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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 27, 2017
Re: Phillip Wade Knight
Life inmate parole denied

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Phillip Wade Knight, age 65, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole during a July 19, 2017 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Folsom prison. Deputy District Attorney Jeffrey Laugero appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

In 1996, Knight and an accomplice were casing the Radio Shack business in Century Center to commit a robbery. A concerned citizen called police, who responded and found Knight hiding behind a garbage can in an alleyway. When confronted, Knight turned and fired a shotgun at one of the officers from approximately 8 feet away. The officer reacted upon seeing the shotgun and avoided being shot by dropping to the ground and returning fire. The second officer fired as Knight ran towards him, still armed with the shotgun. Knight was wounded and taken into custody.

Knight was convicted of attempted first degree murder with a firearm, conspiracy to commit armed robbery, assault with a firearm on a police officer and felon in possession of a firearm. He was sentenced to a life term in prison with the possibility of parole.

At the parole hearing, Deputy District Attorney Laugero argued for continued confinement based on Knight's lack of insight into his crime and the risk to public safety if he were to be released. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for 3 years.

Knight had previously been denied parole for three years in 2016 but was allowed to advance the date sooner due to recent changes in the law. Even with this latest three-year denial, the new rules allow Knight to be scheduled for another parole hearing in as early as 18 months.

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