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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: April 30, 2020
Re: George Onesavanh
Convicted killer denied parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that George Onesavanh, age 37, of Modesto, was denied parole yesterday during a hearing before the Board of Parole Hearings held at the California State Prison in Solano County. Deputy District Attorney John Goold appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

At the age of 12 years old, Onesavanh joined the Asian Boyz criminal street gang in Modesto. By the time he was 16, he had multiple commitments to the California Youth Authority for crimes including accessory to murder, auto theft, weapons offenses and driving under the influence

In 2004, at the age of 21, Onesavanh chased down, shot and killed two rival gang members because he believed they had disrespected him by showing up at a funeral he was attending. He was convicted of two counts of voluntary manslaughter, use of a firearm and committing the crimes for the benefit of the Asian Boyz criminal street gang and sentenced to 21 years in state prison.

While in prison custody, Onesavanh continued his criminal gang activity by engaging in a riot (2011) and beating a rival gang inmate (2012). He has also committed other non-violent rules violations, the most recent being in 2018.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Deputy District Attorney Goold argued against Onesavanh being granted parole, noting how he minimized his gang involvement, had completed minimal self-help programming and, instead of working to better himself, admitted to spending his time watching television, listening to music, reading and playing sports. Goold also noted Onesavanh's parole plans were vague and undeveloped: he told the board he would be relying on his family to provide him with shelter and food and he hoped to earn money through "flipping houses."

In denying Onesavanh parole, the Board determined that he still poses an unreasonable risk to public safety if released. They noted that Onesavanh continued with his criminal attitude while

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incarcerated in state prison including participating in a riot and battery on an inmate “because he was doing what he was told.” He had also completed limited self-help programming and needed to get more insight into his criminality and understand why he committed such violent acts.

Onesavanh was sentenced to serve a determinate term of 21 years in state prison. However, as a “youthful offender,” changes in the law permitted Onesavanh to become eligible for an initial parole hearing to determine whether he would be released early. He will be eligible for another hearing in three years.

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