



COUNTY OF FRESNO
Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DISTRICT ATTORNEY SMITTCAMP URGING GOVERNOR BROWN TO BLOCK THE PAROLE OF CONVICTED MURDERER DAVID WEIDERT

Fresno County District Attorney Lisa A. Smittcamp is joining countless other law enforcement and community leaders in urging California's Governor Jerry Brown to block the parole release of convicted murderer David Weidert. The Governor will decide this week whether or not to overturn the Board of Parole Hearings January decision granting parole.

David Weidert was convicted for the 1980 murder of the developmentally disabled 20 year-old victim Mike Morganti. Weidert used Mike to serve as a look-out to commit a burglary, and when Mike spoke to law enforcement, Weidert silenced him by luring him into a car and taking to an isolated location. Mike was then beaten with a baseball bat and a shovel, stabbed with a knife, and forced to dig his own grave before being buried alive. Weidert was convicted of first degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison.

In February, District Attorney Smittcamp sent a letter to Governor Brown urging him to overturn the Board's decision to parole Weidert. Then on April 8th, District Attorney Smittcamp joined the family of Mike Morganti, Legislators, and Disability Rights Advocates at a News Conference on the steps of the State Capitol and urged Governor Brown to block the parole release.

“His life sentence remains relevant today – 35 years later – because he still can not begin to explain why he took Mike's life, and why he did so in a depraved and indifferent manner.”

District Attorney Smittcamp is urging all concerned citizens to contact the Governor's Office at (916) 445-2841 and asking him to stop the parole release of convicted murderer David Weidert.

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