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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 1, 2023
Re: Jarrod James Wilson
Three Strikes Inmate Parole Granted

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Jarrod James Wilson, age 51, of Modesto was found suitable for parole during a March 15, 2023, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad. Deputy District Attorney Victoria Vasquez appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On November 6, 2010, Wilson broke into a residence on Rumble Road in Modesto by smashing a sliding glass door to gain entry. By chance, the homeowner's daughter happened to be driving by and saw Wilson entering the backyard. She called her husband, who drove home, opened the front door and saw Wilson inside wearing gloves and carrying a pillowcase. Wilson threatened the husband with physical violence to get away, ran to a female accomplice in a waiting vehicle and escaped with over \$20,000 of stolen jewelry. Investigators traced the getaway car to Wilson and both witnesses identified him in a photo lineup. Wilson later sold some of the jewelry to a local pawn shop which the homeowner was able to identify as her property.

At the time of the crime, Wilson was on parole for prior residential burglary and possession of stolen property. Months later, in 2011, he was located at the Deuel Vocational Institute in Tracy where he had been incarcerated for his fourth parole violation.

Wilson was arrested and charged with residential burglary as well as commercial burglary for entering the Pawn Shop with the intent to sell stolen property. He had two prior convictions for residential burglary, one in 1990 and another in 1996, which counted as "strikes" under California's "Three Strikes" law and subjected him to a potential life sentence in state prison upon conviction.

While awaiting trial, Wilson convinced another jail inmate in his jail housing unit, Jeremy Gress, to testify that he had committed the burglary and not Wilson. A Stanislaus County Superior Court jury nonetheless convicted Wilson on November 1, 2013, of both counts. As a result of the two prior "strike" convictions, Judge Linda McFadden sentenced Wilson to serve 35 years-to-life in state prison under the "Three Strikes" law.

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Wilson's criminal history began as a juvenile with theft and assault offenses. His criminality continued with a conviction for burglary and a prison sentence at age 18. He was released in 1991, but almost immediately reoffended. He was convicted of grand theft and returned to prison in 1992. In 1996, Wilson was convicted of witness intimidation and sentenced to prison for residential burglary and possession of stolen property.

Wilson repeatedly violated parole by testing positive for methamphetamine, wearing gang paraphernalia, absconding from parole, threatening his girlfriend, disturbing the peace and driving under the influence.

After Proposition 57 was passed in 2016, Wilson became eligible for early parole consideration after serving less than one-third of his 35 years-to-life sentence as a "non-violent" second strike offender since his offense was considered a property crime.

While in prison, Wilson joined a white supremacy group and participated in fights and carrying drugs for the gang, but eventually dropped out. He also committed other rules violations including theft of state property in 2020, unexcused absences in 2002 and 1997 and being disruptive in class in 1998.

A prison psychologist who interviewed Wilson prior to the parole hearing found him to be less than forthcoming in his answers, believed that Wilson had poor understanding of his problems with addiction and gave the opinion that Wilson posed a moderate risk of future violence to the community if he were to be released on parole.

During his first parole hearing in 2021, Wilson admitted to the Board of Parole Hearings that he continued to illegally use drugs while in prison up until 2017. He also admitted having participated in over 50 burglaries whenever he was not in jail or prison. While the panel denied him parole in 2021 for three years, Wilson obtained approval from the Board to advance his hearing a year early.

Prosecutor Vasquez asked the Board to deny Wilson's release, arguing that he still posed an unreasonable risk of violence to the people of Stanislaus County. After deliberations, the Board granted parole, noting that Wilson had attended several rehabilitation programs since his last hearing and showed significant insight into the causative reasons for his criminality. The Board also believed his parole plans were well thought out and even provided for possible employment despite his physical limitations.

This was Wilson's second parole hearing. 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 refer to the full Board sitting *en banc* or let the grant of parole stand.

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