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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 2, 2021
Re: Jesus Contreras Galvan
Life inmate denied parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Jesus Contreras Galvan, age 50, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole during a May 28, 2021, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Avenal State Prison. Deputy District Attorney Dannica Molina appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On April 7, 2004, Modesto Police Department officers were dispatched to reports that Galvan was holding his pregnant girlfriend, Sylvia Chavarria, down on the ground and strangling her. Other witnesses reported that Galvan was holding the victim in a headlock and dragging her into an alleyway.

Once on scene, officers saw Galvan still had his arm around the victim's neck. When Galvan saw the officers, he started running towards Dry Creek, dragging the victim along with him. Once they reached the creek, Galvan held the victim's head under the water. At one point, the officers ordered him at gunpoint to release the victim, but Galvan continued to hold her in a chokehold and used her as a shield between himself and the officers. A police K9 convinced Galvan to let his victim go and he was taken into custody.

On September 14, 2007, Galvan was convicted by a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury of attempted murder with premeditation, kidnapping, inflicting corporal injury on a spouse/cohabitant, and criminal threats. On October 12, 2007 Judge John Whiteside sentenced Galvan to serve a total of eight years-to-life in prison.

At the parole hearing, prosecutor Molina argued that Galvan was unsuitable for parole because he demonstrated a lack of insight and honesty regarding his life crime and lack of programming related to domestic violence. She also argued that a recent evaluation by a prison psychologist revealed that Galvan continued to pose a moderate risk of violence to the community if he were to be released.

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The Board agreed and denied parole for three years. Despite giving great weight to Galvan's age at the time of the hearing and his eligibility for "elderly parole," the Board found that Galvan's advanced age and long-term confinement did not preclude him from violently reoffending in the future. Galvan's minimization of his actions, instability and lack of insight were all areas of concern for the Board.

The Board also recognized Galvan's age, willingness to participate in programming and positive work history while incarcerated. If Galvan continues to make such progress, he has the potential of advancing his next parole hearing to an earlier date.

This was Galvan's third parole hearing.

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