



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

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MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Parole Denied for Convicted Sex Offender Leon Romine
CDC #T93371; Kern County Court Case #BF101333A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted sex offender Leon Romine. On February 4, 2025, BPH found that Romine continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On January 25, 2003, law enforcement arrived at a residence on Roberts Lane in Bakersfield to check if Romine had complied with his duty to register as a sex offender. As part of the investigation, law enforcement learned that Romine had failed to register his correct address since July 1997.

On April 9, 2003, a Kern County Jury found Romine guilty of failure to register as a sex offender. The Court also found true that Romine had suffered two prior strike sex convictions. The first strike was in 1984 for lewd or lascivious acts with a child under the age of 14. The second strike was in 1990 for rape by means of force or fear. On May 7, 2003, a Kern County Judge sentenced Romine to 25-years-to-life in state prison under the California Three Strikes Law.

On February 4, 2025, the BPH conducted Romine's second parole hearing. Romine, age 73, has served nearly 22 years in prison for his latest conviction. The commissioners focused on Romine's current physical condition and his recent psychological evaluation rating him a high moderate risk of re-offense. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Romine 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. Romine's commissioners issued a three-year denial.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Romine is a notorious convicted sex offender who attempted to evade the law – a serious offense. Given his high risk for re-offending, I am relieved that the

board commissioners took our concerns seriously and made the decision to deny his release into the community.”

Leon Romine:

