court remanded the case for retrial based on a 45-page police report that was prepared after Johnson's first trial and while Johnson's case was pending appeal.

The Kern County District Attorney's Office proceeded to trial for the third time. On March 27, 2008, a Kern County Jury found Johnson guilty of murder in the second degree, conspiracy to commit murder, and accessory to murder. The jury also found true that Johnson was a principal armed with a firearm. Finally, the jury found true that Johnson served a prior prison term for possession of cocaine base for sale. On October 4, 2011, after the third appellate review, a Kern County Judge sentenced Johnson to 25 years to life, plus an additional year.

On July 18, 2024, the BPH conducted Johnson's initial parole hearing. At the parole hearing, Johnson denied committing the crimes he was found guilty of and was upheld on appeal. Johnson's commissioners focused on his institutional behavior, the sincerity of his rehabilitative programming, and his gang activity and/or involvement both in the community and in prison. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Johnson was not suitable for parole and posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society. The BPH has the option of denying an inmate parole for a period of 15, 10, 7, 5 or 3 years. Johnson's commissioners issued a three-year denial. As such, Johnson's next parole hearing date could potentially be in 18 months.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "This office has dedicated significant effort in numerous jury trials to secure Johnson's conviction. We are committed to pursuing justice in this case and will continue to fight to keep him incarcerated."