



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: George Ruiz Palomar, Jr.
Convicted Killer Denied 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 George Ruiz Palomar, Jr., formerly of Redwood City was found unsuitable for parole during a February 15, 2023 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the California Correctional Institution in Tehachapi. Deputy District Attorney Victoria Vasquez appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On December 17, 1980, Palomar pointed a gun at his girlfriend's parents when they came to pick her up from the house they were at. The parents left and reported the crime to Modesto Police. Two weeks later, at a New Year's Eve party on the evening of December 31, 1980 into the early morning hours of January 1, 1981, Palomar had several arguments with the same girlfriend over such things as the clothing she was wearing and wanting her to leave the party with him. Palomar's best friend, David Perez, and another partygoer, Michael Rosales, tried to calm Palomar down while walking him to his car. Once he got to his car, Palomar pulled out a gun and shot both persons several times, killing his best friend Perez. Rosales survived his wounds.

At trial, Palomar testified in his own defense claiming he had been smoking marijuana and drinking heavily. His stated reason for bringing a gun to the party was to fire it off at midnight. He claimed he shot Perez in self-defense and had no intention of shooting Rosales.

On June 5, 1981, a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury convicted Palomar of first degree murder for the killing of David Perez, attempted murder for the shooting of Michael Rosales and brandishing a firearm for the previous incident two weeks earlier involving his girlfriend's parents. Palomar was sentenced to serve a total of 27 years to life in state prison.

On May 26, 1983, after a Fifth District Court of Appeal found the trial evidence insufficient to support first degree premeditated murder and reduced his conviction to second degree, Palomar was resentenced to a total of 17 years to life.

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



<https://www.facebook.com/StanislausDistrictAttorney/>

Since being incarcerated, Palomar has repeatedly violated prison rules including disobeying orders, manipulating staff, having scissors in his cell, attempting to defraud the state, threatening female custodial staff and being out of bounds. His last violation occurred in 2006.

During the hearing, Palomar admitted being upset with how his girlfriend had dressed for the party, stating she was not dressed “pretty” but had dressed “sexy,” something she had not done for him but for other men.

Prosecutor Vasquez argued for Palomar’s continued confinement based on his failure to address the underlying causes for his criminal behavior, lack of offender change and lack of substantial programming regarding his history of battery on women. At the conclusion of the hearing one of the victim’s family members gave an impact statement and asked the Board to deny parole.

Although eligible for both youthful (Palomar was 22 at the time of his offense) and elder parole (he is now 64), the Board found inmate Palomar still posed an unreasonable risk to public safety and denied parole for three years. The Board also found that Palomar’s lengthy history of criminal conduct before this offense remained an aggravating factor outweighing release on parole and that he also did not show substantial offender change.

Palomar has been in prison over 40 years. This was his thirteenth parole hearing. Although he will be scheduled for another hearing in three years, he may also petition to advance that date if he can show a change in circumstances.

###

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



<https://www.facebook.com/StanislausDistrictAttorney/>