



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

October 18, 2024
MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:

DDA Gina Nargie
(661) 868-2340
DDA David McKillop
(661) 868-2330

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by: CJZ
Press Release #24-141

Parole Denied for Convicted Murderer Daniel Gomez
CDC #V31807; Kern County Court Case #BF104483A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted murderer Daniel Gomez. On October 2, 2024, BPH found that Gomez continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On November 19, 2003, Otoniel "Tony" Mitchel was stabbed to death as a result of intervening in a dispute involving his cousin, Daniel Gomez, and Gomez's pregnant girlfriend.

The victim, age 25, lived in an apartment with his cousin while he was looking for work. The victim's cousin lived with his girlfriend in the same apartment. That girlfriend had a pregnant daughter living there as well. The father of the unborn child was Daniel Gomez. The female and Gomez were dating at the time of the stabbing. However, Gomez was not permitted to be at or in the apartment.

Gomez repeatedly ignored the wishes of the family and would come to the apartment to visit his girlfriend when he thought no one was around. On November 19, 2003, Gomez's girlfriend's mother left for work. The mother repeatedly called the apartment to see if her daughter was home because she was concerned when her daughter did not come home the night before. At approximately 11am, the victim answered the apartment phone and told the girl's mother that Gomez and her daughter were both inside the apartment.

Around noon, the victim's cousin left work and went back to the apartment to check on the situation. When the victim's cousin arrived home, the victim, Gomez and the pregnant female were all inside the apartment. An argument ensued and ultimately the victim restrained Gomez to keep him from physically assaulting his cousin. The victim's cousin kicked Gomez out of the apartment. Gomez said, "You don't know who you're getting involved with. I'm gonna fuck you over."

A short time later, Gomez returned to the apartment complex with another male. Gomez saw the victim outside the apartment and chased him. When Gomez caught up with the victim, he stabbed him in the chest. The victim died from two knife wounds to his upper left chest. The fatal wound was five inches deep, penetrated his heart, and caused massive internal bleeding. Based on the injuries, it was determined that the victim was stabbed from behind and to the side. The victim had additional injuries to the left side of his head consistent with being struck with a club or fist.

On March 5, 2004, a Kern County Jury found Gomez guilty of murder in the second degree and found true that he personally used a deadly weapon. On April 5, 2004, a Kern County Judge sentenced Gomez to a total term of 16 years to life.

While incarcerated for the murder, Gomez committed additional crimes in prison such as battery on a non-prisoner, resisting officers, and assault with a deadly weapon. For his in-prison crimes, Gomez has been sentenced to an additional 15 years 4 months fully consecutive to his original sentence.

On October 2, 2024, the Board of Parole conducted Gomez's second parole hearing. Gomez is currently 39 years old. He has served approximately 21 years in state prison. At the parole hearing, the commissioners focused on Gomez's institutional behavior, including schemes to circumvent paying victim restitution, violence while committed in prison, gang activity, rehabilitative programming, substance abuse and drug activities in the community and in prison. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Gomez 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. Gomez's commissioners issued a ten-year denial.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented, "In addition to the severity of his initial crime, Gomez has exhibited a troubling pattern of behavior while incarcerated. The 10-year parole denial is not only justified but necessary to ensure the protection of our community."

Daniel Gomez:

