



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: May 10, 2018  
Re: Jaime Estrada  
Parole Denied

### For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jaime Estrada, age 45, was found unsuitable for parole during a May 2, 2018 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at Kern Valley State Prison located in Delano, CA. Deputy District Attorney Michael D. Houston appeared at the hearing on behalf of the District Attorney's Office and argued against the granting of parole based on Estrada's continued dangerousness, deceptive answers that he gave during the hearing and his admission he follows the "prison code".

Estrada was convicted in 1995 of Murder and two counts of carjacking, all with the use of a firearm. He was sentenced to 50 years to life. In one of the carjackings, Estrada carjacked the victim right after the victim dropped his wife off at a religious bookstore. Estrada was also convicted in separate cases of escape with violence and two cases of battery causing serious bodily injury. Estrada's minimum eligible parole date is actually October 3, 2030, but due to the recently enacted Youthful Offender statute, he is eligible for early parole hearings.

At the hearing, Estrada minimized his participation in the murder, staying with a self-defense theory that he used at trial which was summarily rejected by the appellate court in 1997. The court stated there was a "wealth of evidence" that the murder was not committed in self-defense, a point Mr. Houston pointed out to the Board.

Also at the hearing, Estrada was asked about a 2016 incident in the state prison in which he and two inmates attacked another inmate. Estrada claimed that was self-defense because the victim inmate swung at him first and said, "What was I supposed to do?" Deputy Commissioner Denver challenged Estrada and stated it sounded similar to his self-defense claim in the 1995 murder case.

Mr. Houston pointed out to the Board that while in state prison for the last 23 years, Estrada has had 20 serious rules violations, including attempted murder of an inmate, battery on an inmate, possession of a deadly weapon, possession of a controlled substance, testing positive for a

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controlled substance, mutual combat and many other offenses. Mr. Houston stated that Estrada was not ready for parole and posed an “unreasonable risk to the public” if released. It was pointed out at the hearing that Estrada admitted that he had actually committed five additional carjackings. Which are now beyond the timeframe for prosecution.

In denying Estrada parole for another 7 years, one Commissioner remarked how terrifying it must have been for the victim when Estrada pointed a gun at her after just dropping off her husband at a religious bookstore. Another Commissioner called Estrada a “one-man crime wave” who has continued to reoffend even while in prison.

The Board cited the recently enacted Youthful Offender law which requires them to give “great weight” to the fact that Estrada was a “youthful offender” when he committed these violent crimes at the age of 20. The board also cited the fact that Estrada did not have the proper insight into his life crimes, that he is not admitting what he did and has not reached out to his victims in an attempt to “make amends.” The Board also said it was obvious Estrada had problems with people in authority as he has received numerous write-ups for, among other things, not reporting to work.

Estrada will be eligible for another parole hearing in 2025. However, the Board did say he can re-apply earlier if he completes the numerous tasks the Board told him to accomplish before the next parole hearing.

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