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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 3, 2019
Re: Moises Mendoza
Parole Denied

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Moises Mendoza, age 37, of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole at a May 2, 2019 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison in Corcoran, California. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar personally appeared at the hearing.

On the evening of June 14, 2001, Mendoza and his brother, both members of the Brick City Sureno criminal street gang, were walking their friend's pit bull in their friend's neighborhood when they confronted rival Norteno criminal street gang members and got into an argument outside their home. During the argument, Mendoza's brother brandished a gun and shot several times towards the rival gang members, missing them. Mendoza then threw a rock at their house yelling, "It's Brick City right here!" to intimidate the rivals and proclaim the neighborhood as Sureno territory. Mendoza then pulled out a gun and fired three shots into the Norteno home. Although no one was injured, there were several people inside the home at the time of the shooting including a 2-year-old girl. A couple of weeks later, Mendoza refused commands by officers to surrender and hid in a crawl space beneath his house until a SWAT team forced him out with tear gas. In July of 2003, a jury convicted Mendoza of shooting at an inhabited residence, assault with a firearm, and participating in a criminal street gang. Mendoza was later sentenced to 17 years-to-life in state prison.

Although Mendoza is eligible for "youthful offender early release" because he was 20 years old when he committed the life offense, Mendoza has committed eleven rule violations while in custody including possession of a deadly weapon made from a sharpened piece of metal in 2016, and two violations for possession of a cell phone in 2018. The prison psychologist opined that Mendoza poses a high risk to reoffend. In addition, Mendoza has refused to meaningfully participate in any GED educational classes, self-help therapy, criminal gang anonymous counseling, the drug and alcohol twelve-step program, or the long-term offenders' program. Prosecutor Mangar stated that, "Mendoza has done absolutely nothing to learn the tools he'll need to succeed if released."

The board denied parole for three years since Mendoza still poses an unreasonable risk to public safety if released. Mendoza will be eligible for another parole hearing in 2022, but due to recent legislative changes the inmate may request to have another hearing as early as next year.

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