



COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GOVERNOR BROWN BLOCKS THE PAROLE OF CONVICTED MURDERER DAVID WEIDERT

On Friday, August 3rd, California Governor Jerry Brown reversed the decision of the Board of Parole Hearings and blocked the parole release of convicted murderer David Weidert, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office has announced.

Inmate David Weidert was convicted for the 1980 murder of the developmentally disabled 20 year-old victim Mike Morganti. Inmate Weidert used Mike to serve as a look-out to commit a burglary, and when Mike spoke to law enforcement, Inmate Weidert silenced him by luring him into a car and taking him 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. Inmate Weidert was convicted of first degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison.

In May, District Attorney Lisa Smittcamp sent a letter to Governor Brown urging him to overturn the Board's decision granting parole to Inmate Weidert. Fresno County Sheriff-Coroner Margaret Mims, as well as Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer, also sent letters to the Governor voicing their objections to his release.

In reversing the Board's decision late last week, Governor Brown noted he remained troubled by the actions and inadequate explanations for them. "[Inmate Weidert] 'continues to have limited insight into his true motivations regarding the life crime that seem to be based in longstanding characterological features that are unlikely to change with time.' Given the very unusual nature of this crime, Mr. Weidert must do much more to show that he is truly a changed person, that he truly grasps the evil that he perpetrated, and that he is now so utterly changed that he is suitable for parole."

The Board of Parole Hearings previously decided to grant parole to Inmate Weidert three years ago in January 2015. Following that decision, 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 in April of that year and urged Governor Brown to block the parole release. Governor Brown also reversed that 2015 Parole Board Decision, blocking the release of Inmate Weidert at that time.

The Media may email FCDAMedia@co.fresno.ca.us or contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions.
