



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

1/13/15

PAROLE DENIED FOR TULARE MAN IN DRIVE-BY MURDER

On January 10, 2017, at Avenal State Prison, a California parole board denied parole for Jose Maria Ramirez, age 37, of Tulare, for second-degree murder committed in 2000. Ramirez received a 7 year denial and will not be eligible for another hearing until 2024.

Between January 28 and January 29, 2000 in Tulare, Ramirez and co-defendant Juan Pineda returned to a house party that they had left earlier after being involved in an altercation. Ramirez drove a car while Pineda, who was in the passenger's seat, fired several shots at partygoers outside of the residence. One shot went through the front door striking a male victim, who later died. Ramirez and Pineda were arrested a few hours later by the Tulare Police Department.

In March of 2001, Ramirez was found guilty of second-degree murder, shooting at an inhabited dwelling, and discharge of a firearm from a moving vehicle at another person. He was sentenced to 16 years to life in prison. Pineda, who pleaded no contest to murder and firearm charges, is currently serving a 40 year sentence in state prison.

The District Attorney's Office routinely attends parole hearings and a Deputy District Attorney argued against the defendant's release in this case.

*Media inquiries can be directed to the Office of the District Attorney, County of Tulare
Assistant District Attorney Dave Alavezos (559) 636-5494*