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Parole Denied to Convicted Murderer Jose Lopez
CDC #AE2829; Court Case #BF127990A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted murder Jose Lopez. On January 24, 2024, BPH found that Lopez continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On May 23, 2009, Lopez, who took issue with his romantic partner's attire and her interactions with others at the Graddy's Bar in Shafter, engaged in an argument outside the bar that culminated with Lopez stabbing the victim with a knife, cutting her aorta. The victim ultimately succumbed to her injuries. When apprehended by law enforcement, Lopez admitted to stabbing the victim.

On June 7, 2010, a Kern County Jury found Lopez guilty of one count of murder in the second degree. In addition, the jury found true the special allegation that Lopez personally used a knife to commit the murder. On July 9, 2010, a Kern County Judge sentenced him to 16-years-to-life.

On January 24, 2024, the BPH focused on Lopez's understanding of domestic violence, the impact his crime had on the victim and her family, and substance abuse. This hearing was Lopez's second parole hearing. The victim's family attended the hearing.

The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Lopez 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. Lopez's commissioners issued a three-year denial. As such, Lopez's next parole hearing date could potentially be in 18 months.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Domestic violence can quickly escalate to deadly levels, causing immeasurable harm to families. These acts of violence destroy lives, and the perpetrators must face the consequences."

Jose Lopez:

