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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: December 10, 2024
Re: Sengaloun Khattiyavong
Murder and Attempted Murder Inmate denied
parole

For More Information Contact:

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Modesto, California – Stanislaus County District Attorney Jeff Laugero announced today that Sengaloun Khattiyavong, age 44, of Modesto was found unsuitable for parole during a November 20, 2024, hearing of the State Board of Parole Hearings held at the Valley State Prison. Deputy District Attorney Amy Elliott Neumann appeared at the hearing on behalf of the People and argued against Khattiyavong's release.

On February 21, 1999, Asian Boyz gang member Sengaloun Khattiyavong was with two other gang members as they were leaving a crowded party of over 50 people, when he pulled out a concealed firearm and began shooting at the unarmed crowd. Khattiyavong and his cohorts had loaded the guns with bullets using white gloves, so no fingerprints remained. No one at the party was shooting at Khattiyavong or his friends. Khattiyavong and his friends fired over 50 rounds of ammunition into the crowd at the party, killing a 15-year-old and wounding three other men. The jury found Khattiyavong guilty of premeditated first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder, four counts of attempted murder and participation in a criminal street gang. Khattiyavong was sentenced to 155 years to life in prison.

Since Khattiyavong was 18 years old at the time of the crime, his parole date was advanced, and the Board was required to give substantial weight and consideration to his youth factors.

At the parole hearing, Khattiyavong admitted he engaged in a scheme in 2021, to avoid paying restitution by putting money on other inmate's accounts, including former or current gang members. Prosecutor Neumann urged the Board not to release Khattiyavong because of his persistent criminal thinking as evidenced by his violation of prison rules to avoid paying restitution, and his 2021 rule violation of possession of a cell phone. Prosecutor Neumann argued that Khattiyavong needed more programming to address his persistent criminal thinking. Prosecutor Neumann pointed out that Khattiyavong's description of the crime showed a lack of insight and a lack of understanding of the callous disregard for human life exhibited in his life crime.

After deliberations, the Board determined that while Khattiyavong qualified for youthful offender considerations, he posed a current risk to public safety. The Board determined that Khattiyavong's persistent criminal thinking showed a lack of insight and insufficient offender change. The Board determined that Khattiyavong needed to remain discipline free and needed to internalize his self-help programming. The Board denied parole for three years.

This was Khattiyavong's second parole hearing.

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