



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: October 5, 2023  
Re: Juanmingo Becerra  
Gang Member Denied Parole

### **For More Information Contact:**

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Juanmingo Becerra, 36, of Modesto was found not suitable for parole at a October 4, 2023 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings in Jamestown, at the Sierra Conservation Center. Deputy District Attorney Victoria Vasquez appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on defendant's failure to denounce his gang membership and lack of insight.

On November 9, 2007, Becerra was an active member of the Eastside Modesto Norteno criminal street gang. Becerra approached 31-year-old Jaime Torres on the street and shot him in the back several times with a .38 caliber handgun. As a male subject who was with Torres ran away, Becerra pointed his gun at him, but it did not fire. Torres was rushed to the hospital and pronounced dead by medical staff. Investigators determined that Torres had dropped out of Becerra's gang and had not been following orders from gang leaders.

Becerra was arrested and originally charged with premeditated murder, attempted murder and intimidation of witnesses as well as enhancements for personally using a gun causing great bodily injury and that he did these crimes for the benefit of a criminal street gang. On August 23, 2013, Becerra pled guilty to a lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter and assault with a firearm. He also admitted using a gun causing great bodily injury and that he did it for the benefit of his criminal street gang. Becerra was then sentenced by the Honorable Ricardo Cordova to serve a term of 27 years in prison.

While in custody in the Stanislaus County Jail prior to his plea, Becerra assaulted staff and other inmate's multiple times. He was found twice in possession of inmate-made weapons. After being transferred to prison, Becerra possessed a cell phone that he tried to destroy when caught with it by throwing it into the toilet in his cell. He violated other prison rules by drinking inmate-made alcohol and would not obey staff orders.

At his last parole hearing, Becerra told the Board that he also committed several additional offenses while in prison but was never caught. At this parole hearing, Becerra admitted to committing multiple shootings for the benefit of the gang for which he was never arrested and/or convicted.

Becerra told the Board in this October 4th hearing that he knew he did not need to kill Mr. Torres as there were other means to punish him as a drop out, but Becerra said it felt good to shoot someone. Becerra said he shot Mr. Torres five times because he wanted to kill Mr. Torres. He also said that when he aimed the gun at the other male subject present, Becerra told him if you say anything, you're dead.

The last interview by a prison psychologist occurred in 2022 and the psychologist gave the opinion that Becerra would pose a moderate risk for future violence to the community if he were to be released from custody.

Becerra's attorney argued that Inmate Becerra is on a determinate sentence of 27 years and does not need to program as he will be released once he has served his time.

Following deliberations, the Board denied parole for a period of three years. In doing so, they found that Becerra still appears to be hanging onto his reputation as a gang member and needed to internalize his programming. The panel recognized Becerra had not identified his greatest vulnerability and had yet to recognize the many other victims he had impacted.

This was Becerra's second parole hearing. He was denied parole in 2022 for a period of three years, but CDCR permitted Becerra to advance his hearing to October 4, 2023, 18 months after his last hearing. Becerra will be scheduled for another hearing in 2026, although he may petition the Board for an earlier date if there is a change in circumstances as defined under current law.

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