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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: May 4, 2021
Re: Delbert Dwayne Tinsley
Convicted killer parole granted

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Birgit Fladager announced today that Delbert Dwayne Tinsley, age 49, was found suitable for parole at an April 13, 2021 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at the California Institute for Men prison in Chino, California. Deputy District Attorney Andrew Brown attended the hearing on behalf of the District Attorney's Office.

On June 1, 1998, a young student on his way to school saw two men loading a body into the back of a car on Chrysler Drive in Modesto. He reported what he saw to school officials who notified Modesto Police. Responding officers detained three people at the home, including Tinsley. Police found blood and other evidence indicating a violent crime had occurred.

At the same time, San Joaquin County Sheriff's Deputies were called to a report of a woman's body being found in a canal near Escalon. The body of 39-year-old Cindy Lou Hubbard was recovered from the canal. She had multiple wounds to her body. The coroner determined she had died from drowning.

Investigation revealed that Tinsley, then 26 years old, had beaten Hubbard with a fireplace poker and stabbed her in the garage of his home. When he discovered she was still alive he stomped on her and got a co-defendant to help him put her in the trunk of his car. They drove her to Escalon and dumped her, still alive, onto a canal bank where she slid into the water and drowned.

Tinsley was convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to 17 years to life in prison. While in prison, he violated prison rules including participating in a riot, disobeying orders, refusing to work, and assaulting other inmates. He was a member of the Norteno prison gang until 2010. He was also sentenced to an additional two years, eight months of consecutive prison time after being found in possession of a deadly weapon.

At the hearing, prosecutor Brown argued against Tinsley's release based on his lack of insight into what led him to murder Hubbard and his inability to articulate how he would control his anger if released from prison. A comprehensive risk assessment by a prison psychologist opined that Tinsley represents a moderate risk for future violence.

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After deliberations, the Board found Tinsley no longer posed an unreasonable risk to public safety and was suitable for parole. The Board noted that Tinsley had not committed any prison rule violations in over 10 years and had taken substantial self-improvement classes while in prison including AA, anger management and domestic violence.

Tinsley has been in prison for 23 years. This was his fourth parole hearing. He was previously denied parole for three years in 2020.

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