



OCTOBER

COUNTY OF FRESNO

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH**

**LISA A. SMITTCAMP
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 24, 2018

DISTRICT ATTORNEY URGES GOVERNOR TO REJECT CLEMENCY BID OF DEATH ROW INMATE

Fresno County District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp has written to Governor Brown, urging him to reject the request of death row inmate Keith Zon Doolin (age 45) for executive clemency. Mr. Doolin was tried by a jury in Fresno County Superior Court in 1996 for a horrifying series of crimes from November 1994 through September 1995, in which he murdered two women and attempted to murder four others. He was convicted and was sentenced to death on June 18, 1996.

The trial judge, the Honorable James L. Quaschnick, stated at the sentencing hearing that he had no lingering doubt of the defendant's guilt. The California Supreme Court, in affirming the convictions and death penalty in full in 2009, repeatedly stated that there was "overwhelming evidence" of the defendant's guilt. In spite of that, Mr. Doolin claims that he is a "Factual (sic) Innocent Man Behind Bars," "a Proven Factual Victim of Multi-Felony Crime(s) In Progress by the Joint Govt. Agencie(s) (sic) and Agent(s)," and demands his "Automatic Release now out the Front Gate of S.Q.S.P." (San Quentin State Prison).

The Fresno County District Attorney's Office urges anyone with an interest in these crimes to write to the Governor's Office to state their views on the inmate's clemency bid. Letters should be addressed as follows:

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Thus far in 2018, Governor Brown has commuted the sentence of 45 inmates in California prisons, after granting clemency to another 37 inmates in 2017. Included in that number are two Fresno murder cases where the Governor commuted the sentences of Life Without Possibility of Parole of inmates Susan Lee Russo and Winona Marie Weathers. California prosecutors fear that the Governor will issue even more commutations prior to the end of his term on January 7, 2019.

The Media may email FCDAMedia@FresnoCountyCA.gov or contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions. A copy of D.A. Smittcamp's letter to the Governor is attached.

[95S0406]



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LISA A. SMITTCAMP
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

October 24, 2018

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

**RE: Clemency application by inmate KEITH ZON DOOLIN, CDCR #K-13400
D.A. file #95S0406**

Governor Brown:

Our office has received the attached Notice of Intent to Apply for Executive Clemency from the aforementioned death row inmate. Inmate Doolin stands convicted in 1996 for the murders of Inez Espinoza and Peggy Tucker, as well as the attempted murders of Alice Alva, Debbie Cruz, Marlene Mendibles and Stephanie Kachman. In all of his crimes, the jury found that the inmate had personally used a firearm and in each of the attempted murders, the jury found that the inmate personally inflicted great bodily injury on the victim. After finding a special circumstance of multiple murders to be true, the jury returned a verdict of death. The trial judge, The Honorable James L. Quaschnick, denied defense motions for modification of sentence and penalty modification and sentenced the inmate to death. The California Supreme Court affirmed the convictions and sentence in full on January 5, 2009.

Our office opposes any consideration of clemency for this 45-year-old inmate, for his actions over a ten-month period in 1994-1995 in murdering two Fresno sex workers and attempting to murder four others. The evidence in this case¹ showed that the inmate had an irrational hatred of women, especially prostitutes, and a history of violence against women that included inflicting pain and rape. Further, a search of the inmate's home after arrest found multiple materials that corroborated his identity as the shooter, his intent to kill and his motive for the shootings. That evidence included a sniper videotape, Soldier of Fortune magazine, various firearms and ammunition-some of which were hydro shock hollow-point cartridges (designed to expand upon impact), body armor, handcuffs, a Taser, pornography, mail-order bride materials, gun magazines and a bulletproof vest with FBI stenciled on the back.

During the trial in this case, each of the four surviving victims testified and identified the inmate as her attacker. The boyfriend of Peggy Tucker saw her enter a vehicle that the defendant was driving on the night she was murdered. Ballistics evidence proved that the defendant's Firestar

¹ Taken from the California Supreme Court opinion in *People v. Doolin* (2009) 45 Cal.4th 390

.45-caliber firearm was used to murder both Ms. Espinoza and Ms. Tucker. Shell casings found at the crime scenes of Ms. Espinoza and Ms. Kachman were fired from that same weapon.

A pistol possessed by the inmate's sister (who lived with him during the time the shootings occurred) "probably" fired the shell casings found at the crime scene of Ms. Alva. DNA testing could not exclude the inmate as a contributor of the evidence found on Ms. Espinoza's body. Tire impressions left at both crime scenes of Ms. Mendibles and Ms. Espinoza were similar to the tread on the defendant's truck tires. Further, incriminating statements made by the inmate also linked him to these crimes.

In affirming the judgment in full, the California Supreme Court variously opined that "the prosecution's evidence...provided overwhelming evidence of defendant's guilt", "[t]here was overwhelming evidence of defendant's guilt", and "...ballistics and identification testimony were strong evidence of defendant's guilt." At sentencing on June 18, 1996, the trial judge stated, "[t]he Court in independently reviewing the evidence has concluded the evidence showed beyond a reasonable doubt, and the Court itself has no lingering doubt, that the defendant committed the crimes for which he was convicted..."

In spite of that compelling evidence, the inmate continues to deny his crimes. Even in his clemency application, the inmate describes himself as "Factual (sic) Innocent Man Behind Bars Since 10-18-1995," Factual Victim of Multi-Felony Crime(s) In Progress by the Joint. Govt. Agency(s) (sic) and agents including Mens-Rea, Abuse of Power, Officer Misconduct, Fraud Upon The Court By The Officer(s) Of The Court & Other(s)," and demands his "Automatic Release now out the Front Gate of S.Q.S.P."

On behalf of the families of Inez Espinoza and Peggy Tucker, as well as Alice Alva, Debbie Cruz, Marlene Mendibles and Stephanie Kachman, our office urges you to reject this hypocritical bid for clemency. If our office can be of any further assistance in this matter, please contact me.

Very truly yours,



Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

BG

Encl. Notice of Intent to Apply for Executive Clemency