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Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: June 13, 2019
Re: Eddie Lee Patterson
Parole denied

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Eddie Lee Patterson, age 53, of Modesto was denied parole yesterday during a hearing of the Board of Parole Hearings held at Folsom State Prison. Deputy District Attorney John Goold represented the People.

On August 29, 1996, Patterson robbed a convenience store in Ceres by telling the clerk "Give me everything in the register or I'm going to smoke you." No weapon was seen nor displayed. After obtaining approximately \$50 from the clerk, Patterson left the store.

On September 5, 1996, Patterson again robbed the same convenience store in Ceres. This time, Patterson had covered his face in an attempt not to be identified. He placed his hand near his waist as if he had a gun and told the clerk "Give me the cash." After getting only \$25, Patterson left the store.

On October 17, 1996, Ceres detectives investigating the robberies arrested Patterson. At the time, Patterson was on parole for robbery out of Santa Clara County but ran away from his San Jose parole agent in May 1996. When interviewed, Patterson gave his brother's name "Gregory," denied committing the robberies and denied absconding from parole or having ever been to state prison. When presented with the fact that his brother was still in state prison, Patterson admitted lying. When questioned about the robberies, Patterson told them that since he was a three-strike candidate, he would not admit to having committed the crimes even if he had been the perpetrator.

On July 14, 1997, Patterson was convicted of robbery and admitted having prior "strike" convictions for residential burglary and robbery. He was sentenced to serve 25 years to life in state prison and has been in prison custody almost 22 years.

This was Patterson's initial parole consideration. During the hearing, Patterson told the board that he was heavily into crack cocaine at the time, that he was a "product of my environment" and offered no other reasons for his continuing criminality since childhood. The Commissioners

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holding the hearing found that Patterson had little to no insight into the reasons why he chose the criminal lifestyle, had not created an individualized relapse prevention plan to avoid re-offending if released and his parole plans were insufficient, making him an unreasonable risk of danger to the community if released.

Patterson was denied parole for a period of three years, however, under recent changes in the law he may petition the Board for another hearing in as little as 18 months.

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