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August 25, 2017

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

**Re: Lori Ann Shannon; CDCR WF3102
Ventura County Court Cases 2013016599, 2014011040
Opposition Letter Due to Board of Parole Hearings August 26, 2017**

Dear Board Members:

This letter is written to recommend denial of early parole for inmate Lori Shannon. On August 17, 2015, the inmate was sentenced to serve ten years in prison on the above referenced cases. If the inmate is granted early release, she will have spent just over two years in state prison. 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 the inmate is released early.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF COMMITMENT OFFENSES

Case 2013016599

On May 24, 2013, a Ventura County Sheriff's deputy observed the inmate's vehicle with an expired registration. The deputy conducted a traffic stop, and the driver of the vehicle, Bryan Hammond, told the deputy he did not have a valid driver's license. Dispatch advised that Hammond was on probation and deputies conducted a search of the vehicle. The inmate was a passenger in her car, and clearly under the influence of a controlled substance.

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Inside the vehicle, deputies found a bag containing a burnt spoon with residue, two syringes, and a ball of black tar heroin. A search of the center console revealed several burnt squares of aluminum foil, water balloons, a glass narcotic smoking pipe with residue, a burnt spoon with brown residue, and multiple syringes. After the deputies found the paraphernalia, the inmate became agitated and blamed Hammond for possessing the various items. Inside the inmate's purse deputies located \$1,765 in cash. A small plastic case also revealed 18 small balloons with presumptive heroin in amounts ranging from .1 gram to .4 grams. Further, both Hammond and the inmate had text messages on their phones consistent with drug sales.

The inmate told deputies that she had been dealing heroin for one year. In the beginning, she was selling to support her own drug habit, but then she started making a profit from the sales. The inmate admitted ownership of the heroin and explained that she had purchased a large quantity the previous day.

The inmate was convicted of possession of heroin with intent to sell, a violation of Health and Safety Code section 11351. She was sentenced to two years in prison.

Case 2014011040

While awaiting sentencing on case 2013016599, undercover detectives conducted surveillance of the inmate. On April 10, 2014, the inmate drove to a bank parking lot. A male subject, parked in the same lot, exited his car and approached the inmate's car. The man reached into the driver's side window, and deputies observed the inmate hand him something. The man walked back to his vehicle, and the inmate drove away.

Deputies followed the inmate and stopped her. The passenger in the vehicle was the registered owner and on probation. A search of the car revealed a black bag on the driver's seat containing 19 balloons of heroin and .1 gram of methamphetamine. The inmate's brown purse contained a pouch with a narcotic smoking pipe and a hypodermic needle. Both the inmate and her passenger were arrested. It was determined that the inmate was in possession of 3.8 grams total of heroin. Further, her cellphone contained several messages referencing drug purchases.

The inmate was convicted of sale or transportation of a controlled substance, a violation of Health and Safety Code section 11352; and possession of heroin with intent to sell, a violation of Health and Safety Code section 11351. She was sentenced to eight years in prison.

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CRIMINAL HISTORY

In addition to the above cases, the inmate has been arrested and convicted on multiple drug charges over the past 33 years.

On June 24, 1984, the inmate was arrested for burglary, in violation of Penal Code section 459. She was sentenced to 12 months probation. Two years later she was arrested for being under the influence of a controlled substance, a violation of Health and Safety Code section 11550(a). She was sentenced to 36 months probation.

On September 23, 1989, the inmate was arrested for residential burglary and for the sale of hypodermic needles. The inmate broke into a neighbor's house because she was sick from not having heroin and needed money. The police found her inside the residence. She was sentenced to one year in jail and 36 months probation.

On August 1, 1990, the inmate was arrested for burglary, petty theft with a prior, in violation of Penal Code section 666, and for being under the influence of a controlled substance. The inmate stole 24 packs of cigarettes worth \$75 in order to support her drug habit. She was sentenced to two years in prison.

On December 22, 1995, the inmate was arrested for being under the influence of a controlled substance and possession of heroin, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11350(a). She was sentenced to 32 months in prison.

On August 5, 2002, the inmate was arrested for being under the influence of a controlled substance and DUI, a violation of Vehicle Code section 23152(a). The inmate's urine sample tested positive for nardiazepam, oxazepam, terazepam, hydrocodone, and hydromorphone. She was convicted of DUI and sentenced to 48 hours jail and 36 months probation.

On May 17, 2006, the inmate was found in possession of a hypodermic needle with residue inside, and a bag of 27.63 grams of methamphetamine. The inmate was arrested for being under the influence of a controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine for sale, and transporting methamphetamine, in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11379. During a subsequent search of her residence, officers discovered three scales, pay/owe sheets, packaging materials, a notebook with process and weights, unknown pills, and multiple prescription bottles. She was sentenced to 180 days in jail and 36 months probation. After failing her grant of probation, she was sentenced to two years in prison.

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Four months later, on September 22, 2006, the inmate was again arrested for transporting and selling methamphetamine. During another search of the inmate's residence, officers found packaging materials, digital scales, pill bottles, a wallet with a heroin tar substance, and three bags of methamphetamine. The inmate also revealed that she had an "eight-ball" of methamphetamine in her dresser. After her arrest, the inmate's urine sample tested presumptive positive for amphetamine, cocaine, metabolites, opiates, and oxycodone. The sample also confirmed positive for amphetamine and methamphetamine. She was sentenced to eight additional months in prison.

DISCUSSION

The inmate poses a great risk to the community by continuing to sell and distribute illicit narcotics. Her criminal history is lengthy, and it is the same conduct seen in the most current offenses. For the past 33 years, the inmate has struggled with drug abuse and has victimized innocent citizens because of her drug dependency. Further, the inmate's crimes increased in seriousness; selling large amounts of heroin for profit, putting the community at great risk. Selling drugs is dangerous and inherently violent, as it often leads to robberies and assaults. Even after multiple prison and jail sentences, the inmate has refused to reform her criminal behavior. Further, previous grants of probation and parole failed to stop the inmate's criminal activity. In fact, even while out on bail pending sentencing, she continued to distribute drugs to the public. There is no evidence to suggest the inmate will curb her criminal ways if released into the community.

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,



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District Attorney

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