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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: October 2, 2024
Re: Anthony Joseph Villavicencio
"Three Strikes" Villavicencio Denied Parole

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Anthony Joseph Villavicencio, age 52, of Modesto was denied parole after a September 26, 2024, initial parole hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Corcoran State Prison in Corcoran, California. Deputy District Attorney James H. Langston appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On October 8, 1992, while at a party, Villavicencio committed the crimes of rape, oral copulation, and sodomy, all by force, against a child who was under the age of 14. Villavicencio was sentenced to six years in state prison, and he was later released on parole. His criminal history included prior convictions for resisting arrest, sexual battery, theft, and a violation of probation.

On November 2, 2000, following a physical fight with his wife Villavicencio punched his wife's four-year-old child in the face and grabbed the child's neck and squeezed it. The child sustained a cut lip and redness around his neck. Villavicencio entered a plea to willful cruelty to a child and received a second state prison term of 25 years to life. His prior serious and violent felony convictions under California's "Three Strikes" law were used to support this sentence.

On January 22, 2016, while in custody, Villavicencio assaulted two correctional officers. One of the officers had to receive dental implants for broken and chipped teeth, sustained a concussion, and was taken off work for eight months due to the attack. At trial, the jury found Villavicencio guilty of two counts of assault on a person causing great bodily injury. Villavicencio was sentenced to *Thompson Terms* of 25 years to life. On May 20, 2016, Villavicencio committed another battery on a correctional officer and received an additional four years to his sentence.

At the initial parole hearing on September 26, 2024, prosecutor Langston argued to the Board that Villavicencio should not be released, citing a lack of insight and remorse, minimization of the offenses, 20 rule violations while in prison, a lack of programming to address his violent tendencies, and that he still poses an unreasonable risk of danger to the public. At the hearing Villavicencio admitted to his sex crimes and assault on his wife's child, but he disagreed about the details of his assault on the correctional officers. He stated that he did not complete more programming because he believed that the board would deny parole. Throughout the hearing Villavicencio interrupted the Commissioner several times.

On June 29, 2022, a psychologist attempted to conduct an interview with Villavicencio, but he refused to participate without an attorney. The psychologist gave the opinion that he poses a high risk for violence based on available medical records, his criminal history, and his performance while in prison.

At the hearing before the Parole Board, Presiding Commissioner Sheffield found there were many aggravating factors including Villavicencio's criminal history, inability to control his anger, the facts of his offenses remain relevant to current dangerousness, inadequate programming, 20 rule violations in prison including two violent assaults that resulted in convictions, lack of a release plan, and having a high risk for violence. Commissioner Sheffield told Villavicencio, "No one can do rehabilitation but you," and that she heard a lot of excuses and victim blaming from Villavicencio during the hearing. Deputy Commissioner Stern concurred in the opinion.

The Board recommended that Villavicencio work on remaining discipline free, obtain programming in the areas of sex offending, domestic violence and anger management, and to develop a release plan.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board denied parole for seven years. This was Villavicencio's first parole hearing. Villavicencio will be eligible for another hearing in 2031, 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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