



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

Jeff Laugero
District Attorney

Assistant District Attorney
Mark Zahner

Chief Deputies
Marlisa Ferreira
Wendell Emerson
Michael D. Houston

Bureau of Investigation
Chief Terry L. Seese

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: April 4, 2023
Re: Jesus Contreras Galvan
Life Inmate Granted Parole

For More Information Contact:

John Goold, Public Information Liaison
Phone: (209) 525-6909

Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Jesus Contreras Galvan, age 52, of Modesto has been found suitable for parole during a January 4, 2023 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Avenal State Prison. Deputy District Attorney Margot Roen appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On April 4, 2007, Galvan got into an argument with his then girlfriend, Sylvia Chavarria (now deceased), over her suspected drug use while pregnant with his child. Galvan, admittedly under the influence of methamphetamine at the time, dragged Chavarria into an ally behind his house while holding a nail to her throat, choked her until she briefly lost consciousness, forced her to walk Dry Creek and held her head underwater. Responding officers saw Galvan with his arm around the victim's neck standing in the creek. Galvan used the victim as a shield between him and the officers until a police K9 convinced him to let her go.

On September 14, 2007, Galvan was convicted by a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury of attempted murder, kidnapping, felony domestic violence and criminal threats. On October 12, 2007, the late Judge John Whiteside sentenced him to serve eight years to life in state prison.

During the parole hearing, the Board cited the "passage of time" and "a plurality of mitigating factors" in finding Galvan suitable for parole. The Board pointed in particular to the findings of a prison psychologist, Dr. Kilian, who interviewed Galvan and gave the opinion that he posed a "Low Risk" of future violence to the community if released. The Board also found that Galvan had shown notable changes by participating in self-help programming, which he had internalized and was able to adequately articulate to the Board, his 16 years of sobriety and demonstrated self-control while in prison custody. Finally, the Board noted that Galvan seemed to have matured and had accepted responsibility for his life crime, exhibiting true remorse for the victim.

In granting parole, the Board imposed certain terms and conditions including a requirement Galvan continue participation in domestic violence programs as directed by his parole agent, random testing for drugs, alcohol and marijuana, and ordered him to have no contact with the victim's

Office: 832 12th Street, Suite 300 Modesto, CA 95354 Mailing: PO BOX 442 Modesto, CA 95353
Telephone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 558-4027 www.stanislaus-da.org



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family members without the written consent of his parole agent. The Board noted that these conditions would only take effect should Galvan remain in the United States as he is currently subject to a deportation order upon his release.

This was Galvan's fourth parole hearing, having previously been denied parole in 2014, 2019 and 2021.

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