

February 21, 2016
For Immediate Release

Contact: [Steve Walker](#) (619) 531-3890
[Tanya Sierra](#) (619) 531-3315
En Español [Barbara Medina](#) (619) 531-3305

DA will Fight to Keep Cop Killer Behind Bars at Upcoming Parole Board Hearing

Chief Deputy DA Summer Stephan Will Attend Prison Hearing in Person

San Diego County Chief Deputy District Attorney Summer Stephan said today she will accompany Deputy District Attorney Richard Sachs to the latest Parole Board hearing for a defendant who killed a San Diego police officer in 1978. Officer Archie Buggs, 30, was shot four times after he stopped a car driven by Cecena, a gang member in the Skyline neighborhood. Cecena fired five times at Buggs, then paused, walked toward the fallen officer and fired a final bullet into his head at point blank range. The officer died on the street, his hand still on his service revolver.

The Parole Board hearing is set for **Thursday, Feb. 23 at 1:00 p.m.** at [Valley State Prison](#) in Chowchilla, California near Fresno.

Because Cecena was a juvenile at the time of the killing, a change in the law in 2014 made him eligible to receive Youthful Offender Consideration at his parole hearings. In April 2014, his release was approved by the parole board but Governor Jerry Brown later overturned the panel's recommendation in September. Cecena's parole continues to be opposed by San Diego Police Chief Shelley Zimmerman, District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, and the San Diego Police Officers Association.

"This cold-blooded execution of an on-duty police officer devastated the officer's family, his department and our community," Chief Deputy Summer Stephan said. "This crime was callous and inexplicably senseless. It demonstrated a total disregard for human life and disdain for those in a position of authority."

Cecena was convicted of murder and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole on August 22, 1979. Since Cecena was 17 at the time of the murder, his sentence was reduced to a seven years to life in prison on March 31, 1982. He was denied parole 13 times. His unstable social history continued during his incarceration; he received more than ten violation reports for misconduct while in prison. Cecena was twice granted parole in 2014 and 2015 and each time Governor Gerry Brown reversed the grant after the DA's objection.

“To this day, Cecena has never accepted full responsibility for executing Officer Buggs and glosses over the full horror of his actions,” said Deputy DA Richard Sachs, who will argue against Cecena’s release. “Cecena’s words of purported acceptance ring hollow, and do not demonstrate that he has fully embraced the execution nature of this killing. Unless and until he faces that, he will continue to be unpredictable and dangerous.”

EDITORS: *Media interested in covering the hearing in person should contact the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation: Luis Patino, Information Officer, Luis.Patino@cder.ca.gov or 916-445-4950. Note that CDCR requires four working days prior to a hearing to process media requests.*

###