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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board of Parole Denies Release to Three-Time Sex Offender
CDCR #K91625; Court Case #SC070958A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted child molester Patrick Romero. On May 21, 2026, BPH found that Romero continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

In May of 1996, after serving two prior prison sentences for felony child molestation, then 46-year-old Romero went to a family yard sale near his Bakersfield apartment. The family was acquainted with Romero given their proximity. Upon arrival, the 13-year-old victim took Romero inside her home to talk to her dad about an item Romero expressed interest in. They then went to the backyard. On the way back to the home, Romero sexually assaulted the minor by grabbing her by the arm, pulling her to him, and kissing her on the mouth.

After Romero purchased items from the yard sale, he asked the victim to help him carry the items back to his apartment. Once inside Romero's apartment, Romero kept insisting that the victim sit down. The victim refused. Eventually, the victim sat down and they began to talk. Romero asked if he could kiss her. The victim said "no." Before the victim heard her grandmother calling her name from the street, Romero sexually assaulted the victim by kissing her neck, cheek, and hugging her close. The victim reported what happened to a school counselor the next day. She said she was scared and was upset because she felt the incident was "her fault."

On February 11, 1998, a Kern County Jury found Romero guilty of annoying or molesting a child with a prior felony sexual assault conviction. On March 26, 1998, a Kern County Judge sentenced Romero to 25 years to life.

Romero is currently 71 years old and has served approximately 28 years in state prison for his current

prison term. Prior to this current prison term, Romero served two prior prison terms for child molestation. In 1984, Romero was convicted of two counts of lewd and lascivious acts with a child under the age of 14 in Riverside County. He was sentenced to 6 years state prison. (Riverside County case number CR22699.) In 1989, Romero was convicted of one count of lewd and lascivious acts with a child under the age of 14 in San Bernardino. He was sentenced to another 6 years in state prison. (San Bernardino County case number SC52614.)

On May 21, 2026, the BPH conducted Romero's fourth parole hearing. A psychologist rated Romero at a higher risk for reoffending than his last evaluation in 2023 due to new information related to his sexual offending history and his most recent interview.

At the hearing, Romero's commissioners focused on Romero's 8 prior victims, ages 4 through 13, his understanding of his diagnosis, insight into his sexual offending history, and rehabilitative programming. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the board to deny parole. The BPH found that Romero was not suitable for parole because he continued to pose 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. Romero's commissioners issued a three-year denial. Romero's next hearing could be as soon as 18 months.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "It is evident that Romero is not an appropriate candidate for parole given his high risk of reoffending and his repeated pattern of committing sexual offenses following each release from prison. While he will remain eligible for future parole consideration, this office is committed to prioritizing the community's safety and advocating against his release."

Patrick Romero:

