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PRESS RELEASE

**For immediate release**

Date: October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Re: Jeffrey Rush Price  
Murder conviction  
Court # 1074210

Contact: John Goold, Chief Deputy

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**Modesto, California** – Stanislaus County District Attorney, Birgit Fladager announced today that Jeffrey Rush Price, age 44, of Modesto, was convicted Thursday of the 2003 murder of Michelle Perkins after a two week jury trial held in Department 7 before Judge Donald Shaver. Deputy District Attorney Elizabeth Owen prosecuted the case on behalf of the People.

Michelle Perkins, age 45, was last seen alive on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Her bicycle was reported to Modesto police as abandoned property that same day. The bicycle had been left propped up against a fence near the Economy Inn on McHenry Avenue in Modesto.

The next day, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2003, Jeffrey Price was arrested at Graceada Park in Modesto for a parole violation. Price had the victim's keys, jacket, check cashing card and engagement ring in his possession. Price and the victim had exchanged rings but were never legally wed. During the jury trial, witnesses testified they had seen Price assault Perkins on at least one previous occasion. Just prior to the victim's death, Price and Perkins were seen arguing on the canal by the Economy Inn.

On December 28, 2003, Perkins decomposing body was found tucked under some tree branches behind the Economy Inn. Modesto Police Detective Ray Coyle collected insect larvae evidence from the body at the crime scene. These larvae were later used to estimate the approximate date of Perkins's death, which was determined to be prior Price being arrested.

Price was arrested and charged with one count of murder. A week long jury trial began October 2<sup>nd</sup> in Department 7 of the Stanislaus County Superior Court before Judge Donald Shaver. After deliberating for two days the jury found Price guilty of Murder in the First Degree.

Price returns to court on October 29<sup>th</sup> for a court trial to determine whether or not he has suffered prior serious or violent felony convictions. He faces a life sentence in state prison.

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