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June 9, 2026
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Approved by: CJZ
Press Release #26-50

**Board of Parole Hearings Denies Release to a Bakersfield "Three Striker" with
History of Child Exploitation and Violence**
CDCR #V22057; Kern County Court Case #BF104040A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced today that the California Board of Parole Hearings has denied parole to career criminal Lenel Randolph following a parole suitability hearing. The Board determined that Randolph continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety and issued a three-year denial. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Matt Rexroad.

Randolph, a 65-year-old native of Bakersfield, spent years terrorizing local neighborhoods. His extensive Kern County criminal history includes violent robberies, attempted murder, and the commercial sexual exploitation of a minor.

On October 23, 1985, Randolph entered the Bakersfield residence of an 82-year-old resident to commit a robbery. During the crime, Randolph drew a knife and stabbed the elderly victim numerous times, causing severe injuries. He was subsequently convicted of residential robbery and attempted second-degree murder and sentenced to a 10-year prison term.

Upon his release back into the Bakersfield community, Randolph escalated his criminal operations into human trafficking. In March 1994, Randolph and an accomplice targeted a 13-year-old runaway girl in Bakersfield. Randolph sex-trafficked the child to support his drug habit and sexually assaulted her in a local motel room. He was convicted of procuring a minor for prostitution and lewd acts, resulting in an 8-year prison term, during which he violated parole seven separate times. Randolph was also later convicted in Kern County for indecent public exposure and domestic battery against his wife.

His life sentence stems from an October 4, 2003 incident where Bakersfield police officers attempted to contact Randolph at a local apartment complex. Randolph fled on foot, ignored multiple verbal commands to halt, and abruptly assumed a fighting stance against chasing officers. After refusing to comply, he was

found discarding a baggie of solid cocaine base, a glass smoking pipe, and a steak knife with burnt residue. On December 15, 2003, Randolph pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance. He was sentenced to 25 years to life as a Third Strike offender.

Randolph has served 22 years of a life sentence. On June 4, 2026, the Kern County District Attorney's Office vigorously opposed Randolph's release at the state prison hearing, highlighting his absolute lack of rehabilitation and his refusal to take responsibility for his sex crimes. Randolph has continuously minimized his actions, claimed memory loss regarding his indecent exposure, and denied that he is a sex offender, falsely claiming he "did not touch" the 13-year-old victim.

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Lenel Randolph has spent his entire adult life cycling through state prison and exploiting the most vulnerable members of our community. My office will continue to attend these hearings in an attempt to ensure that career criminals serve the full measure of their sentences for the protection of our public."

Lenel Randolph:

