



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: May 31, 2019  
Re: Salesh Prasad  
Parole Denied

### For More Information Contact:

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Salesh Prasad, age 47, of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole during a May 29, 2019 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Folsom State Prison. Deputy District Attorney John Goold attended the hearing by video-conference on behalf of the People.

On June 4, 1994, Prasad shot victim Thomas Ortiz twice in the head as Ortiz was sitting in a car in front of a market in Modesto. Prasad was angry because he believed Ortiz had smashed several windows on Prasad's car.

On April 13, 1995, a Stanislaus County jury convicted Prasad of second-degree murder along with an enhancement for using a gun in the crime. Judge David Vanderwall (now retired) sentenced Prasad to serve a term of 20 years to life in state prison.

In denying parole, the panel commended Prasad for remaining disciplinary free for the last ten years, furthering his education, being employed, attending counselling and completing vocational training. However, the Board also found that Prasad needed to further his understanding of what triggered him to so violently act out in killing the victim and that he still remained an unreasonable risk to public safety if released.

Parole was denied for three years. Prasad was 22 years old at the time of the murder and as a "Youthful Offender" may petition to move up that hearing to an earlier if he can show a change in circumstances. This was Prasad's fourth parole hearing since 2007.

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