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PRESS RELEASE

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White Supremacist Sentenced to Life in Prison (Snowman Put on Ice for Life)

A 30-year-old skinhead with the moniker of “Snowman” was sentenced yesterday to 31 years to life in state prison on charges that he threatened to kill the two people as he was breaking down the front door of their Oroville home during the summer of 2007.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey announced today that Ricky Allen Snow, aka “Snowman,” of Oroville, was convicted on charges of burglary, vandalism and felonious threats during a court trial before Judge Kristen Lucena last April 2008. Ramsey said Snow was sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment under California’s three strikes law because of his past ten felony convictions which included two other residential burglaries, one commercial burglary, three vehicle thefts, and three vehicle burglaries. Snow was on parole from a prison term for possession of stolen property when he committed his most recent offense. While in prison, Snow joined a white supremacist skinhead gang.

After being convicted at trial of the charged crimes, Snow attempted to convince the court, his attorney, and court appointed doctors that he was mentally incompetent to stand trial. The criminal proceedings were suspended for more than six months while Snow was examined. Evaluations by the doctors revealed that Snow was lying about any mental health limitations and the criminal proceedings were reinstated. As a last ditch effort to delay sentencing yesterday, Snow requested to represent himself and continue sentencing to allow him to file additional motions. Judge Lucena denied Snow’s request as untimely after Deputy District Attorney Kurt Worley objected by pointing out that Snow had previously lied to the court and could not be trusted not to further delay proceedings.

Mike Ramsey said, “Snow’s crimes and recidivism throughout his adult and juvenile life made it clear that he was exactly the type of individual contemplated by the three strikes law. Without the three strikes sentencing law criminals like Snow would continue to impose themselves on the lives of victims in the wake of their never ending crime sprees. The public’s safety has truly been increased with Mr. Snow now in prison for life.” Ramsey further noted that Snow was involved in a number of disturbances in the county jail during his incarceration awaiting sentencing.