



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 4, 2016

FRESNO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY OPPOSES CLEMENCY FOR FRAN'S MARKET MURDERER

Connie Sue Barbo, the only surviving participant in the September 1980 triple murders of Byron Schletewitz, Josephina Rocha, and Douglas White at Fran's Market, has applied to the Governor for clemency. Co-conspirator Clarence Ray Allen was executed for his role in these heinous crimes on January 17, 2006; and co-conspirator Billy Ray Hamilton died while awaiting execution on Death Row on October 22, 2007.

Instead of rejecting her application for clemency outright, the Governor has asked the Board of Parole Hearings to investigate this request.

Fresno County District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp has written to the Governor asking that clemency be rejected (see attached letter), and is urging the citizens of Fresno County to do the same.

Anyone wishing to express their opinion as to whether inmate Connie Barbo (CDCR #W-16869) should serve the balance of her life term in prison, or should be released, is invited to express their views to the Governor's Office or the Board of Parole Hearings at the following locations:

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol
c/o Legal Affairs Advisor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tammy Jones
Senior Investigator
Board of Parole Hearings
P.O. Box 4036
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

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Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

February 3, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor of California
State Capital
ATTN: Legal Affairs Secretary
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Application for Clemency for CONNIE SUE BARBO, CDCR #W-16869

Governor Brown:

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office has been informed that you are now considering clemency for inmate Connie Sue Barbo regarding her application submitted some 3½ years ago. This pertains to her 1982 convictions for three murders, an attempted murder, and an attempted robbery. Inmate Barbo is serving a prison term of life without the possibility of parole plus four years.

Our office strongly opposes any clemency consideration for this inmate, who was an active participant in one of the most notorious mass-murders in the history of Fresno County. On September 5, 1980, inmate Barbo assisted Billy Ray Hamilton in the murder of three young people, Bryon Schletewitz, Josephine Rocha (17 years old), and Douglas White (18 years old), and the attempted murder of Joe Rios at Fran's Market in Fresno. As noted by the Supreme Court, inmate Barbo told acquaintances days before the killings she had a chance to get a few thousand dollars and a hundred dollars worth of "crank" for "snuffing out a life." *People v. Allen* (1986) 42 Cal.3d 1222, 1242.

Inmate Barbo fully earned her sentence by her callous indifference to the lives of witnesses to crime and innocent lives while actively helping Hamilton commit the gruesome execution of three people. This horrifying crime still haunts the citizens of Fresno. Our office urges you to reject her undeserved and shocking attempt to gain release.

Very truly yours,

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney