



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 21, 2020
Re: Dennis Ray Hanson
Life inmate denied parole

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Dennis Ray Hanson, age 65, of Modesto, was denied parole today during a hearing of the Board of Parole Hearings at the Richard J. Donovan correctional facility in San Diego. Deputy District Attorney John Goold appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

In 1999, Hanson was convicted of felony domestic violence and sentenced to serve 28 years to life in state prison under California's "Three Strikes" law. Hansen was eligible under the "Three Strikes" law due to his extensive criminal history that began at age 12 and included convictions for assault, grand theft, possession of stolen property, battery, resisting arrest, drunk driving, domestic violence, and numerous assaults with a deadly weapon. Hanson served two prior prison terms, including one for a prior felony domestic violence conviction, and frequently violated parole.

While in prison, Hanson has continued his antisocial behavior by violating prison rules, abusing drugs and being repeatedly profane and intimidating towards female staff. As recently as last October of 2019, Hansen refused to return to his cell and had to be forcibly restrained by correctional officers.

A comprehensive risk assessment by a psychologist who evaluated Hanson in preparation for this hearing opined that Hanson posed a high risk of violence to the community if he were to be released.

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During the hearing, Deputy District Attorney Goold argued against Hanson's release based on his criminal behavior both in and out of prison, denial of any responsibility for his criminal history, lack of any real parole plans, lack of insight into why he reoffends and the risk of violence he still poses to the community if released.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Commissioners found Hanson posed an unreasonable risk to public safety and denied parole for five years. The board found aggravating factors in that Hanson had no idea what triggers him to be violent, did not even know what a relapse prevention plan was, had no solid parole plans, continually denied or minimized his behavior, continued to abuse drugs and showed a continuing disrespect for female and other prison staff.

This was Hanson's first parole hearing. He may be eligible to advance his next hearing to an earlier date than five years due to his age and medical conditions.

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