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COUNTY OF SOLANO**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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Release Date: January 20, 2017

Re: CDCR Inmate Michael D. Benton

On January 20, 2017, during a Board of Parole Hearing for inmate Michael Benton, conducted at Deuel Vocational Institute in Tracy, Solano County Deputy District Attorney Jack Harris opposed the release of Benton. The inmate was convicted of 2nd degree murder of 22-year old Michael Robinson in front of 171 Sawyer Street, Vallejo. Benton, along with two adult accomplices and Benton's younger brother, were looking for an individual who allegedly robbed and assaulted Benton's brother. The group spotted a car similar to the one they were looking for, obtained firearms from their own vehicle's trunk and confronted the two occupants, Robinson and Robinson's then pregnant girlfriend. Benton, armed with an AK-47 brandished the rifle and attempted to recover the brother's money that was allegedly stolen by someone else. Failing in that attempt, Benton tried to get information of the person he was looking for. Mr. Robinson's girlfriend attempted to exit the car, but Benton threatened to shoot her. Ultimately, Benton shot the victim in the chest twice, resulting in his death. As the suspects drove away, they were spotted by Vallejo police and a high speed pursuit to Richmond resulted. The suspect's car crashed off the roadway, but Benton escaped. He was arrested in Sacramento approximately two weeks later. The murder was committed while Benton was on Parole for a felony offense out of San Francisco County.

Benton pleaded No Contest to the murder and received a sentence of 20 years to Life. Benton has been denied parole four times since his first parole board hearing in 2004. On January 20th, the Board of Parole Hearings once again denied Benton's bid for parole for another 3 years, stating that he continued to represent an unreasonable risk of safety to the community.