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DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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## NEWS RELEASE

January 11, 2011

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES PAROLE HEARING FOR TORTURE ASSAILANT**

Mendocino County District Attorney David Eyster has asked for help in informing the community that a hearing to determine whether **Gregory Patrick Beck** should be determined suitable for release has been scheduled for March, as required by law. Known as a parole hearing, Beck's hearing will be held at California State Prison at Corcoran on Tuesday, March 1, 2011. District Attorney Eyster has asked that prosecutor Shannon Cox attend the hearing and express his strenuous opposition to the release of Beck. DA Eyster asserts Beck continues to pose a danger to the community and that the original crime remains so shocking and atrocious as to deserve maximum punishment.

Beck was convicted by a Mendocino County jury in 2002 of having gravely injured 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 his then 12-year old child.

After 12 years in what was described as a tumultuous relationship, Ms. Carlton chose in 2001 to separate from Beck and she did so by moving out of the home they had shared. On August 21, 2001, she went back to the home to retrieve some her personal belongings thinking Beck would not be there. Unfortunately, Beck came home while she was still at the house. He attacked Ms. Carlton by soaking her with lighter fluid and intentionally setting her on fire. Ms. Carlton then ran from the yard and into the street screaming for help. A neighbor who witnessed the crimes testified that Beck did nothing to help the victim; 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. The witness testified that Ms. Carlton was in obvious agony due to the fire engulfing her head and shoulders. Despite severe burns, Ms. Carlton was 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.

District Attorney Eyster is encouraging everybody who lives in and about Mendocino County to express in writing their opinion on (1) whether Beck has served sufficient time in prison and (2) whether Beck should be released back into the community under the supervision of a local parole officer. District Attorney Eyster will place petitions at his Ukiah and Fort Bragg offices for those who would like to go on record as opposing the release of Beck. The Board of Prison Terms – the authority who will decide this issue – must consider the opinion and sentiment of the community before deciding whether a dangerous and violent felon is suitable for parole.

For those members of the community who want to do more than just sign a petition, signed letters regarding Beck's suitability for parole should be addressed as follows:

Board of Prison Terms  
c/o District Attorney David Eyster  
Post Office Box 1000  
Ukiah, CA 95482

To make sure your voice is heard, please submit any and all letters to the District Attorney's Office no later than **February 10, 2011**. Letters may also be faxed to 707-463-4687.