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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: March 27, 2024
Re: Scott Allen McCurry
Convicted Torturer Denied Parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Scott Allen McCurry, age 53, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole during a March 20, 2024, initial parole hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Avenal State Prison. Deputy District Attorney James H. Langston appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On October 25, 2016, McCurry attacked his estranged girlfriend when she came to his residence to pick up her belongings. After letting her inside, McCurry proceeded to threaten, beat and sexually assault the victim over the next several hours. She suffered various cuts and bruises all over her body and scarring on her leg from McCurry burning her with a butane torch. The victim eventually escaped and showed up at a local hospital for treatment of her injuries. When contacted by police, McCurry denied committing any crimes and claimed all the acts were consensual.

On August 25, 2017, after a week-long trial, a Stanislaus County jury convicted McCurry of one count of torture and one count of felony domestic violence with a great bodily injury enhancement. He was also convicted of several counts of misdemeanor assault and battery.

On December 11, 2017, the trial court sentenced McCurry to life in prison with the possibility of parole with a mandatory sentence of seven years. In addition, the court imposed a consecutive five-year term for a serious felony enhancement, and stated that the total sentence for the torture conviction was twelve years to life.

A prison psychologist who interviewed McCurry prior to the parole hearing gave the opinion that McCurry still posed a moderate risk for future violence if he were to be released into the community. McCurry told the prison psychologist that he did not burn the victim.

At the hearing, McCurry again stated that he did not burn the victim and that the bruises sustained by the victim were caused by someone else in a separate incident. The Board took note that McCurry blamed other people about what happened several times during the hearing.

Prosecutor Langston asked the Board to deny McCurry parole due to his need for continued rehabilitation, risk of harm to the community, and lack of insight as to the magnitude of the offense. He argued that McCurry is unsuitable as he would pose a current risk of dangerousness to society if released, particularly in future dating relationships.

After deliberations, the Board denied parole for a period of three years. The Board considered mitigating factors that McCurry completed programming and developed good release plan. They found that these factors were outweighed by the aggravating factors that McCurry still posed a moderate risk for violence, has long history of substance abuse including a relapse while incarcerated back in 2018, he sustained a prior parole violation in a past case, and the dangerousness of the commitment offense. The Commissioner commented that McCurry lured the victim out of another relationship and then became angry when he suspected infidelity.

The Board said McCurry needs to have a deeper understanding of the programming that he has completed, as his current account of the incident indicates that he does not appreciate the magnitude of the commitment offense and the surrounding circumstances. The Commissioner applauded McCurry's programming accomplishments and lack of any misconduct while incarcerated, but his denial of the circumstances of the case has inhibited his ability to receive treatment for the conduct.

This was McCurry's first parole hearing. He will be eligible for another parole hearing in 2027 although that date may be advanced if he can demonstrate to the board a change in circumstances.

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