



# Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

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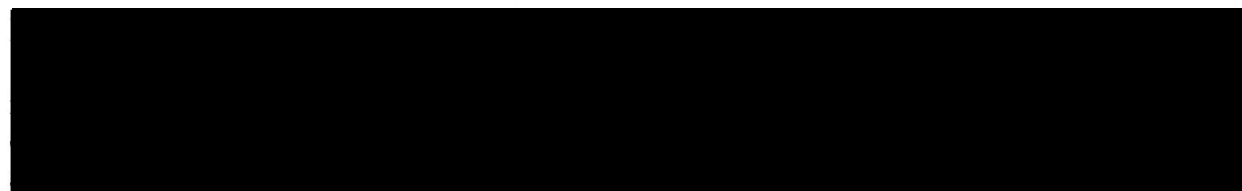
RE: **Byrd, Reginald Leroy**


CDC: **P97648**

Sacramento Superior Court **07F04200**

April 27, 2007 was supposed to be a normal work day for a husband and wife who delivered newspapers for the Sacramento Bee. Instead, it turned into a driver's worst nightmare when they were assaulted by Inmate Byrd. The couple was in a residential neighborhood and had gotten out of the car to drop off a few papers when Inmate Byrd jumped into their car. In shock, the 58-year old husband grabbed onto the hood, pleading with Inmate Byrd to get out. Instead of stopping, Inmate Byrd purposefully reversed the car before accelerating forward with the victim hanging onto the windshield wipers for dear life. Inmate Byrd then jerked the steering wheel back and forth, causing the car to swerve violently, in an effort to get the victim off of the car. He succeeded and the 58-year-old flew off onto the hard pavement. Inmate Byrd was convicted at jury trial of the crimes of assault with a deadly weapon, to wit, a vehicle, as well as of vehicle theft. He was additionally found to have suffered a prior strike conviction as well as of having served 6 prior prison sentences.

Inmate Byrd's case is currently before you because his committing offense is now considered, under the law, to be "non-violent." However, intentionally dislodging someone from a car while stealing it is the exact opposite. Additionally, Inmate Byrd's criminal record speaks volumes of a man who has shown a repeated inability to abide by the law, a consistent disregard for the safety of others, and a willingness to commit violent acts. The 19 year prison sentence imposed by the Sacramento Superior court for these crimes is a reflection of the danger he poses.



 Inmate Byrd has been convicted of multiple felonies for grand theft, first degree burglary, robbery, possession of a controlled substance, and petty theft with a prior. Particularly troublesome, are his prior 'strike' convictions for residential burglary and robbery.

On May 22, 1987 Inmate Byrd committed a first degree residential burglary. While pending court on that case, he committed a robbery on August 2, 1987. He demanded money from his mother and when she refused, he knocked her down and stole a stereo. He was backing out of the driveway as officers arrived. They tried to block him from leaving, but he crashed into the Sheriff's vehicle and drove across a lawn. He fled and initiated a high speed chase putting both

the officers and the public at risk before he was finally apprehended. This was the first time that Inmate Byrd used a car as a deadly weapon. It was not to be his last.

On December 15, 1987, he was committed to state prison for both of these offenses.

Shortly after his release from prison, he was found to be in possession of rock cocaine and fled from officers. He was returned to prison for his second prison commitment.

Again, shortly after his release from prison, on August 2, 1991, he helped to steal a compressor from a construction site. Once again he fled from officers and forcibly resisted. He was returned to prison for his 3<sup>rd</sup> prison commitment.

Shortly after his release, on January 5, 1993, he was found to be in possession of a stolen vehicle and was returned to prison for his 4<sup>th</sup> prison commitment.

Following his usual habit and custom, shortly after his release he was arrested again. He was found to have violated his parole twice before being arrested for his next crime. On July 19, 1995, Inmate Byrd held a gun to his victim's back and stole \$10 from his pocket while an accomplice stood in front of the victim and threatened him. He was convicted of grand theft from the person and returned to prison for his 5<sup>th</sup> prison commitment.

It appears he violated parole in 1997 and 1998 and on October 10, 2000 committed a felony resulting in his 6<sup>th</sup> prison commitment.

It appears he violated parole twice in 2003, twice in 2004, twice in 2005 and once in 2006 before committing his next felony of a violation of Health & Safety Code § 11350 and returning to prison for his 7<sup>th</sup> prison commitment.

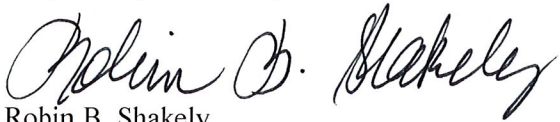
Inmate Byrd had been released on parole a mere 16 days before committing his current offenses.

What is clear from Inmate Byrd's record is that while he may not set out in every instance to hurt people, common sense dictates that there is a certain amount of risk and volatility that exists when committing crimes since one never knows exactly how the situation is going to play out. Inmate Byrd has repeatedly exposed the public to those unjustifiable risks. This was exactly the case with his current commitment offenses. Inmate Byrd may not have set out initially to inflict bodily injury upon the 58-year-old husband. However, that is precisely what happened. Inmate Byrd created the risk as well as the resulting violence through his poor decisions.

Lastly, Inmate Byrd has a known substance abuse problem as well as gang ties to the Oak Park Bloods and where gangs go, violence follows. This proves an even deadlier combination when there is drug usage at play which is yet another indication that if released, Inmate Byrd will fall right back into his old habits, associating with dangerous people, doing drugs, and committing crimes. The public should not be forced to bear this cost.

Inmate Byrd has proven time and again, almost too many to count, that he is a poor candidate for early release. His extensive criminal record punctuated with examples of violence targeted at the innocent people of California and resistance to authority clearly establishes that once released on parole, he will re-offend. The District Attorney urges that his release be delayed until he has served the full sentence thoughtfully imposed in 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robin B. Shakely". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robin B. Shakely  
Assistant Chief Deputy District Attorney  
Sacramento County District Attorney's Office