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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Approved by: CJZ  
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**Parole Denied for Man who Murdered Woman After Being Denied Sexual Intercourse**  
*CDC #E75348; Kern County Court Case #SC41501A*

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted murderer William Thunder Rush. On June 27, 2024, BPH found that Rush continued to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On January 8, 1990, law enforcement responded to a report of a dead body in the alley near the 2100 block of F Street in Bakersfield. When they arrived, they found the body of a 25-year-old female Cindy Kay Cox wrapped inside a blanket. The victim suffered from extensive blunt force trauma to the face and head and her jaw was broken in multiple places. The autopsy revealed that the victim suffered massive blunt force trauma to the head that caused the blood from her brain to fill her lungs.

Rush and the victim attended a party near the area where her body was found. Rush attempted to have sexual intercourse with the victim, but she refused him. After, Rush beat her to death. Rush admitted that after he finished beating her, he could hear her struggling to breathe and blood was coming out of her mouth. Rush tried to dispose of the victim's body in a nearby dumpster. However, when he could not lift her into the dumpster, he left her body lying in the alley.

On October 18, 1990, Rush pled guilty to murder in the second degree. On November 14, 1990, a Kern County Judge sentenced him to 15 years to life.

On April 26, 2018, Rush was released from prison after a grant of parole. Within weeks of being on parole, Rush began violating the terms and conditions of parole. On August 6, 2018, Rush absconded from parole. Ultimately, Rush was arrested. The Kern County District Attorney's Office prosecuted Rush for violation of parole and he was returned to prison in December 2018.

On June 27, 2024, the BPH conducted Rush's fourth parole reconsideration hearing. At the hearing, the commissioners focused on the events that led up to his parole violation and the work he has done in prison to address his risk factors. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the Board of Parole to deny parole. The BPH ultimately denied parole. A parole reconsideration hearing is held annually until an inmate receives a new grant of parole. As such, Rush's next hearing will be in one year.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "Rush had previously been granted a second opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the law, which he failed to do. Consequently, for the safety of society, it is crucial that he remain in prison."