



# Office of the District Attorney Stanislaus County

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

Date: September 19, 2024  
Re: Levi Anthony Oliver  
Brutal Murderer Granted Parole

### **For More Information Contact:**

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Levi Anthony Oliver, age 43, of Twin Falls, Idaho was found suitable for parole at his second suitability hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings at Mule Creek State Prison in Ione, CA. Deputy District Attorney Victoria Vasquez appeared at the hearing on behalf of the people.

At the age of 14 years old, Oliver, his mother Terry Harrison, his brother and two friends went looking to steal a car so Harrison could use it to obtain drugs. The group initially walked by the car of a 74-year-old World War II homeless veteran but returned to the vehicle and elderly occupant because the victim was, according to Oliver, an "easy target." Oliver and his friend overpowered the victim and held him down as his mother drove them in the stolen car to a park. Oliver pushed the victim out of the vehicle and kicked him several times in the head. Oliver kicked the victim so hard that the victim's teeth left marks on Oliver's shoes. Rather than leaving the injured victim at the park, Oliver helped put the victim in the trunk. The victim repeatedly tried to escape from the trunk by beating on the trunk lid or pulling the brake light. Oliver and the two friends took the victim's car with the victim still in the trunk to a barn. Upon arrival, they became concerned that they would be discovered in the barn, so they drove into an orchard where Oliver helped bind, gag, and wrap the victim in a sheet. Oliver helped stuff the bound and gagged victim into an irrigation pipe. Oliver then kicked the victim deeper into the pipe and told his friend to seal the valve. Afterwards, Oliver and the two friends went for cinnamon rolls.

In separate proceedings, Oliver, Harrison, Oliver's brother and the two friends were convicted for their roles in the murder. A jury found Inmate Oliver guilty of first-degree murder, kidnapping during a carjacking, carjacking and robbery. In sentencing Oliver, the Honorable David G. Vanderwall recognized the victim was a war veteran, wasn't hurting anybody and was very vulnerable. The judge found Oliver was a serious threat to the community and his acts of juvenile violence were increasing, noting Oliver was on probation at the time of the murder. The court recognized Oliver had engaged in a life of crime before the murder was ever committed.

After issuing these statements, Judge Vanderwall sentenced Oliver to 25 to life for the murder of the victim with a consecutive sentence of life for the charge of kidnapping during a carjacking. The sentence for the remaining counts was stayed.

On December 21, 1999, the Fifth Appellate District affirmed Oliver's conviction reversing the conviction of carjacking and maintaining the sentence as ordered.

While in prison, Oliver committed several rules violations including use and possession of pharmaceuticals not prescribed to him, possession of inmate manufactured alcohol and fighting. In the fighting incident, Oliver would not stop when directed and correctional officers had to use pepper spray to end the fight.

In 2020, Oliver came before the Board of Parole as a youthful offender and waived his parole suitability for three years recognizing that he still needed to complete programming and that he was an unreasonable risk to public safety. On March 1, 2023, Oliver appeared before the Board of Parole and was found unsuitable for parole based on his inability to address his triggers for anger, his lack of programming for substance abuse and his need to engage in therapy. However, Oliver's parole suitability hearing was advanced to this year due to his lack of rules violations, even though Oliver did not complete the recommended programming.

When granting Oliver parole, the Board remarked on Oliver's youth at the time of the offense, blaming the circumstances of Oliver's youth for the offense and remarking that all the other defendants had already been released from prison leaving the youngest defendant, Oliver, to remain in prison. The prosecutor argued Oliver's prior violent offenses and Oliver's own prior statements reflected he knew he could have stopped and released the victim at any time, but he chose not to do so. Though the youngest defendant, Oliver played the most active, violent and callous role in the brutal murder of the victim. Oliver told the Board in 2023 that he was motivated to kill the victim to gain status in his gang and to protect himself.

The Board also observed Oliver's feelings of remorse and believed Oliver showed signs of significant offender change. The prosecutor argued that Oliver's prior psychologists recognized Oliver's ability to appear cooperative while maintaining his level of hostility.

In recommending Oliver for release on parole, the Board agreed with the prison psychologist who opined Oliver was a low risk if released. Therefore, the Board found Oliver was not an unreasonable risk to public safety. In the next four months, the Governor will review the Board's recommendation and determine whether to release Oliver on parole.

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