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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: October 5, 2023
Re: Jason Lamarsh
Convicted Killer Denied Parole

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Jason Lamarsh, 56, formerly of Stanislaus County, was found unsuitable for parole at an August 2, 2023 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Calipatria State Prison. Deputy District Attorney Sasha Jasty appeared at the hearing and argued for continued confinement. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for three years.

In May 1990, Lamarsh and co-defendants Gerald Cruz, James Beck, Ronald Willey, and Richard Vieira, armed themselves with baseball bats, a baton, and several knives, and went to a home in Salida intending to kill everyone present over a disagreement. The group killed four people: Franklin Raper, Richard Ritchey, Dennis Colwell, and Emmie Parks. In 1993, a jury found Lamarsh guilty of four counts of second-degree murder, and Lamarsh was sentenced to 64 years to life in state prison.

This was Lamarsh's third parole hearing. The Board had previously granted parole in January 2022, but the Governor reversed that grant of parole in May 2022.

During his incarceration, Lamarsh has committed a number of rule violations, including engaging in a riot, being involved in a prison gang, battery on another inmate, and possession of controlled substances. Lamarsh's last rule violation was in 2018. Prior to the parole hearing, Lamarsh was examined by a psychologist and was deemed to have a moderate risk for violence. In the last five years, Lamarsh had participated in vocational training and various support programs.

The Board ultimately decided that Lamarsh was unsuitable for parole. The Board noted that, while Lamarsh had made improvements in the last five years, Lamarsh's last rule violation in 2018 was still recent, especially in light of the seriousness and brutality of these murders and Lamarsh's long history of substance use and rule violations. The Board issued a three-year denial. Lamarsh will be scheduled for another hearing in 2026.

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