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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by CJZ
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Parole Has Been Denied to a Convicted Robber and Violent Inmate Whose Grant of Parole was Previously Reversed

CDCR #D21685; Kern County Court Case #DF013139A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted robber and violent inmate Carlos Smith, age 65. On November 13, 2025, BPH found that Smith continued to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. This was Smith's third parole hearing. 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 was eligible for parole per California's Elderly Parole program. As part of that hearing, the BPH focused on an evaluation that rated Smith as moderate 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 BPH found Smith suitable for parole and granted his release.

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 Ultimately, Smith's grant of parole was rescinded, and he was granted a new "initial" parole hearing.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 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. Smith's commissioners denied parole for a period of 3 years.

At Smith's third parole hearing on November 13, 2025, the commissioners focused on the continued gaps in Smith's insight and previous struggles with honesty whether to the board or clinicians. 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 Board of Parole 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 next hearing could potentially be in 18 months.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Substantial efforts have been made to ensure that a violent offender serving a significant sentence is not released prematurely. This office remains committed to advocating for what is right, despite the challenges we face."

Carlos Smith:

