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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California Board of Parole Hearings Grants Early Release to Convicted Three-Strikes Offender
CDCR #P17730; Court Case #SC072233A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) has granted parole to the convicted career criminal Steven Wade Rogers, age 57. On May 27, 2026, over the opposition of the Kern County District Attorney's Office, a multi-member panel of commissioners found Rogers suitable for public release at his second parole hearing.

The commitment offenses trace back to 1997 when Rogers embarked on a multi-residential crime spree executed across different neighborhoods in Bakersfield. On November 14, 1997. At approximately 2:20 a.m., Rogers forcibly burglarized an inhabited dwelling in the 900 block of San Carlos Way. A responding Bakersfield Police Department officer established a perimeter and observed Rogers through a residential window actively loading stolen electronics, cameras, and personal jewelry into a vehicle belonging to the primary resident of the home. Upon realizing he had been cornered, Rogers started the vehicle and accelerated recklessly out of the garage, striking an adjacent vehicle before initiating a high-speed pursuit through localized surface streets. Rogers eventually crashed the vehicle into several trees and escaped on foot into the surrounding neighborhood.

Only hours later, while evading active police search grids, Rogers burglarized a secondary family residence in the 8000 block of Wimbley Way belonging to an elderly couple. Rogers entered the home while the victims slept, stealing their personal wallets, identification, keys, and their vehicle. Following an intensive multi-day investigation by the Bakersfield Police Department, Rogers was apprehended on November 16, 1997, concealed in an alleyway apartment on Buena Vista Street. At the time of his arrest, Rogers admitted his sole motivation was securing financial profits to maintain an escalating addiction to methamphetamine and heroin.

On October 28, 1998, a Kern County Superior Court jury convicted Rogers of two counts of first-degree residential burglary and felony reckless evading of a peace officer. Due to his extensive local criminal record, including prior convictions for robbery with a firearm and assault with a deadly weapon in 1989, Rogers was sentenced under California's Three Strikes Law to 55 years to life in state prison. His initial minimum eligible parole date was calculated to be April 29, 2036; however, he appeared before the panel

under Elder Parole considerations. In California, incarcerated persons are eligible for the Elderly Parole Program after reaching age 50 and being continuously incarcerated for 20 years.

While incarcerated, Rogers' patterns of antisocial behavior persisted across nearly three decades. He received approximately 18 formal Rules Violation Reports (RVRs), which included a 2005 conviction in Monterey County Superior Court for possessing an inmate-manufactured deadly weapon beneath his mattress, and a 2009 conviction in Kings County Superior Court for involvement in a sophisticated narcotics smuggling conspiracy inside state prison walls. Rogers was also a validated gang member.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Elderly parole expansions are forcing the premature release of hardened, violent career criminals directly back into our neighborhoods. Inmates who target and terrorize local residents should serve their full sentences for the protection of our community, and our office will continue to fight these early releases."