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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: August 10, 2022
Re: Michael Edwin Mayfield
Three Strikes Inmate Granted Parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Michael Edwin Mayfield, age 58, of Turlock was found suitable for parole during an August 3, 2022 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Valley State Prison in Chowchilla. Deputy District Attorney Amy Elliott Neumann appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

In 1997, while on parole from prison for a 1988 rape conviction, Mayfield tested positive for methamphetamine. A violation of parole warrant was issued which resulted in his arrest on May 8, 1997. Police found methamphetamine in his pants pocket and a drug kit with baggies and hypodermic syringes under the driver's seat. Mayfield was charged with transporting methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine, possessing a syringe without a prescription and lying to officers about his name. He was also charged with having two prior "strike" convictions making him eligible for a life sentence.

Mayfield's first strike offense was a conviction for robbery in May 1987 for which he received three years in prison. His second strike occurred just eight days after being paroled on November 26, 1988. Mayfield approached a woman who was working alone in a convenience store in Turlock. He used a ruse to get the woman's attention, grabbed her by the throat, threw her to the ground, threatened to kill her and raped the woman inside the store. He was charged, convicted and sentenced to serve 13 years in prison.

On April 7, 1998, a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury convicted Mayfield on all counts. After a court trial on the prior "strike" convictions found them to be true, the late Judge John Whiteside sentenced Mayfield to serve 27 years to life in state prison.

At the parole hearing, Prosecutor Neumann argued against release based on Mayfield's repeated failures at parole, his extensive and violent criminal record, his record of prison discipline and his failure to complete rehabilitative programming for sex offenders. The Board of Parole Hearings disagreed, finding that Mayfield had engaged in effective drug rehabilitation programming to deal with the drug addiction he struggled with since he was 13 years old and did not represent an unreasonable risk of danger to the community, making him suitable for parole. The Board directed

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Mayfield to maintain his sobriety, live in transitional housing and engage in sex offender rehabilitation programming. He will be required to register with law enforcement as a sex offender for the rest of his life pursuant to Penal Code section 290.

The Board's decision now advances to the Decision Review Unit which has 120 days to review the grant of parole. If the Decision Review Unit approves the decision, Governor Newsom will then have 30 days to reverse, modify, refer to the full Board sitting *en banc* or let the grant of parole stand.

This was Mayfield's initial and only parole hearing.

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