



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: September 11, 2023  
Re: Adam Valdobinos  
Convicted Killer Denied Parole

### For More Information Contact:

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**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Adam Valdobinos, age 45, formerly of Stanislaus County was found unsuitable for parole during an August 17, 2023, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the Substance Abuse Treatment Facility in Stockton. Deputy District Attorney Victoria Vasquez appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

In June of 2003, Valdobinos killed 39-year-old Roberto Jimenez during a home invasion robbery that Valdobinos and others had planned in advance. After entering the victim's home Valdobinos shot the victim four times, killing him. Valdobinos later said he thought that the victim was reaching for a weapon. The victim's body was found when family and friends checked on Jimenez after not having seen him for several days.

Just four months later, on October 12, 2003, Jesse Watson, Jr., then age 48, approached Valdobinos and others at a Modesto apartment complex. When Watson asked if Valdobinos and his friends were part of his relative's group, Valdobinos' group answered with several racial responses. When Watson replied, Valdobinos stabbed him in the face, hands, chest, abdomen and arm, killing him.

In July of 2008 Valdobinos pled guilty to the voluntary manslaughter of Roberto Jimenez and admitted using a gun during the crime.

Subsequent to that plea, after hearing evidence in the case, a Stanislaus County Superior Court jury convicted Valdobinos of second-degree murder with the use of a deadly weapon in the killing of Jesse Watson.

On August 8, 2008, Judge Nancy Leo sentenced Valdobinos to serve 15 years for the killing of Roberto Jimenez and life with the possibility of parole for the killing of Jesse Watson to be run consecutively.

During the parole hearing on August 17<sup>th</sup>, Valdobinos told the Board there was no reason why he murdered Watson, except that he might have felt “disrespected” at the time. Valdobinos admitted his ties to a criminal street gang and admitted that gang culture most likely played a role in Watson’s murder but denied there were any racial reasons involved despite the racial comments made at the time of the killing.

As to the Jimenez murder, Valdobinos confirmed his prior statement that he killed the victim because he would not give up his drugs and that his status in the gang played a part in making that decision as well. Valdobinos admitted having committed at least 12 other “rip-offs,” armed robberies for drugs and/or money for which he was never arrested, prosecuted or convicted.

When the Board questioned Valdobinos as to his criminal activity since going to prison, including possession of a cell phone, battery on another inmate and an offense related to his use of heroin, Valdobinos admitted that he had been involved in drug trafficking inside the institution.

Several of the victims’ family members spoke to the panel asking that parole be denied. Prosecutor Vasquez argued for continued confinement based on Valdobinos’ extensive and violent criminal history both in, and out of, prison as well as the brutal circumstances surrounding the Watson murder which Valdobinos committed just four months after killing Roberto Jimenez.

After deliberations, the Board of Parole Hearings denied parole for five years. In rendering their decision, the Board found that Valdobinos had several factors weighing against his release including his continuing lack of control as reflected in the two brutal and callous killings he committed, the minimal positive changes made since coming to prison and his documented illegal activity while in prison custody. The Board recommended Valdobinos engage in additional programming and not commit any new additional violations.

This was Valdobinos’ first parole hearing. He will be eligible for another hearing in 2028, although he may petition the Board of Parole Hearings to advance that date if he can demonstrate a change in circumstances.

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