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March 12, 2021

MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by JAK
Press Release #21-18

Re: Homicide Case Resolution: Paul Lujan BF178486A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a conviction on a significant homicide case today. On Friday March 12, 2021, Paul Lujan entered a plea to Second Degree Murder regarding the death of Lawrence Olivas, who was Lujan's roommate in a care facility. The case was handled by Deputy District Attorney Gina Pearl.

On May 9, 2019, the victim, 68-year-old Lawrence Olivas, was asleep in his bed at "Betty's Home," a local board and care facility for adults with mental and physical disabilities. Olivas had been living at the facility for one year as he suffered from several medical conditions. The defendant, Paul Lujan, was Olivas' roommate. Lujan had a history of mental illness and uses a prosthetic leg and a wheelchair for mobility. While he was sleeping, Olivas was attacked by Lujan – who used his prosthetic leg to beat Olivas in the head. Olivas suffered multiple facial fractures and severe internal head trauma. Olivas died from his injuries two months later.

Bakersfield Police Officers spoke with multiple witnesses and located corroborating physical evidence. Lujan was subsequently arrested and charged. Although Lujan initially claimed he acted in self-defense, additional statements obtained after his arrest contradicted his previous assertions of self-defense.

Lujan faces a 15 years-to-life sentence as a result of the conviction. Sentencing is scheduled for April 13, 2021 before the Honorable Colette M. Humphrey in Department 1 of the Kern County Superior Court.