

JEFFREY S. ROSELL
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



**OFFICE OF
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ**

Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Room 200
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2400
dao@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Website

<http://datinternet.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 13, 2020**

Contact: Yukiko Orii (831) 454-2400

CONVICTED FELON MANUEL MURILLO DENIED PAROLE

Santa Cruz County District Attorney Jeffrey S. Rosell announced today that Manuel Murillo was denied parole for his role in the attempted murder of two Watsonville Police Department Officers in 1999. Murillo appeared in front of a panel for the California Board of Parole Hearings at the Salinas Valley State Prison. Assistant District Attorney Yukiko Orii attended the hearing.

On May 5, 1999, the defendant stole a truck at gunpoint in Monterey County, consumed alcohol and cocaine, and picked up three strangers. On the morning of May 6, 1999, Watsonville Police Department Corporal Murray spotted and approached the truck. The defendant fired multiple shots at Corporal Murray, hitting him twice in the leg, then sped away, traveling down Main Street in the wrong direction at dangerously high speeds. During high-speed the pursuit, which involved many officers, the defendant hit a Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office patrol car and fired multiple shots at Watsonville Police Department Officer Chagnon. While fleeing in the wrong direction down Soquel Drive near Cabrillo College, the defendant struck another truck, gravely injuring the driver.

Murray's tibia was shattered just below his knee, Chagnon was treated for various injuries, and the driver of the other truck suffered multiple fractured bones. The three passengers in the defendant's truck, who all miraculously avoided bullet wounds, suffered cuts, scrapes, and bruises. The defendant's crimes spanned two counties, required the efforts of four law enforcement agencies, caused injuries to multiple victims, and endangered countless lives along the way.

Since his incarceration, the defendant has continued to engage in violent behavior, including incidents in which he caused life threatening injuries to an inmate and loss of consciousness to a correctional officer. Regarding the Board's decision, Orii said, "The defendant lacks both the insight and remorse and continues to be violent. We sincerely thank the officers and agencies who helped us in objecting to the defendant's release."

Rosell added, "We would like to thank the (Parole) Board for their decision to keep the defendant behind bars. We feel that this decision is appropriate and just, and that our community will be safer as a result."