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Parole Denied to Gang Member with Violent History
CDC #P12045; Court Case #SC806498A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted Gang Member James Flores, age 48. On October 9, 2024, BPH found that Flores continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Peter Zerbib.

On September 2, 1998, Flores was sentenced to serve a prison term for the Murder of Jadesun Reyes and an assault with a deadly weapon on a separate victim out of Los Angeles County. Due to a change in the law, Flores was resentenced on the Los Angeles case to voluntary manslaughter in the death of Reyes.

On March 18, 2000, Flores was housed at North Kern State Prison for charges related to the death of a Reyes. Correctional Officers attempted to remove Flores from his cell while investigating Flores' involvement in an assault with a weapon on another inmate. During the removal process, Flores stabbed a correctional officer who sustained multiple stab wounds including one to the shoulder. Flores struggled with officers but was eventually detained.

On October 13, 2000, Flores was convicted by a Kern County Jury for assault by a life prisoner, possession of a weapon, and resisting officers. On November 13, 2000, he was sentenced to 27 years to life in prison.

On October 9, 2024, Flores was denied parole. The BPH noted Flores had not remained discipline free in prison and maintained negative peer interactions. Flores had years of gang affiliations leading up to the murder reduced to manslaughter and assault case. Flores admitted that his assault with a weapon on the correctional officer was gang motivated. Throughout his time in prison, he has continued associating with criminal street gangs.

The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Flores was not suitable for parole and posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society. The BPH has the option of denying inmate parole for a period of 15, 10, 7, 5 or 3 years. Flores' commissioners issued a five-year denial.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Flores has shown a consistent pattern of violence both inside and outside of prison, with no indication of turning his life around. Some individuals are so dangerous that parole is simply not an option."