



GREGORY D. TOTTEN
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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Man Pleads Guilty to 2017 Killing in Port Hueneme

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Peter Dirksen (DOB 2/29/80), pled guilty to murder for the July 29, 2017, killing of Barbara Brattin of Port Hueneme. Dirksen also pled guilty to assault causing great bodily injury for his attack on a fellow inmate at the Ventura County jail where he was incarcerated following his arrest for murder.

On July 27, 2017, Dirksen and Ms. Brattin checked into a room at a motel in Port Hueneme. The two had met one month prior at a boarding house. On the morning of July 30, 2017, Ms. Brattin was found deceased in her room by a housekeeper. An autopsy revealed that Ms. Brattin died from blunt force trauma to her head and neck. Dirksen was arrested on August 7, 2018, in Humboldt County. Investigation was conducted by the Port Hueneme Police Department. Video surveillance footage from the motel was instrumental in identifying Dirksen and establishing him as the lone killer.

Sentencing is scheduled May 25, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura Superior Court, County of Ventura. Dirksen faces 23 years to life in prison.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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