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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 Gaspar Arredondo Ortiz; CDCR BB9530
Ventura County Superior Court Case 2015018826
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 Gaspar Ortiz. 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 THE COMMITMENT OFFENSE

On May 30, 2015, the inmate, armed with a knife, went to the home of his former girlfriend, victim Sonia Hernandez. The inmate began cursing at Ms. Hernandez's daughter, Jazmine Ayala, calling her a "fucking bitch." Ms. Ayala's boyfriend, victim Michael Wear, grabbed a cricket bat and got in between the two. When the inmate advanced with the knife, Mr. Wear got into an altercation with him. The inmate stabbed Mr. Wear in the right forearm. At that point, the inmate ran to his truck and left.

On January 7, 2016, Ms. Hernandez went to the Port Hueneme Police Department to report on threatening letters she had received from the inmate from jail. The letters were postmarked from November 6, 2015, to January 6, 2016. They were addressed to Ms. Hernandez and her daughters and stated the inmate's belief that she and her family

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are “vampires” that he needs to kill. The theme of vampires and sexually graphic stories were present throughout the 18 letters totaling 103 pages. More importantly, the letters contained threats that the inmate would harm Ms. Hernandez and her family once he posted bail.

The inmate was arrested on January 12, 2016. After waiving his Miranda rights, the inmate stated that the victim and her family were vampires and he hears her family talking to him in his head. He stated that he believes he is a “vessel” for the vampires, carries the vampire’s spirit or souls, and sees things that the victim’s family does in his mind. He does not know how to get the voices to stop or get their “power” off him.

After a jury trial, the inmate was found guilty of making criminal threats, a violation of Penal Code section 422. On January 3, 2017, the inmate was sentenced to six years four months in jail.

THE INMATE’S CRIMINAL HISTORY IS SUBSTANTIAL

On February 25, 1994, the inmate was arrested for shooting a gun in a grossly negligent manner, a violation of Penal Code section 246.3; carrying a concealed weapon, a violation of Penal Code section 12025(a)(1); and participating in a street gang, a violation of Penal Code section 186.22. The inmate pled guilty to shooting a gun in a grossly negligent manner and was sentenced to two years in prison.

On January 21, 2013, the inmate was arrested for possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, a violation of Health and Safety Code section 11351; and selling and transporting controlled substances, a violation of Health and Safety Code section 11352(a).

DISCUSSION

There is no question the inmate’s conduct in the commitment offense as well as in his prior offenses were extremely violent. His actions caused his victims severe emotional trauma, and his prior conviction for negligently discharging a firearm evidences a complete disregard for the safety of the community. His vampire-themed letters, in addition to being threatening, evidence a disturbed mind that presents an unreasonable risk of violence if he is released into the community.

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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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gregory D. Totten", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

GREGORY D. TOTTON
District Attorney

GDT:rf

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