



Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: January 6, 2023
Re: Buon Duong
Parole Denied

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Buon Duong of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole during a December 23, 2022 hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the California City Correctional Facility in Kern County. Deputy District Attorney Angela Russell appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

On Saturday, November 23, 2002, a fight broke out between two Asian criminal street gangs attending a party in Modesto. Duong, one of the gang members involved in the fight, shot at several of the other gang members. As people began fleeing the scene, the victim, who had fired a revolver at Duong's gang, was unable to escape and ended up being beaten down to the pavement. Duong then ran up to the victim yelling "I'm gonna kill him" and shot the victim as he lay on the ground with his hands covering his head. An autopsy showed the victim was shot in the head and neck, and had injuries consistent with being kicked and hit in the face.

After avoiding arrest for two years, on January 26, 2012 Duong pled no contest to voluntary manslaughter and assault with a firearm along with an enhancement on each count for personally using a firearm. He was sentenced by Judge Thomas Zeff to an agreed upon total term of 23 years and 4 months in state prison.

Since going to prison, Duong has violated prison rules including committing battery on an inmate and possession of a cellphone on two occasions. A prison psychologist who interviewed him noted that despite being a self-admitted member of an Asian Security Threat Group, Duong denied belonging to any prison gangs. Duong told the psychologist he did not initially feel any remorse, but felt justified in the killing because the rival gang also had firearms. The doctor gave the opinion that Duong still posed a moderate risk of future violence to the community if he were to be released on parole.

Prosecutor Russell argued against parole and for continued confinement based on Duong's lack of insight into the commitment offense, that he still posed a moderate threat of danger to the community, and his lack of any viable parole plans. The Board of Parole Hearings agreed and denied parole for a period of three years.

This was Duong's first parole hearing based on "youthful offender" eligibility. He will be scheduled for another hearing in three years.

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