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PRESS RELEASE

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

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DATE: March 11, 2022

The Board of Parole denied parole for Harrill Hill on March 10, 2022. He is currently serving a life sentence, following his 1976 conviction for the murder of California Highway Patrol Officer Alfred Turner. Mr. Hill was originally sentenced to death in 1976. The sentence was reduced to life with parole by the California Supreme Court, during a period of time when the U.S. Supreme Court had temporarily ruled the death penalty unconstitutional.

Ofc. Turner was shot and killed on December 4, 1975, during a routine traffic stop. After pulling his car to the side of the road, Mr. Hill told his passenger he was going to kill the officer and then exited his car. He immediately fired his .357 magnum handgun at Ofc. Turner, striking Ofc. Turner twice. Mr. Hill then approached Ofc. Turner and pointed his gun at the officer's head. Although he was mortally wounded, Ofc. Turner fought back and pushed the gun away from his head. He was also able to utilize his duty weapon, firing upon and wounding Hill. Ofc. Turner later died of his wounds. Mr. Hill was a previously convicted felon. He was driving a stolen car at the time of his attack on Ofc. Turner. Mr. Hill also had a history of prior violent acts against police officers and citizens, including a previous shooting.

The Parole Board found Mr. Hill currently poses an unreasonable risk of danger to the community if released. The decision was based on Mr. Hill's a lack of remorse, his lack of insight regarding the murder, a lack of credibility, and a lack of insight into his drug addiction.

Family members of Ofc. Turner and a Deputy District Attorney were present for the hearing, advocating against Mr. Hill's release. This was Mr. Hill's fourteenth appearance before the Parole Board. He will again be eligible to seek parole in five years and under certain circumstances could renew his petition for parole in just three years. In rendering it's decision last Thursday, the Board recommended that Mr. Hill continue to participate in available rehabilitative services by taking additional courses, including anger management and victim impact and awareness courses.

The District Attorney's Office routinely monitors and advocates at Parole Board hearings involving Merced County parolees. Merced County District Attorney Kimberly Lewis made the following comment:

The District Attorney's Office vigilantly protects Merced County from offenders who continue to pose a threat to the community after conviction and sentencing. In addition to Parole Board Hearings, our office litigates in opposition to petitions to be resentenced following changes in the law, we respond to requests for pardon and clemency that are submitted to the Governor, and we prosecute sexually violent predators. We also support victims of crime, sometimes for decades, as they navigate a life altered by crime. We are grateful to the Parole Board for their careful scrutiny in this case and for their willingness to listen to the concerns raised by our office and Officer Turner's family.

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