



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: October 3, 2017
Re: Jose Rodriguez
Parole Denied

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that convicted rapist Jose Rodriguez, age 56, of Ceres, was denied parole for the third time during an August 31, 2017 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Avenal State prison. Deputy District Attorney Blythe Harris appeared on behalf of the People.

On July 15, 1998, Rodriguez, who was 36 years old at the time, bought alcohol for several young women. He drove them to a park before driving them to an apartment in Ceres. There, he met his seventeen-year-old victim. Rodriguez propositioned several of the women in the group for sex but they declined. Rodriguez then asked the victim to accompany him to a gas station to buy more alcohol. After the victim got into his truck, Rodriguez drove her around while offering her money for sex but she declined. He drove the truck to a vacant field where he pulled out a knife and sexually assaulted her. Afterwards, he kicked the victim out of the truck and threw a case of beer at her.

On December 12, 1998, Rodriguez was sentenced 15 years to life in state prison for the attack.

During Rodriguez's parole suitability hearing, he claimed he was drunk when everything occurred and that he threw the beer at the victim to get rid of the evidence. Deputy District Attorney Harris pointed out to the Board how it did not make sense that Rodriguez was simply driving to get more alcohol when he still had beer in his truck. Harris argued that Rodriguez's real motivation for getting the victim in the truck in the first place was to rape her and that he was just using the beer run as a pretext to get her in his car. She urged the Parole Board to understand that his actions were those of a predator and not simply an addict on an alcohol binge.

The Parole Board determined that Rodriguez posed an unreasonable risk to public safety and denied parole for another three years, although recent changes in the law make him eligible for another parole hearing in 18 months.

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