

## Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## PRESS RELEASE

## For Immediate Release

## **For More Information Contact:**

Date: July 25, 2019 Re: Richard Alexander Richardson Parole denied John Goold, Public Information Liaison Phone: (209) 525-6909

**Modesto, California** - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Richard Alexander Richardson, age 46, formerly of Modesto, was found unsuitable for parole today during his initial hearing before the State Board of Parole Hearings held at San Quentin State Prison. Deputy District Attorney John Goold appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People opposing release on parole.

Richardson's criminal career began when he started committing thefts as a juvenile and accelerated into violent crime after he became a member of the Blood criminal street gang. In 1991, Richardson initiated a shooting attack on police officers with 25 of his gang friends. Afterwards, he fled to his mother in Illinois but was caught and extradited back to California. He was convicted of assault with a deadly weapon on a peace officer and sentenced to serve six years in state prison. After he was released on parole, Richardson came home to Modesto and participated in a home invasion robbery with other gang members, terrorizing the family in the home and a small child. He was convicted at jury trial in 1998 and sentenced by Judge David VanderWall to serve a determinate term of 47 years in state prison.

In December of 2018, outgoing Governor Jerry Brown commuted Richardson's sentence so that he would be eligible for a parole hearing.

During today's hearing, the Board heard evidence of Richardson's continued gang activity while incarcerated which included trafficking in marijuana between prison buildings and various rule violations involving impulsivity and continued criminal thinking. The Board also disagreed with several statements in the prison psychologist's comprehensive risk assessment that opined that Richardson posed a low risk to reoffend if released from prison.

After deliberations, the Board of Parole Hearings denied Richardson parole for a period of three years.

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