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July 30, 2024
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by: CJZ
Press Release #24-103

Parole Rescinded for Convicted Robber and Violent Inmate Carlos Smith
CDC #D21685; Kern County Court Case #DF013139A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) rescinded the grant of parole to Carlos Smith, 64 years old. On July 10, 2024, BPH found that Smith 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 20, 1998, Smith was convicted of multiple counts of robbery with use of a firearm. On October 23, 1998, a Los Angeles County Judge sentenced Smith to 83 years, 4 months in state prison. During a period of his incarceration, Smith was housed at Kern Valley State Prison. On May 18, 2017, Smith slashed his cellmate's face, requiring 16 sutures to close the victim's wound. On March 29, 2018, a Kern County Judge sentenced Smith to an additional 4 years in state prison for assault with a deadly weapon by a prisoner.

On June 23, 2023, Smith had his initial parole hearing. Smith, age 64, was 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. As part of that hearing, the Board of Parole focused on an evaluation that rated Smith as a low risk of re-offense. However, during the hearing, Smith admitted that he lied to the evaluator on a key issue involving the length of his sobriety. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole because Smith was not transparent and continued to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. The Board of Parole found Smith suitable for parole and granted his release.

However, prior to his release from prison, in August of 2023, an investigation was conducted related to Smith unlawfully receiving unemployment money from the government. Ultimately, Smith's grant of parole was rescinded, and he was granted a new "initial" parole hearing. That new hearing was held on July 10, 2024. At the hearing, Smith's commissioners focused on evidence that showed that Smith was still engaged in criminal thinking and associating with negative peer groups. Again, the Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Smith 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. Smith's commissioners issued a three-year denial. As such, Smith's new hearing could potentially be in 18 months.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Inmates frequently resort to lies in attempts to manipulate their way out of prison. Nevertheless, our mission is to identify and uncover the truth to ensure that those who pose a threat to society remain behind bars."