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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 29, 2019
Re: Jonathan Laron Dell
Convicted Killer Denied Parole for 10 years

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jonathan Laron Dell, age 40, of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole during a March 26, 2019, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the Salinas Valley State prison. Deputy District Attorney Aaron Lent appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People of Stanislaus County and successfully argued against Dell's release.

On October 15, 1996, Dell armed himself with a rifle and went to an apartment complex in Modesto to confront the victim, Geovanni Moore, a wheelchair-bound triple amputee. The defendant kicked open the victim's apartment door and shot him multiple times, killing him. The real reason why Dell committed the murder has never been determined.

On June 8, 1998, Dell was convicted of second-degree murder with use of a firearm and sentenced to serve 19 years to life in state prison.

On March 26, 2019, Deputy District Attorney Lent appeared at the hearing and argued that Dell should be denied parole for the maximum allowable period of 15 years under Marsy's law, the California Crime Victim's Bill of Rights proposition which was passed by the voters in 2008. Lent argued that the Comprehensive Risk Assessment generated by a prison appointed psychologist showed Dell posed a high risk for violence to the community if he were to be released, had no parole plans and had not completed any significant self-help programs since being incarcerated in 1998.

The Parole Board agreed and denied parole for a period of 10 years. Even though Dell was determined to be a "Youthful Offender" given that he committed the killing when he was age 17, the Commissioners still found him unsuitable for parole given that he demonstrated no substantive growth, maturity, impulse control, and no period of rehabilitation while in prison for the past 21 years.

This was Dell's ninth opportunity to appear before the Board of Parole Hearings. He had previously waived his right to a hearing on two occasions and on six other occasions agreed to have his hearing postponed. Although denied parole for 10 years, as a youthful offender Dell may have the opportunity to advance his next hearing depending on his conduct in prison.

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