



## COUNTY OF FRESNO

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### NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Phia Lee Denied Parole for 1995 Murders

On June 28, 2022, the California Parole Board denied parole to convicted murderer, Phia Lee, age 41.

Lee is currently serving a sentence of 85 years to Life at Folsom State Prison following a 1997 conviction for two counts of first-degree murder, two counts of attempted murder and one count of assault with a firearm.

In the case, Lee, along with his friend and fellow gang member, armed themselves and drove to an apartment complex in search of a rival gang member. Once they arrived, Lee and his co-participant pointed their guns at various individuals in a crowded courtyard and fired their weapons indiscriminately. Two children, ages 7 and 14, were killed and three others, including a 6-year-old girl, were seriously injured by the gunfire.

Because Lee was 14 at the time of the offense, he is classified as a youthful offender and has been eligible for parole since 2019. Due to his continued rule violations while in prison, he was previously denied parole in 2020.

In the interest of public safety, members of the Fresno County District Attorney's Lifer Parole Unit routinely attend parole hearings to argue against the release of violent criminals. In this matter, Deputy District Attorney Karen Mitchell participated in the hearing and successfully argued against Lee's release.

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