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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: November 18, 2024
Re: Paul Anthony Lopez Jr.
Convicted Attempted Murderer

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California - Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Paul Anthony Lopez Jr., age 51, of Modesto was granted parole after a November 14, 2024, initial parole hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at Mule Creek State Prison in Ione, California. Deputy District Attorney James H. Langston appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People.

In 2007 Lopez was convicted of attempted murder in the first-degree of Kenneth Lindsay. Lopez was in custody related to charges for assault with a firearm when he punched Mr. Lindsay, another inmate. After punching Mr. Lindsay, Lopez stomped on his head and proceeded to assault Mr. Lindsay with other gang members to enforce gang policy. Lopez was sentenced to serve 15 years-to-life.

Lopez submitted a petition for resentencing and a hearing was heard the same day on November 14, 2024, before the Honorable Stanislaus Superior Court Judge Reeves. The petition is currently pending a written ruling.

A psychologist who interviewed Lopez on August 20, 2024, gave the opinion that Lopez poses a moderate (medium moderate) risk for violence. This included a consideration of Lopez's gang affiliation history, substance abuse, and lack of violence for the past six years.

At the initial parole hearing on November 14, 2024, Prosecutor Langston recommended a denial of parole based on the psychologist's assessment that Lopez poses a moderate risk for violence, his association with gangs in prison up until 2019, the fact he provided incomplete information to the psychologist regarding his domestic violence history, and since he assisted other inmates evade restitution payments in 2022 by placing money on their books via his family members.

The Board found that Lopez had gained insight into his crimes and did not minimize his conduct during the hearing. The Board noted that Lopez testified honestly and did not deflect blame or minimize his conduct. Commissioner Ndudim found that the mitigating factors outweighed the aggravating factors based on Lopez's detailed parole relapse prevention plan, significant programming completed by Lopez, and numerous laudatory letters written by high-ranking officers at CDCR.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board granted parole. Commissioner Ndudim imposed parole terms that will require Lopez to utilize transitional housing, avoid all alcohol and places that serve alcohol, submit to drug testing, avoid gang activity, have no contact with the victims or victim's families of his crimes, and he must attend a 52-week counseling program for batterer's treatment.

The decision of the grant is not final and will be reviewed by the Board of Parole within 120 days. After their recommendation, the grant will go to the Governor for review within 30 days of the Board of Parole's review.

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