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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 Joseph Ojida; CDCR AX3727
Ventura County Superior Court Case 2014028373
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 Joseph Ojida. 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

On September 14, 2014, the inmate opened the door to the victim's daughter's room in his boxers and stood in her doorway at the residential hotel where they lived. The victim confronted the inmate who yelled, "fuck you," and put his hands up as if he was going to strangle her. The victim stepped between the inmate and her daughter. The inmate grabbed the victim's neck, but she was able to get away.

The victim, who was also employed by the hotel, was cleaning a bathroom when she heard something swing by her head. The inmate was swinging a rope with a large metal hook attached to one end, known as a "slungshot." The victim pushed the inmate away from her and hit the inmate in the face with her fist. The inmate continued to swing the weapon at the victim until she was able to grab onto it. At that point, the inmate kned the victim in the groin.

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An officer arrived and observed the inmate hitting the victim with the weapon. The officer gave commands to stop but the inmate failed to comply while the victim pleaded for help. The victim escaped, but the enraged inmate refused to comply with the officer's commands. The officer deployed his K-9 who pinned the inmate against a wall.

The inmate admitted that he was out drinking with his wife prior to the incident and that he was "fed up with the tenants" in the victim's room. The inmate stated that he was going to jail because he "retaliated" and the situation "just escalated."

The inmate pled guilty to assault with a deadly weapon, in violation of Penal Code section 245(a)(1); to the manufacture of a deadly weapon in violation of Penal Code section 22210; and to resisting arrest. He admitted a strike prior and a prior serious or violent felony conviction (Pen. Code § 667(a)(1).) On July 21, 2015, he was sentenced to seven years in prison.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

The inmate has an extensive criminal history spanning more than four decades and riddled with violence, particularly towards women in the presence of their children.

The inmate's criminal career began as a juvenile with arrests for assorted crimes such as trespass, burglary, assault, and driving under the influence. He was first adjudicated a ward of the court at the age of 16, in 1977.

Adult Record

On September 3, 1983, the inmate was arrested for violating Penal Code section 594(b)(2), vandalism and public intoxication after being found passed out on a porch with a blood alcohol concentration of .30 percent. The inmate had thrown a keg through the window of a residence prior to officers arriving.

On August 6, 1984, the inmate was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon likely to cause great bodily injury, a violation of Penal Code section 245(a)(1), but was released. The victim reported the inmate and another male threatened and assaulted him. The inmate swung a claw hammer at the victim and said, "I am going to kill you."

On February 11, 1986, the inmate pled guilty to shooting at an inhabited dwelling, a violation of Penal Code section 246. A 17-year-old victim had punched the inmate, and the inmate responded by firing four gunshots into the victim's residence. Another victim

ran from his residence and began fighting with the inmate. The inmate's father held this victim from behind as the inmate continued hitting him. After failing probation, the inmate was sentenced to three years in jail.

On December 19, 1988, the inmate was arrested for battery, a violation of Penal Code section 242, and released.

On June 10, 1994, the inmate pled guilty to unauthorized possession and being under the influence of a controlled substance with one prior per Penal Code section 667.5(b). After failing on probation, the inmate was sentenced to eight months in prison, consecutive to the following conviction.

On January 15, 1991, the inmate pled guilty to public intoxication for the third time. He had been under the influence of alcohol and got into a fight with two police officers.

On June 23, 1994, the inmate pled guilty to willful infliction of corporal injury upon a cohabitant, a violation of Penal Code section 273.5, with one prison prior per Penal Code section 667.5, and while out on bail per Penal Code section 12022.1. After failing probation, the inmate was sentenced to one year in prison consecutive to the prior conviction. Upset about a court hearing, the inmate blamed the victim for his failures in life and grabbed the victim's neck with both hands and started shaking her, telling her he was going to kill her. The victim's 11-year-old daughter was present at the time and reported the incident. The victim suffered abrasions, redness and swelling to her neck and shoulder, and stated that the inmate battered her in the past. The belligerent inmate kicked the deputy who detained him.

On October 1, 1997, the inmate pled guilty to willful infliction of corporal injury on a spouse, and admitted the prior domestic violence conviction and an out-on-bail allegation. On October 29, 1997, the inmate was sentenced to four years in prison. The inmate was still living with the victim of the 1994 assault, but had demanded she and their seven-year-old daughter move out. When the victim tried to discuss the situation, struck her multiple times across the face and then grabbed her by the hair and proceeded to pound her head against the wall approximately three times. After getting up off the ground, the victim tried to run away from the inmate and the inmate threw a plastic and aluminum crate at her. The victim grabbed the crate and attempted to strike the inmate in the head. The victim kicked the inmate in the groin and fled the residence. Their seven-year-old daughter witnessed the assault and also fled to a nearby residence.

On August 9, 2004, the inmate pled guilty to yet another willful infliction of corporal injury to a cohabitant or spouse.

On July 27, 2006, the inmate pled guilty to false imprisonment, a violation of Penal Code section 236, for an incident during which he refused to allow his then-girlfriend to leave the camper which they shared as a residence. The victim had injuries from a prior battery at the hands of the inmate.

On August 21, 2013, the inmate again pled guilty to willful infliction of corporal injury on a cohabitant. The inmate and his new girlfriend had been dating and cohabitating for approximately two years. After a night of drinking, an argument ensued and the victim ran away, but the inmate chased her down and grabbed her by the hair. He struck her head against a wall and punched her with a closed fist in the face, causing her to drop to the ground. While on the ground, the inmate kicked her, then grabbed her by the hair and repeatedly beat her head against a wall.

In addition to the aforementioned convictions, the inmate has also been convicted of theft (three times), a violation of Penal Code section 484; violation of promise to appear (two times), a violation of Penal Code section 853.7; defrauding an innkeeper, a violation of Penal Code section 537; public intoxication (four times), a violation of Penal Code section 647(f), DUI, (three times); vandalism; and driving with a suspended license. The inmate has also been arrested multiple times for willful infliction of corporal injury where the charges have been dismissed.

DISCUSSION

Over the course of a criminal career spanning four decades, the inmate has caused significant harm to members of his community and to women who trusted him as an intimate partner. The inmate has engaged in repeated acts of brutal violence, including at least two separate occasions where he slammed a woman's head against a wall. These numerous violent outbursts indicate that the inmate is a serious threat to society. His brutal violence against women and children is particularly disturbing and has continued, undeterred by probation or incarceration for at least 20 years, ceasing only upon his arrest for the commitment offense.

Importantly, the inmate has demonstrated a severe lack of insight into his criminal behavior, blaming his former girlfriend for his problems, and assessing the latest incident as "retaliation" that "escalated." The inmate has also failed to appreciate the role that

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alcohol plays in his violent outbursts, choosing instead to continue drinking and abusing women.

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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