



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 11, 2023
Re: Eddie Lee Patterson, Jr.
"Three Strikes" Inmate Denied Parole

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Eddie Lee Patterson, Jr., age 57, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole during a June 6, 2023, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad. Deputy District Attorney Holly MacKinnon appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

In August of 1996, Patterson entered a 7-Eleven convenience store in Ceres, walked directly to the counter and demanded money from the cash register. Patterson told the store clerk he had a gun. Approximately a week later Patterson entered the same 7-Eleven store and again demanded money from the clerk and acted as if he had a handgun in his belt. He was arrested and placed into custody. At the time of his arrest, Patterson was a parolee-at-large.

Patterson's adult criminal history is extensive and includes prior convictions for robbery, burglary, vandalism, possession of controlled substances for sale, theft related offenses, parole violations and he has served five prior prison terms.

On July 14, 1997, Patterson pled guilty to robbery with priors. His prior serious and violent felony convictions under California's "Three Strikes" law were used to increase his sentence to 25 years to life in state prison.

Since his admission to prison, Patterson has committed nine rule violations including but not limited to refusal to work, refusing to provide urine sample, and obtaining by theft.

A prison psychologist who examined Patterson prior to the parole hearing gave the opinion that Patterson still posed a moderate risk for violence if he were to be released into the community. The psychologist found concerning Patterson's limited awareness into the factors that contributed to his previous violence and antisocial behaviors. The psychologist found that Patterson lacked specific plans to participate in substance abuse treatment programs if he were released.

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Prosecutor MacKinnon asked the Board to deny parole, pointing out that Patterson's inadequate parole plans coupled with his lack of sustained substance abuse treatment and participation make him an unreasonable risk of danger to the community if he were to be released from prison.

After deliberations, the Board denied parole for three years, stating that, although Patterson had shown progress in some areas, his extensive criminal history and lack of internalization of the limited amount of programming he had done weighed against his suitability for parole. The Board found that Patterson needed to improve his parole plans, including developing a cohesive relapse plan before returning to the community, and he needed to participate in more targeted substance abuse treatment.

This was Patterson's fourth parole hearing. Due to his age, he is eligible for elder parole consideration and may petition the Board for another hearing earlier than three years should his circumstances support it.

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