



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County
832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354
Mailing address: POB 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 558-4027

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney

Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District Attorneys

Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris
Doug Raynaud

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: April 7, 2014
Re: Jesus Galvan Parole Denial

For More Information Contact:

Carol Shipley, Assistant District Attorney
Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jesus Galvan, age 43, was found unsuitable for parole following a February 7, 2014 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at the prison in Tehachapi. Deputy District Attorney Beth O'Hara Owen appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement based on Galvan's lack of remorse, insufficient parole plans, his lack of participation in substance abuse programs and his psychiatric assessment which categorized him as a moderate risk to reoffend. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for 5 years.

On April 4, 2007, numerous calls were made to 911 reporting that a male was attacking a female in the residential area near Lance and Phoenix Avenues in Modesto. Officers responded and found Galvan in the Dry Creek area, dragging the victim by her sweatshirt hood towards the river.

Once at the river, Galvan held the victim's head under water in an effort to kill her. Officers fired a Taser to stop Galvan, but he continued to hold the victim in a choke hold and dragged her upstream to get away from the police. A police K9 distracted Galvan causing him to release the victim who swam to safety. Galvan was arrested and booked into the Stanislaus County jail.

According to the victim, Galvan had threatened to drown her the night before and then threatened her again right before the attack started. After being taken to the hospital, the victim, who was pregnant at the time, was treated for her injuries and released.

On September 13, 2007, Galvan was convicted following a jury trial of Premeditated Attempted Murder, Kidnapping, Spousal Battery and Criminal Threats. Ms. O'Hara Owen was the prosecutor at the jury trial. Judge John Whiteside sentenced Galvan to life in prison.

At the parole hearing, Galvan gave a completely different version of the events. He claimed he was holding his pregnant girlfriend, who he said had an outstanding warrant, to keep her from running from the police. He then claimed that he and the victim slid down the hill toward the creek and accidentally fell in the water. He adamantly denied holding her under water, even

though officers from the Modesto Police Department used their Taser and K-9 to stop the defendant from drowning her in their presence.

At one point in the proceeding, the Board asked the inmate if he got the chance to do anything different back on the date of the crime, what he would do. He answered, "If I had a chance to do different I would have given her time to think," thus, clearly blaming the victim for his actions.

Board Commissioner LaBahn, stated, "In this case, it is the opinion of the Panel that the mechanics of the commitment offense differ significantly as those in the 'record' (his prison file which contains the probation report and Appellate Opinion citing testimony by the police officers at trial). His version is not plausible. The Panel reminds Mr. Galvan that his credibility is an important factor in his suitability hearings. He has failed to demonstrate significant progress and remorse. Mr. Galvan quickly lapses into blaming others and narcotics, yet fails to turn the attention to himself and his flawed decision process. Mr. Galvan must examine things in himself."

Galvan will be eligible for another parole hearing in 2019.