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August 3, 2017

Board of Parole Hearings  
Attn: Nonviolent Parole Review Process  
P.O. Box 4036  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

**Re: Inmate John Stephen Crow; CDCR AW1072  
Ventura County Superior Court Cases 2009040817, 2014012525  
Opposition Letter Due to Board of Parole Hearings August 4, 2017**

Dear Board Members:

This letter is written to recommend denial of early parole for inmate John Crow. This recommendation is based upon:

- 1) The inmate's commitment offense.
- 2) The inmate's significant criminal history.
- 3) The unreasonable risk of violence to the community if the inmate is released early.

## **CIRCUMSTANCES OF COMMITMENT OFFENSE**

### **Case 2009040817**

On November 6, 2009, the inmate entered a convenience store with four others carrying a hammer, wrench, and pair of brass knuckles. The inmate approached victim Daniel Sandoval and challenged him to a fight, but Mr. Sandoval refused. The inmate then yelled "Crazy Boyz" and all five subjects started assaulting Mr. Sandoval with weapons and closed fists, striking him approximately 20 times in the head area.

Mr. Sandoval's female friends eventually intervened and pulled the inmate and the other attackers off him. The inmate and others fled the scene in their vehicle. Mr. Sandoval sustained an inch-long laceration on the back of his head and a half-inch laceration on his head above his left ear, requiring staples and stitches.

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During an interview with officers, the inmate admitted to being a member of the West Side Crazy Boyz gang of Santa Paula, and went by the moniker "Silent."

The inmate pled guilty to one count of Penal Code section 245(a)(1), assault with a deadly weapon; and Penal Code section 186.22(a), committing a crime for the benefit of a street gang. After initially failing on probation, the inmate was given one last chance with an opportunity to participate in a one-year sober living program. The inmate squandered his opportunity and was then sentenced to seven years in prison on February 27, 2015.

### **Case 2014012525**

On April 23, 2014, following a probation search, heroin and a spray paint can were found in the inmate's car. Additionally, there was black spray paint found on the inmate's fingers. Post-arrest, the inmate admitted to spray painting a wall to cover a rival gang's graffiti with his own gang graffiti, "WSCBZ SILENT," meaning "West Side Crazy Boyz" and his moniker "Silent."

The inmate pled guilty to Penal Code section 594(b)(2)(A), vandalism; and to committing a crime for the benefit of a street gang in violation of Penal Code section 186.22(d). The inmate was sentenced to two years in state prison concurrent to the time imposed in the aforementioned case. A second-strike allegation, pursuant to Penal Code sections 667, 1170, based upon the prior assault with a deadly weapon, was stricken by the court at sentencing.

### **CRIMINAL HISTORY**

In addition to the above crimes, in May 2009, at the age of 17, the inmate was cited for Business and Professions Code section 25662, minor in possession of alcohol; and Penal Code section 308(b), minor in possession of a lighter.

The inmate was also convicted of possession of stolen property, in violation of Penal Code section 496(a). A search of his bedroom revealed various paperwork which did not belong to him or any of the other occupants in the residence. During booking, officers located a black leather wallet in his right rear pocket. The wallet contained personal identification and credit cards issued to three separate victims. The inmate stated he had received the items from someone who lived in the "north end," and knew the items were stolen. One victim confirmed that his wallet containing his credit cards had been inside his vehicle, which had been stolen a few days prior.

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## **DISCUSSION**

The commitment offense is a violent, gang assault, carried out with no provocation, and with the use of multiple and potentially deadly weapons. The inmate would not be in prison had he not squandered every opportunity afforded him for rehabilitation. His refusal to abide by the terms of probation, even under threat of a lengthy prison sentence, demonstrates he is utterly disinclined to reform. It is clear he enjoys the criminal gangster life, and there is no reason to believe he will do anything other than return to street violence upon his release from prison.

## **CONCLUSION**

The inmate poses an unreasonable risk of violence to the community if granted early parole. I respectfully request the Board deny early parole for the inmate.

Very truly yours,



GREGORY D. TOTTON  
District Attorney

GDT:rf

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