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COUNTY OF SOLANO**

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PRESS RELEASE

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Re: Parole Board hearing for Inmate Mack West, CDCR #F60029

On March 14, 2017, a Board of Parole Hearing was scheduled at the California State Prison-Los Angeles in Lancaster, Ca., for convicted robber and murderer Mack West.

On the night of April 16, 1999, Mack West went to the night service window of the Fairfield Shell Food Mart and asked the clerk for the key to the restroom. When West returned he told the clerk he locked the key and his wallet in the restroom. When the clerk opened the door to go out to unlock the restroom, West burst through the door and entered the store. West began stabbing the clerk with a sharpened screwdriver in his side and arm and demanded money. The clerk gave West money from the case register and watched as West fled in a blue colored Volvo.

On the morning of April 19, 1999, a farm worker found a body near Cherry Glenn Road in Vacaville. The body was identified as Kathy O'Brien, an acquaintance of Mack West. The autopsy revealed the victim died 6 to 8 hours prior to being found with multiple stab wounds to her head, neck and chest. The victim suffered more than 30 stab wounds along with a broken jaw and injuries consistent with defensive wounds to her arms and legs.

Police investigations into both crimes led to the discovery of eyewitness and physical evidence linking Mack West to both crimes and on April 20, 1999, he was arrested. After years of defense delays for various reasons, and prior to jury trial, in November 2006, Mack West entered a plea to second degree murder with an enhancement for use of a weapon other than a firearm for the murder of Kathy O'Brien. Mack West also entered a plea to the robbery offense. In January 2007, Mack West was sentenced to a term of 16 years to life in prison. Mack West first became eligible for a parole board hearing in 2013 but has been granted a waiver of his hearing 3 times.

Deputy District Attorney Elizabeth Ring attended the hearing with Kathy O'Brien's cousin and nephew and Kathy's sister appeared by way of conference call. The family spoke in opposition of parole. Mack West entered an agreement that he is currently unsuitable for parole and will not be eligible for a parole board hearing for 5 years.