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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: August 7, 2023
Re: Sammy Theo Dorsey
Three Strike Inmate Granted Parole

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Sammy Theo Dorsey, age 77, formerly from Modesto was found suitable for parole during a June 28, 2023, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville. Deputy District Attorney Margot Roen appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

In December of 1997, Dorsey sold heroin to an undercover officer from the Modesto Police Department. On the first day, Dorsey sold .11 grams of tar heroin to the officer for ten dollars. The following day, he sold two packets of heroin, each weighing .07 grams, for twenty dollars each. Dorsey was arrested and charged with two counts of sale of a controlled substance along with allegations he had suffered three prior serious felony convictions under California's "Three Strikes" Law.

After waiving his right to a jury, Dorsey was convicted after a court trial of the charged offenses. The prior serious felony conviction allegations were also found true. Dorsey was subsequently sentenced to serve two concurrent prison terms of 25 years to life.

At the conclusion of the hearing on June 28th, the Board gave special consideration to Dorsey's status as an elderly parole candidate, finding that he was legally blind and suffered from myriad health issues which made him suitable for parole. The Board supported its decision by citing to Dorsey's adequate period of positive rehabilitation since being incarcerated. They also placed conditions on his parole, ordering him to continue participating in a substance abuse treatment program and refrain from using or possessing controlled substances or marijuana without a medical prescription.

This was Dorsey's second parole hearing, having been previously denied release in 2020 due to his lack of programming and rules violations while incarcerated. The Board's decision is subject to review and does not become final for 120 days. Dorsey had served approximately 25 years and five months of his original prison sentence.

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