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NEWS RELEASE
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**FORMER BORDER PATROL AGENT FOUND GUILTY OF 2014 MURDER
STEMMING FROM OFF-DUTY NEIGHBORHOOD DISPUTE**

MURRIETA – Today, Jan. 11, 2017, a Riverside County jury found a Hemet man guilty of murder stemming from a neighborhood dispute over a possible speeding vehicle.

John Richard Demery, DOB: 5-2-74, was found guilty of second-degree murder for the Nov. 8, 2014, shooting of 27-year-old Adam Thomas on Cornell Street in Hemet. The jury also found true allegations that Demery personally used a firearm.

Demery faces a sentence of up to 40 years to life in prison at his sentencing hearing scheduled for March 3, 2017, before Superior Court Judge John Monterosso in Dept. S301 at the Southwest Justice Center in Murrieta.

Demery was a United States Border Patrol agent at the time of the murder. He was at his home, off duty, earlier in the evening of Nov. 7, 2014, when he heard a vehicle “screeching” through the neighborhood. He called police and was advised to stay in his home, secure his weapon, and wait for responding officers. Then, shortly before 1 a.m. on Nov. 8, 2014, while sitting in his garage, he heard the vehicle again. This time he got a flashlight from his home and decided to go take a photo of the license plate of the vehicle he saw speed through the neighborhood. He also took his off-duty handgun and later told detectives he did so because he anticipated a potential confrontation.

While at the victim’s residence, a verbal confrontation did happen resulting in Demery shooting Thomas, striking him five times. Victim Thomas was not found to have any weapons. During an interview with detectives, Demery said he never saw Thomas with a weapon and that the victim never swung at him, only that his fists were clinched at his sides.

The case, SWF1403153, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Jennifer Garcia of the DA’s Homicide Trial Team.

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