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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: June 14, 2022
Re: Tashaun Obadiah Sally
Manslaughter Inmate Denied Parole

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Tashaun Obadiah Sally, age 35, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole during a June 9, 2022 hearing by the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo. Deputy District Attorney Victoria Vasquez appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On November 16, 2007, Sally viciously attacked his 21-year-old boyfriend, Bill Foletta, in Foletta's own home by first beating and punching him with his fists before hitting Foletta on the head with a toilet tank lid and a wooden table, killing him. Sally then wrapped the victim's head in plastic bags, put the body into a sleeping bag, and dragged it down to a cellar under a shed on the property. Sally then fled the scene after taking the victim's dog and car.

Several days later, Sally returned with a friend to put a padlock on the shed. He also wrote a letter to Foletta's family claiming to be Foletta and telling them the victim was leaving the area to take time to think. Sally also used the victim's ATM card at multiple machines to withdraw funds and transferred the victim's cash into a checking account.

The victim's family contacted law enforcement after animal control located the victim's dog approximately one month after the killing. Stanislaus Sheriff's detectives conducted a missing person's investigation and located the victim's body in the padlocked cellar. They obtained images of Sally at a local bank cashing a check on the victim's account after the victim's death.

Sally was arrested and charged with the killing. During an interview, Sally claimed he became angry and fought with Foletta after the victim called him a racial slur.

On November 12, 2013, Sally pled no contest to voluntary manslaughter, multiple counts of receiving stolen property, second-degree burglary and admitted an enhancement for using a deadly weapon in the killing. He was also found to be in violation of felony probation in two prior embezzlement and receiving stolen property cases. On February 27, 2014, Judge Nancy Leo sentenced Sally to serve a total prison term of 20 years and 8 months.

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Since being in prison custody, Sally joined a prison gang and participated in multiple fights with other inmates, the most recent occurring in 2019. Although in 2018 he allegedly renounced his gang membership, Sally continued to participate in gang activities. A prison psychologist who found that Sally posed a moderate risk for future violence if he were to be released into the community.

Sally was 20 years old at the time of the crime which made him a “youthful offender” under the law allowing him early parole consideration on June 9th. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board of Parole Hearings found Sally still posed an unreasonable risk to public safety and denied parole for five years. In making their decision, the Board cited the extreme callousness of the offense, Sally’s demonstrated lack of impulse control, his lack of participation in self-help programming, his continued criminal thinking as shown by a 2017 incident where he falsified documents and his failure to fully address the factors that caused him to commit the killing and other previous crimes.

This was Sally’s first parole hearing. Although his next parole hearing will be tentatively scheduled sometime in 2027, as a “youthful offender” Sally may petition the Board to advance that hearing to an earlier date if he can show a change in circumstances justifying it.

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