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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by CJZ
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Board of Parole Hearings Denied Release to Convicted Kidnapper Shawnice Johnson
CDCR #W85012; Court Case #SC079612A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted kidnapper Shawnice Johnson. On September 11, 2025, BPH found that Johnson continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On December 18, 1999, Johnson and her co-defendant went to the Inns of America on Colony Lane in Bakersfield. Once they arrived at the hotel, Johnson and another female confronted the female victim about having sex with the male in the hotel room. The two women beat the victim repeatedly. The victim was ultimately able to barricade herself in the hotel bathroom until she thought both females had left the area. When the victim went out to her car to leave the hotel, Johnson pulled a knife and forced the victim inside her own vehicle. Johnson and her co-defendant then demanded money from the victim. Johnson's co-defendant drove the victim to an ATM machine on Real Road and Stockdale Highway. The victim gave them the wrong ATM pin and promised that if they took her home, she could get them money. Johnson and her co-defendant threatened to kill the victim. Once the victim was at her residence, she was able to call 9-1-1.

On March 31, 2000, Johnson pled guilty to kidnapping with the intent to commit robbery and felony assault. In addition, Johnson admitted that she personally inflicted great bodily injury on the victim. On May 3, 2000, a Kern County Judge sentenced her to life with the possibility of parole plus 6 years.

On September 11, 2025, the BPH conducted Johnson's second parole hearing. Johnson is currently 43 years old and has served approximately 25 years in state prison. At the hearing, Johnson's commissioners focused on her institutional misconduct while being incarcerated in state prison. The board spent time questioning Johnson about her violence, drug trafficking, and "ring leader" behavior while incarcerated.

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; "We appreciate that the Board of Parole acknowledged our concerns. Johnson's criminal behavior justifies the significant consequences she has faced and will continue to face."

Shawnice Johnson:

