



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: June 26, 2020  
Re: David William Hess  
Parole Granted for convicted carjacker / gang member

### For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that David William Hess, age 47, of Modesto, was found suitable for parole during a June 24, 2020, hearing of the State Board of Parole hearings at Mule Creek State Prison in Ione. Deputy District Attorney Erin Schwartz appeared on behalf of the People to oppose Hess's release.

In December of 2005, David Hess was a member of the Nazi Low Rider criminal street gang.

During this time, Dion Milam was in custody at the Stanislaus County jail charged with murder. Milam was a leader in the Nazi Low Rider gang who had spent jail time with the victim. Milam and other gang members provided the victim with methamphetamine and phone services while he was in custody hoping to get money from him once he was released. Once he was out of custody, the victim did pay money to the gang as they requested.

After several payments to the gang, the victim grew tired of being extorted. He broke off contact only to be later confronted by Hess, who showed off his white supremacist tattoos that included swastikas, lightning bolts, white power symbols, "pure hate," skulls and dragons. During trial, District Attorney Investigator and gang expert, Froilan Mariscal, told the jury that the tattoos on Hess all indicated he was a member of the Nazi Low Rider criminal street gang.

On December 22, 2005, investigators recorded a jail phone call between Milam, who was still in jail awaiting trial, and Hess. During the call, Milam ordered Hess to rob the victim. Later that same day, Hess confronted the victim in a parking lot in Modesto, simulated possession of a handgun and took the victim's car.

The next morning, Investigators contacted the victim, who had been afraid to report the crime to law enforcement due to threats of retaliation. The victim agreed to testify for the prosecution after being placed in the State's Witness Relocation Program.

Officer's arrested Hess that same day still driving the victim's car.

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A Stanislaus County jury convicted Hess of carjacking along with the enhancement of doing so for the benefit of a criminal street gang. In 2009, he was sentenced to serve 15 years-to-life in state prison.

In making their decision to allow Hess to be released on parole, the Board determined he did not pose an unreasonable risk of danger to society, that he had immediately dropped out of the Nazi Low Rider gang upon coming to prison in 2009, had not been violent since then, had no misconduct reported in the last 10 years, had obtained his GED and attended classes that gave him marketable skills.

This was Hess's first and only parole hearing.

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