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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: August 30, 2021
Re: Jarrod James Wilson
Three Strikes Inmate Denied Parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jarrod James Wilson, age 50, of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole during an August 26, 2021, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad. Deputy District Attorney Vita Palazuelos appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On November 6, 2010, Wilson broke into a residence on Rumble Road in Modesto by smashing a sliding glass door to gain entry. By chance, the homeowner's daughter happened to be driving by and saw Wilson entering the backyard. She called her husband, who drove to the home, opened the front door and saw Wilson inside wearing gloves and carrying a pillowcase. Wilson threatened the husband with physical violence to get away, ran to a female accomplice in a waiting vehicle and escaped with over \$20,000 of stolen jewelry. Investigators traced the getaway car to Wilson and both witnesses identified him in a photo lineup. Wilson later sold some of the jewelry to a local pawn shop which the homeowner was able to identify as her property.

At the time of the crime, Wilson was on parole for residential burglary and possession of stolen property. Months later in 2011, he was located in the Deuel Vocational Institute in Tracy where he was incarcerated for his fourth parole violation.

Wilson was arrested and charged with the residential burglary and also commercial burglary for entering the Pawn Shop with the intent to sell stolen property. He had two prior convictions for residential burglary, one in 1990 and another in 1996. Both prior convictions counted as "strikes" under California's "Three Strikes" law and subjected him to a potential life sentence in state prison upon conviction.

While awaiting trial, Wilson convinced another jail inmate in his jail housing unit, Jeremy Gress, to testify that he had committed the burglary and not Wilson. A Stanislaus County Superior Court jury nonetheless convicted Wilson on November 1, 2013 of both counts. As a result of the two prior "strike" convictions, Judge Linda McFadden sentenced Wilson to serve 35 years-to-life in state prison under the "Three Strikes" law.

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Wilson's criminal history began as a juvenile with theft and assault offenses. His criminality continued with a conviction for burglary and a prison sentence at age 18. He was released in 1991, but almost immediately reoffended and was convicted and returned to prison in 1992 for grand theft. In 1996, Wilson was convicted of witness intimidation and sentenced to prison for residential burglary and possession of stolen property.

Wilson had several parole violations including testing positive for methamphetamine, wearing gang paraphernalia and absconding from parole in 2010, threatening his girlfriend in 2009, disturbing the peace in 2009 and driving under the influence in 2008.

After Proposition 57 was passed in 2016, Wilson became eligible for early parole consideration after serving less than one-third of his 35 years-to-life sentence.

While in prison, Wilson joined a white supremacy group and participated in fights and carrying drugs for the gang, but eventually dropped out. He also committed other rules violations including theft of state property in 2020, unexcused absences in 2002 and 1997 and being disruptive in class in 1998. A prison psychologist who interviewed Wilson prior to the parole hearing found him to be less than forthcoming in his answers, believed that Wilson had poor understanding of his problems with addiction and gave the opinion that Wilson posed a moderate risk of future violence to the community if he were to be released on parole.

During the parole hearing, Wilson admitted to the Board of Parole Hearings that he continued to illegally use drugs while in prison up until 2017. He also admitted having participated in over 50 burglaries when not incarcerated.

Prosecutor Palazuelos opposed Wilson's release, arguing to the board that Wilson still posed an unreasonable risk of violence to the people of Stanislaus County. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board denied parole for three years.

This was Wilson's first parole hearing.

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