



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Stanislaus County

832 12th Street, Suite 300
Modesto, CA 95354

Mailing: P. O. Box 442, Modesto, CA 95353
Phone: (209) 525-5550 Fax: (209) 525-5545

Birgit Fladager
District Attorney
Carol Shipley
Assistant District Attorney

Chief Deputy District
Attorneys
Jerry Begen
Alan Cassidy
Dave Harris

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Carol Shipley

Date: December 9, 2009

Assistant District Attorney

Re: RODRIGO OROZCO LIFER HEARING

Phone: (209) 525-5550

Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Rodrigo Orozco age 45 , formerly of Snelling, was found unsuitable for parole at a December 7, 2009 hearing of the State Board of Prison Hearings at Solano State Prison. Senior Deputy District Attorney Doug Maner opposed Orozco's parole and requested continued confinement based on lack of rehabilitation, poor parole plans and significant disciplinary history while incarcerated.

At his last parole hearing in 2008, the inmate was granted parole, over the opposition of the District Attorney's office. The parole grant was reversed by the Governor's office, and a new hearing ordered. At this hearing, the Parole Board followed the District Attorney's recommendations and denied parole for 5 more years-- two years more than the minimum parole denial length under the recently passed "Marsy's Law." The parole decision reversal was largely due to the fact that the inmate's answers to the Board's and District Attorney's questions indicated that he had not accepted full responsibility for the murder, was not rehabilitated and still posed an unacceptable risk to society. This was Orozco's 7th parole hearing.

In 1983, Orozco's mother, selling items door to door, attempted to sell her products to George Shafer. Shafer, who was 78 and senile, displayed a large amount of cash to her. Orozco learned from his mother that Shafer had a significant amount of cash and that he was a weak elderly man. Orozco then planned to rob him with an accomplice, Manuel Barcello. Orozco and Barcello gagged Shafer's mouth and tied him up by the neck, hands and feet, and also beat him fracturing 7 ribs, even though he was in no position to resist. They then stole his cash and 2 guns and left him hogtied. Shafer strangled to death within a few hours. Within weeks, Orozco was caught and confessed, claiming that he was addicted to heroin and committed the theft to obtain money to buy drugs. Both Orozco and Barcello were convicted of first degree murder, robbery and burglary in 1983, and sentenced to life in prison. Barcello's most recent parole request was denied in 2006 and his next hearing will be in 2011.