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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Parole Denied to Man Who Fatally Beat and Stabbed Mother
CDCR #H24013; Kern County Court Case #SC045534A

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted murderer Michael Landrum. On October 8, 2024, BPH found that Landrum continues to pose a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

On March 20, 1991, Landrum brutally beat and stabbed to death his mother Lola Landrum. Law enforcement found the victim laying outside her apartment in Lamont. Near her body, law enforcement found a large kitchen knife with an approximately 8-inch blade. The blade was bent and had blood on it. Landrum admitted to law enforcement that he was arguing with his mother all day over money and baseball cards. He said he became angry and "bashed" her head with a blue ceramic snail. After he struck her in the head, he went into the kitchen and retrieved a kitchen knife. He used that kitchen knife to repeatedly stab his mother. Landrum explained that the knife blade eventually bent. After the knife blade bent, Landrum retrieved a pair of scissors and continued to stab her. Landrum said he stabbed her because "she got on my nerves." He called 911 from a nearby payphone after he left the apartment. The victim died due to being stabbed 21 times.

On December 18, 1991, Landrum pled guilty to murder in the second degree. On January 24, 1992, a Kern County Judge sentenced Landrum to 15 years to life in state prison.

Landrum's last parole hearing was November 4, 2009. In 2009, Landrum was denied parole for 15 years. On October 8, 2024, the BPH conducted Landrum's fifth parole hearing. Landrum is currently 73 years old and has served approximately 33 years in state prison. At the parole hearing, the commissioners focused on Landrum's criminal history going back to the 1960's, his institutional behavior, rehabilitative programming, and physical and mental health. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the BPH to deny parole. The BPH found that Landrum 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. Landrum's commissioners issued a three-year denial. As such, Landrum's next parole hearing could be in 18 months.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "The details of this murder were horrifying, and Landrum's behavior continues to pose a threat to public safety. Although this parole denial is not as extensive as it has been in the past, we are grateful with the decision to not release him back into our community."