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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Re: Joshua Beck

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA –

DISTRICT ATTORNEY JAMES C. BRAZELTON announced today that defendant Joshua Beck was sentenced to 128 years to life in state prison for a March 2002 shooting attack on plainclothes police officers who were trying to apprehend him.

Beck had previously escaped from the Stanislaus County jail where he was awaiting trial on charges of attempted car jacking. Plainclothes officers from STANCATT, the Stanislaus County Auto Theft Task Force, began searching for Beck as an escapee and also for additional crimes that he was suspected of committing. When police found him, Beck fled in a vehicle. After a brief pursuit, Beck ran away on foot. STANCATT Officer Gary Guffey chased, caught up to Beck and tackled him as Beck fired at the other pursuing officers.

Modesto Police Officer Kelly Rea testified in the trial that Beck fired at him and another officer, Deputy Dave Brown, from about two and one half feet away. Although neither officer was injured, Rea testified that he felt as if Beck had fired directly at him.

Immediately after the shooting, Guffey took Beck to the ground and a struggle ensued over the gun. Officer Rea placed his gun on Beck's head and pulled the trigger, but the gun failed to discharge. Rea then backed away, cleared his weapon and fired a single round into the suspect's back before he could be taken into custody. It was not until Beck was finally subdued that Rea realized he had not been shot.

Deputy District Attorney Rob Taro prosecuted the case for the People. During trial, Taro argued to the jury that Beck's action indicated he was trying to kill both Officer Rea

and Officer Guffey, in addition to assaulting all the officers with the firearm. The jury agreed when it found Beck guilty of attempted murder of Officer Rea and of assault with a semi-automatic firearm of all three peace officers.

At the sentencing hearing Taro asked Judge Lori Begen to sentence Beck to the maximum sentence that the law would allow. Taro pointed out that Beck had a total of twelve prior felony convictions and that Beck's previous "Strikes" were convictions for assault with a deadly weapon on peace officers in an unrelated case. Taro also argued that Beck had shown no remorse for his actions. During the sentencing, Beck interrupted the proceedings by yelling out, " I don't have remorse, Shit why don't you just ask me!" During the imposition of the sentence Beck turned in his chair in court and glared at Officer Rea, Officer Guffey and Deputy Brown, who were all present.

When imposing the life sentence, Begen noted that the attack was one involving great violence, that Beck had been previously incarcerated in the California Youth Authority and that his previous performance while on parole was poor.

At the conclusion of the hearing Beck again interrupted the proceedings with a profanity laced tirade stating " I didn't try to kill those fuckers, if I wanted to kill those motherfuckers I would have smoked them!" He then turned towards the officers and their family members in court and screamed, " You're lucky I didn't.!"

Beck's sentence will be served consecutive to an additional 150 years to life that he is already serving for carjacking, escape and other crimes also prosecuted under the "Three Strikes You're Out "law. He will be eligible for parole on this case after serving 85%, or approximately 108 years.

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