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MEDIA ADVISTORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Board of Parole Grants Parole to Convicted Murder Who Hit
Family Member and Five Juveniles with Vehicle**
CDC # F97522; Court Case number BF110280A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) granted parole to convicted murderer Byron Wooten.

On May 9, 2005, Wooten had argued with his cousin, who was in the company of five juveniles, ages 11 to 17. His cousin was the juveniles' basketball coach. Wooten, a 20-year-old gang member, initially drove away but then executed a U-turn and accelerated directly toward his cousin and all five of the juveniles. The intended victim, his cousin, suffered a broken rib. However, one of the juveniles fell under the rear wheel of Wooten's Buick. The juvenile's skull was crushed, and the victim died in a matter of seconds. A second juvenile was also run over and dragged beneath Wooten's car, leaving him with injuries to his feet that required skin grafts.

Wooten was convicted of one count of Second-Degree Murder and five counts of Attempted Murder, with enhancements for having personally used a deadly weapon and causing great bodily injury. On March 18, 2008, Wooten was sentenced in Kern County Superior Court to serve 39 years and 8 months to life in prison.

This was Wooten's first parole hearing. He was eligible for parole as he qualified for a Youth Offender Parole Hearing, a hearing offered to those who are under 26 years of age at the time of their crimes. At the conclusion of the hearing, following 20 minutes of deliberation, the Board of Parole Hearings panel granted Inmate Wooten's parole.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "I am disappointed with the Board of Parole's decision to grant Wooten's release. Wooten's act of violence has demonstrated his inability to handle conflict

effectively, endangering the lives of many and leaving a family to mourn the loss of their child.”

Byron Wooten:

