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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: June 29, 2018
Re: Gary Allen Goldsmith
Parole Granted

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that convicted killer Gary Allen Goldsmith, age 57, of Modesto, was found suitable for parole during a June 14, 2018 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville. Deputy District Attorney Jeff Mangar appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

Goldsmith was convicted of first degree murder on November 12, 1999, for the stabbing death of his friend Reggie Larison. After they both smoked crack cocaine, Goldsmith had delusions that Larison was going to hurt Goldsmith's family so Goldsmith stabbed the victim twice in the chest. He was sentenced to 25 years-to-life in state prison for the killing.

At the Parole hearing, Deputy District Attorney Mangar opposed Goldsmith's release based on the inmate's continued mental health issues which played a part in the murder. As recently as 2012, Goldsmith had symptoms of auditory hallucinations, paranoid delusions, and schizophrenia whereby he was prescribed psychiatric medication by the prison psychiatrist and placed in the Mental Health Crisis Unit. In 2016, a prison psychologist who evaluated Goldsmith gave the opinion that he still posed a moderate risk for violence if released into the community. Goldsmith told the parole board that if he is released, his parole plans include receiving SSI and disability benefits due to health problems. He is currently confined to a wheelchair.

At his first parole hearing in 2017, Goldsmith was determined to be an unreasonable risk to public safety and the board denied parole for three years. The board could have denied his parole for 5, 7 or 15 years but chose not to. Under recent changes in the law, the 3-year-denial allowed Goldsmith to accelerate his hearing to June of 2018. Just one year after being deemed a risk to public safety, the Parole Commissioners decided Goldsmith was suitable for parole.

Goldsmith will be released from prison unless this decision is overturned by Governor Jerry Brown.

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