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NEWS RELEASE

March 3, 2011

PAROLE DENIED IN TORTURE CASE

A two-member panel of the California Board of Parole Hearings denied Gregory Patrick Beck's request to be released on parole, on Tuesday, March 2, 2011 in Corcoran. Citing Mr. Beck's "vicious and callous" attack on his victim, Sherry Carlton, and his continued lack of true remorse for the crime, the Board of Parole Hearings issued an order that Beck shall not be entitled to another parole hearing for 10 years.

Beck was convicted by a Mendocino County jury in 2002 of gravely injuring Sherry Carlton by means of torture, assault with caustic chemicals, and corporal injury on a cohabitant. Ms. Carlton was Beck's then 32-year old girlfriend and the mother of their then 12-year old child.

After a tumultuous 12-year relationship, Ms. Carlton chose to separate from Beck and moved out of the home they had shared. On August 21, 2001, she went back to the home to retrieve some personal belongings and Beck came home while she was still at the house. He attacked Ms. Carlton by soaking her with lighter fluid and intentionally set her on fire. Ms. Carlton then ran from the yard and into the street screaming for help. A neighbor testified that Beck did nothing to help; instead, Beck went about "staging" the scene to make it appear as if Ms. Carlton's burning body was the result of a BBQ accident. Despite her obvious agony resulting from severe burns, Ms. Carlton was still able at that time to tell responding law enforcement officers and medical personnel that Beck had intentionally set her on fire.

Unfortunately, the injuries and burns Ms. Carlton suffered were severe and caused significant permanent damage. She remains unable to care for herself as a result of the attack and must live in a convalescent hospital. Ms. Carlton cannot speak, walk, or otherwise care for herself without assistance from hospital staff.

The hearing, attended by both parents of the victim, as well as Deputy District Attorney Shannon Cox, lasted five (5) hours at the prison in Corcoran, Ca. During the hearing, Beck answered questions by both the Parole Board and Ms. Cox regarding the circumstances of his attack on Ms. Carlton, his motivation, and the steps, if any, that he had undertaken to redeem and rehabilitate

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himself while incarcerated. Jeffrey Carlton and Phyllis Kline, Ms. Carlton's parents, offered victim impact statements by describing the continuing agony Ms. Carlton endures and the ongoing heartbreak they continue to experience due to Beck's "despicable" attack which left their only daughter with no hope for a meaningful life. Also presented were photos of Ms. Carlton prior to the attack, depicting a strikingly beautiful blonde woman in her early thirties. A video taken in January was submitted that memorialized Ms. Carlton's current state of existence: horribly disfigured, blind, confined round the clock to a convalescent bed, and fed via a feeding tube. The Board also listened to the haunting 911 call Ms. Carlton frantically made immediately after she was attacked, in which she screams in agony, begs for help, and then cries that Beck had burned and tried to murder her.

During Tuesday's hearing, Beck acknowledged that he purposefully set Ms. Carlton on fire as a sort of "revenge thing" because he was upset she had left him. Although he claimed he was sorry for his actions and that he had sought to rehabilitate himself through anger management classes while incarcerated, the Board determined that Beck was not remorseful for his actions and that he had little insight into why he did such a terrible thing to the mother of his child. One Commissioner noted that Beck ranked near the top of all prisoners who fail to show any emotion for the pain and suffering inflicted on a victim. The Commissioner also observed that Beck has yet to admit to the son that he purposefully attacked Ms. Carlton or demonstrated that he has attempted to make amends to his son for taking away the son's mother. The Board also focused on Beck's ongoing issues with women in general, noting Beck's history of domestic violence against Ms. Carlton, his attempts to cast some of the blame for the attack on Ms. Carlton's own actions, and his confrontational manner at Tuesday's hearing with the all-female Parole Board panel.

District Attorney Eyster asked Shannon Cox attend the hearing to express his focused opposition to Beck's release. As part of that focused opposition, it was argued during the hearing that Beck continues to pose an unreasonable danger to the community and that the original crime remains so shocking and atrocious as to deserve maximum punishment. As part of the hearing process, the Board was duly impressed by the almost 100 letters sent by various members of the community voicing outrage at the prospect of Beck's release, as well as the hundreds of signatures on petitions opposing parole for Beck. District Attorney Eyster wants to thank those who responded to his call for action by writing those letters and signing petitions.

In finding Beck unsuitable for parole, the Board found that Beck was not credible in his explanation of the attack and the reasons behind the attack. The Commissioner further observed that Beck had failed to "internalize" anything he had been working on to rehabilitate himself while in prison, and, in fact presented to the Board as a "self-absorbed and self-centered" felon. Due to Beck's gross shortcomings in rehabilitation, along with the highly callous, vicious and atrocious nature of the attack on Ms. Carlton, the Board found Beck unsuitable for parole and ordered that he not be eligible for another parole hearing until the passing of 10 years.