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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 4, 2020
Re: Arvind Vyas Gopal
Parole denial

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Arvind Vyas Gopal, age 53, was denied parole at the conclusion of a hearing by the Board of Parole Hearings held at the California State Prison Solano in Vacaville. Deputy District Attorney John Goold appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On June 10, 2003, Gopal got into an argument with a coworker. Gopal used a knife to slash at the coworker's face causing great bodily injury to the victim's face and neck. Police identified Gopal as the perpetrator and arrested him within several days. He was subsequently convicted by a Stanislaus County jury of attempted premeditated murder with great bodily injury and use of a knife, aggravated mayhem, assault with a deadly weapon and criminal threats. He was sentenced to serve 12 years to life in state prison.

Gopal has had several previous opportunities for parole where he either waived being released or was denied parole. The most recent was in 2015 when he received a five-year denial. At that time, the Board admonished him to remain discipline free and to continue with education and self-help programming.

Since his last hearing, Gopal has received two serious rules violations, one for possessing an inmate weapon and one for stealing state property that he intended to sell for \$5. He also failed to continue with AA classes despite having an alcohol problem and failed to attend many of the self-help or educational classes. Gopal also had vague and insufficient parole plans. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board denied releasing Gopal on parole for a period of three years.

If and when Gopal is ever released from state prison, he will probably be deported to the Fiji Islands.

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