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July 20, 2017

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

**Re: Inmate William Knorr; CDCR #V72596
Ventura County Superior Court Case #2010041181, #2013027909
Opposition Letter Due to Board of Parole Hearings August 2, 2017**

Dear Board Members:

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

- 1) The inmate's commitment offenses.
- 2) The inmate's significant criminal history and failure to be crime free.
- 3) The unreasonable risk of violence to the community, if released early.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF COMMITMENT OFFENSES

Case 2010041181

On October 26, 2010, between the hours of 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., the inmate entered the home of 92-year-old victim Leola Mercer in her gated residential neighborhood. The inmate stole a 37-inch television, a computer tower, and several pieces of jewelry.

On the morning of the burglary, the victim was in her garage preparing to leave her residence. The inmate approached her, and asked if she needed her home painted because the inmate worked for a painting contractor and had painted other homes in the neighborhood. Ms. Mercer then left her house at 9:15 a.m. and returned at 11:15 a.m. When Ms. Mercer returned home, she discovered her home had been burglarized.

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Officers contacted several members of the community and learned that the inmate was hired by a resident to complete work on his property during the time of the offense. An officer obtained the name of the painting contractor for whom the inmate claimed to work. The painting contractor told officers that the inmate was previously fired and no longer worked for the company.

On November 10, 2010, officers conducted a parole search of the inmate's motel room. Officers located two flat screen televisions, two laptop computers, two cameras, and a gold butterfly pendant. The officers went to a pawn shop near the motel, and learned that on October 26, 2010, the inmate pawned two gold rings and a gold necklace. Ms. Mercer was shown a photograph of the jewelry found at the pawn shop, and she identified the property as hers.

On November 15, 2010, an officer connected one of the laptop computers found in the inmate's motel room to a burglary that occurred in Oxnard on November 12, 2010. The officer contacted victim Ernesto Ramirez, and he confirmed that the two laptop computers and the flat screen television found in the inmate's room belonged to him.

On November 17, 2010, at approximately 9:30 a.m., officers learned the inmate was staying at a different motel in Oxnard. Officers contacted the inmate and arrested him. During a *Miranda* interview, the inmate admitted he knocked on the front door of Ms. Mercer's home and believed no one was home, so he entered the house. He admitted to stealing the jewelry, but not the television.

The inmate was convicted of first-degree residential burglary. He was sentenced to two years eight months in prison.

Case 2013027909

On September 29, 2010, at approximately 10:15 a.m., victim Raymond Romero left his residence. He returned home at approximately 12:15 p.m. and realized his front door was unlocked and several lights in the apartment were on. He walked through the apartment and observed four batteries on the floor of the family room. He remembered leaving his Nikon D-90 digital camera on the coffee table, but the camera was gone. A jar containing \$30 in coins, a Casio watch, and a backpack with a Nikon D-300 digital camera was also missing from his house.

The complex leasing office of the apartment building informed the victim that another apartment was burglarized, and the point of entry was possibly the sliding door. The

victim returned to his residence and noticed several pry marks near the locking mechanism of the sliding door. The victim also noticed a fingerprint in blood above the kitchen light switch and a drop of blood in the bathroom. The police collected the blood samples as evidence. The DNA samples returned a positive match for the inmate.

The inmate was convicted of residential burglary. On November 24, 2014, he was sentenced to 14 years in prison. The court struck two strikes that would have sent him to prison for 25 years to life.

THE INMATE'S LONG CRIMINAL HISTORY

On May 11, 1981, the inmate was arrested for a violation of Vehicle Code 10851(a), unlawful taking or driving of a vehicle, and three counts of Penal Code section 459, burglary. The inmate and three juveniles stole a truck and three stereos from three other vehicles. He was sentenced to 36 months probation and 90 days jail.

On March 24, 1991, the inmate entered the victim's mobile home through a window, ransacked the residence, and stole a VCR, Nintendo game set, camera, diamond rings, and CDs. The total losses were \$2,700. He pled guilty to first-degree residential burglary and was sentenced to 60 months probation and 180 days jail. Probation was revoked and the inmate was sentenced to two years in prison.

On January 11, 1992, the inmate was again arrested for the unlawful taking or driving of a vehicle, receiving stolen property, burglary, and Health and Safety Code section 11350, possession of a controlled substance, and section 11550(a), under the influence of a controlled substance. Deputies found the inmate sitting in a stolen vehicle. Inside the vehicle, officers found numerous jewelry items, drug paraphernalia, and .36 grams of cocaine. The inmate pled guilty to drug possession and was sentenced to three years in prison.

On August 4, 1994, the inmate was arrested for receiving stolen property. The inmate pried open a victim's garage door, broke the lock to the door of the home, and stole four rings, a bicycle, a portable telephone, binoculars, two flashlights, a camera, and a knife. The inmate pled guilty to receiving stolen property and was sentenced to two years and eight months in prison.

On November 28, 1996, the inmate was arrested for burglary. The inmate used bolt cutters and a pipe wrench to cut through a chain link fence, two padlocks, and a shed door at a motel. He fled the scene when a witness saw him enter the shed. A drill was missing

from the shed. The inmate pled guilty to second-degree burglary and was sentenced to 44 months in prison.

On November 14, 2004, the inmate was arrested for residential burglary. The inmate burglarized a residence by removing a window screen and entering the home through a window. He stole over 30 DVDs, a backpack, and a bicycle. The inmate pled guilty to first-degree burglary and was sentenced to four years in prison.

On July 30, 2009, the inmate was arrested for being under the influence of a controlled substance. He pled guilty to the drug charges and was received 36 months of probation and 90 days in jail.

On November 17, 2010, the inmate was arrested for burglary, receiving stolen property, and violations of parole. This case is described above under case number 2010041181. The inmate was sentenced to two years and eight months in prison.

On September 29, 2010, the inmate was arrested for burglary. The inmate pled guilty to first-degree burglary and was sentenced to 14 years in prison in the instant case.

DISCUSSION

Granting this inmate early parole will create an unreasonable risk of violence to the public. The inmate's most recent convictions demonstrate he poses a threat to public safety. In case number 2010041181, the inmate victimized an elderly woman. The victim in this case was 92-years-old, and the inmate took advantage of the victim and stole multiple items from her home. The victim lived in a gated community which provided an increased expectation to feel secure inside of her home. Further, the inmate's conduct included planning and sophistication. He gained access to a private, gated community and prowled on innocent victims. He went to extensive lengths to enter a senior citizen community, and lied about his reasons for entering the community. The inmate's actions show a callous disregard for the safety of the community.

In addition, case number 2013027909 highlights the inmate's propensity to commit crime. In this case, he entered a victim's home and stole money, two cameras, and a watch. After the inmate's blood was found inside the residence, he failed to take responsibility for the crime, and claimed he was never in the residence. Again, the inmate took advantage of innocent victims and stole valuable property from inside their homes.

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The inmate is a serial residential burglar. First-degree residential burglaries are inherently dangerous and violent crimes. Fortunately, he was caught before he had a violent confrontation with a homeowner, or invited guest. To go into the sanctity of someone's home, minutes after they leave, and methodically steal jewels, heirlooms, prized possessions, and other property, is not only brazen and potentially deadly, it is offensive and an affront to the rights of others.

The inmate's criminal history is lengthy. He has prior strikes and has served multiple terms in state prison. He has demonstrated an unwillingness to abide by the law. Since 1981, the inmate has engaged in a disturbing pattern of criminal behavior. Granting the inmate early release will put the community at risk, for he has not shown any attempt to reform his criminal behavior. Further, previous grants of probation and parole failed to stop the inmate's criminal activity.

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

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