



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: May 1, 2023  
Re: David Roy Ramos  
Attempted Murder Inmate denied parole

### For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that David Roy Ramos, age 46, formerly of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole during a March 29, 2023, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the Pleasant Valley State Prison. Deputy District Attorney Amy Elliott Neumann appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On October 1, 2001, at 10:17 in the evening, Ramos knocked on the door of victim Kenneth Watkins and challenged him to come outside. Watkins could see another person hiding in the shadows, so he refused and told Ramos, who he knew as “Little Dave,” that he was going to call the police. As he turned away from the door, Watkins heard several gunshots and was hit twice in the back. The victim told police he believed the incident stemmed from a breakup with his girlfriend of twelve years that included litigation over the home where the victim currently lived. Ramos, who was known to the ex-girlfriend, had previously served the victim with an eviction notice.

On April 9, 2003, a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury found Ramos guilty of premeditated attempted murder, shooting at an inhabited dwelling and assault with a firearm. The jury also found true enhancements that Ramos personally used a firearm causing great bodily injury and personally inflicted great bodily injury on the victim. During the reading of the verdict, Ramos threw a courtroom chair at the prosecutor.

Judge Al Girolami sentenced Ramos to serve life in prison with the possibility of parole for the premeditated attempted first-degree murder and imposed a consecutive 25-to-life sentence for the personal and intentional discharge of a firearm proximately causing great bodily injury. An appellate court later upheld the conviction and sentencing in 2004.

Since going to prison, Ramos has been repeatedly documented as an active member of the Nuestra Familia prison gang and a security threat to the prison system. He has spent time in the Special Housing Unit at Pelican Bay State Prison and administrative segregation at various institutions. He has violated prison rules on various occasions including possessing a cellphone, disobeying an order, distribution of controlled substances, possessing inmate manufactured alcohol, receiving narcotic contraband from visitors, and engaging in mutual combat. In 2003 he was placed into

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administrative segregation after assaulting another inmate with a weapon during evening meal in the dining hall and in 2004 for assaulting another inmate with a weapon in the main recreation yard. In 2020, he was found in possession of a dangerous weapon, for which he lost family visiting privileges until 2027. The Fresno County District Attorney's Office subsequently charged Ramos with a new felony crime of possessing a weapon in prison. As recently as March of 2022 he was found to have another cellphone and charger hidden in his cell.

At the parole hearing on March 29, Prosecutor Neumann urged the Board to deny parole based upon Ramos significant discipline history, including two pending criminal prosecutions for possession of a weapon and distribution of controlled substances, failure to program for his substance abuse issues, continued gang involvement, and a lack of insight into why he commits criminal acts.

After deliberations, the Board determined that while Ramos qualified for youthful offender considerations, he still posed an unreasonable risk to public safety if released on parole. The Board determined that Ramos's current behavior and discipline problems indicated persistent criminality and lack of offender change. The Board determined that Ramos needed to remain discipline free for at least three years and needed to internalize his self-help programming. The Board denied parole for seven years.

This was Ramos's first parole hearing.

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