



NAPA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

1127 First Street, Suite C
Napa, CA 94559

Main: (707) 253-4211
Fax: (707) 253-4041
www.countyofnapa.org/da

ALLISON HALEY
District Attorney

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PRESS RELEASE

NAPA ATTEMPT MURDERER DENIED PAROLE

Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced that Daniel Allan Aitkens, aged 54, was denied parole after a November 14, 2018 hearing before the Board of Parole Hearings at the Deuel Vocational Institution in Tracy.

On October 22, 2000, Aitkens repeatedly stabbed Felipe Garcia with a knife. Mr. Garcia, a stranger to Aitkens, was walking home alone in downtown Napa when Aitkens jumped out from behind a tree and attacked him. Mr. Garcia suffered serious injuries, but survived and recovered. Aitkens was found at the scene but denied all involvement.

Aitkens pled not guilty and the case went to jury trial. He was convicted by a Napa jury of premeditated and deliberated attempted murder, with enhancements for use of a deadly weapon and infliction of great bodily injury. The court found true the enhancement that Aitkens committed the crime while he was released on bail. Aitkens was sentenced to life imprisonment plus six years. While in the Napa County Detention Center, Aitkens attacked another inmate and was convicted of felony assault causing great bodily injury, and sentenced to an additional eight years in state prison.

Assistant District Attorney Paul Gero appeared at the November 14, 2018 parole hearing and argued against release. He emphasized the callousness of the attack, misconduct while incarcerated, and only recent insight into his crime.

The members of the Parole Board agreed that Aitkens continues to pose an unreasonable risk of danger to the community if released. The Board denied release for at least three years.

The Napa County District Attorney's Office sends a representative to every parole hearing for defendants serving a life sentence for a Napa crime. District Attorney Allison Haley stated that, "the District Attorney's Office believes it is our responsibility to maintain the dignity of our convictions no matter how long ago they were obtained. We honor victims and there is no period of time that goes by that relieves us of our responsibilities to them."

Any questions regarding this case may be directed to Assistant District Attorney Paul Gero.