



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**COUNTY OF KERN**

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING  
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE  
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301  
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

JOSEPH A. KINZEL  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ANDREA S. KOHLER  
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

December 18, 2023  
**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**CONTACT:**  
DDA Gina Nargie  
(661) 868-2340

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Approved by CJZ  
Press Release #23-98

**Parole Granted to Murderer Paul Bagby**  
*CDC #E21236; Court Case number SC036320A*

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) granted release to convicted murderer Paul Bagby, age 78. On December 12, 2023, BPH found that Bagby no longer poses a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

The victim was 84 years old and lived alone in Southeast Bakersfield. Bagby knew the victim for over 40 years. Bagby first met the victim as a youth and their relationship continued through the years because Bagby's daughter married one of the victim's sons.

Bagby murdered the victim on April 10, 1988. Bagby struck the victim seven times in the head with a ball-peen hammer as she sat in her recliner. The victim died from blunt force trauma as a result of the blows to her head. After he murdered the victim, Bagby took the 174 dollars left over from her social security check. The victim kept the money in a pouch that was pinned to her clothes. Shortly after the murder, Bagby was seen washing blood off his hands while asking a witness for 50 dollars' worth of cocaine.

On May 9, 1989, a Kern County Jury found Bagby guilty of murder in the second degree and possession of a deadly or dangerous weapon. On June 8, 1989, a Kern County Judge sentenced him to 16 years-to-life.

On December 12, 2023, the BPH focused on Bagby's institutional behavior and maintenance of sobriety since 1988. The BPH noted that Bagby had incurred no rules violations for violence since he came to prison. This hearing was Bagby's eighth subsequent parole hearing. He has served approximately 35 years in prison.

The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the Board of Parole to deny parole. The victim's family

members attended the hearing and opposed Inmate's Bagby's release. The Board of Parole found that Bagby was suitable for parole.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the release saying, "I am disappointed with the Board of Parole's decision to release a murderer who committed unspeakable acts against a vulnerable elder in our community. While Bagby may regain his freedom, I reflect on the victim, who will never have that opportunity again."