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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Parole Denied for Man who Attempted to Murder Ex-Girlfriend After Ending Relationship
CDC #AD9122; Kern County Court Case #DF008849A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted domestic violence attempted murderer Jose Sepulveda, age 57. On July 11, 2024, BPH found that Sepulveda continued to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On May 4, 2008, the victim came home in the early morning hours. She had ended her dating relationship with Sepulveda approximately a week before. On this day, Sepulveda was waiting inside the victim's bedroom with a knife and a rope. Sepulveda told the victim that no one would separate them and told her that he planned to kill her and hang himself.

Sepulveda swung a knife at the victim, slashing her throat. The victim fought back and broke off part of the knife. Sepulveda swung again, slashing the victim in the throat for a second time. During the attack, the victim also suffered a cut to her left eye and a cut to her arm. The victim began to struggle to breathe due to the injuries to her neck. Sepulveda then began to strangle the victim. As he strangled her, Sepulveda told the victim to not cry or yell, they were going to die together. As he started to hang himself, he said, "look at me, look over here, I'm dying, you are dying, we are going to die together." As Sepulveda tried to hang himself, the victim got up, pushed through the door, and went to her daughters' room for help. When police officers arrived, Sepulveda was found running out of the front door of the apartment covered in blood. Sepulveda was taken into custody after a short pursuit on foot.

On May 3, 2010, a Kern County Jury found Sepulveda guilty of attempted premeditated murder, assault with a deadly weapon, criminal threats, inflicting a corporal injury on a cohabitant, and resisting arrest. The jury also found true that he personally inflicted great bodily injury and personally used a knife during the commission of the offense. On June 2, 2010, a Kern County Judge sentenced Sepulveda to life with the possibility of parole, plus an additional four years.

On July 11, 2024, the BPH conducted Sepulveda's 2nd parole hearing. At the parole hearing, the commissioners focused on Sepulveda's institutional behavior, substance abuse history, and limited efforts related to rehabilitative programming. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Sepulveda 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. Sepulveda's commissioners issued a five-year denial.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented, "The courageous victim managed to defend her own life miraculously. This premeditated incident will not go unpunished, and we are committed to ensuring that Sepulveda continues to pay the consequences of his actions."