



# OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF VENTURA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**GREGORY D. TOTTEN**  
District Attorney

**JANICE L. MAURIZI**  
Chief Assistant District Attorney

**MICHAEL K. FRAWLEY**  
Chief Deputy District Attorney  
Administrative Services

**W. CHARLES HUGHES**  
Chief Deputy District Attorney  
Special Prosecutions

**MICHAEL R. JUMP**  
Chief Deputy District Attorney  
Victim & Community Services

**MICHAEL D. SCHWARTZ**  
Special Assistant District Attorney  
Justice Services

**R. MILES WEISS**  
Chief Deputy District Attorney  
Criminal Prosecutions

**MICHAEL BARAY**  
Chief Investigator  
Bureau of Investigation

September 22, 2017

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

**Re: Inmate Maria Ramos; CDCR WF7590  
Ventura County Superior Court Case 2015027279  
Opposition Letter Due to Board of Parole Hearings September 22, 2017**

Dear Board Members:

This letter is written to recommend denial of early parole for inmate Maria Ramos. The inmate was sentenced on May 15, 2017, to serve seven years in prison. If the inmate is granted early parole now she will have spent less than two years in custody, which is less than one third of her original sentence. This recommendation is based upon:

- 1) The inmate's commitment offense.
- 2) The inmate's criminal history.
- 3) The unreasonable threat to the welfare and safety of the community if the inmate is granted early release.

## **CIRCUMSTANCES OF COMMITMENT OFFENSE**

### Case 2015027279

On March 5, 2015, the victim was working as a street cart vendor near Ventura Avenue in the city of Ventura. This territory is occupied by the Ventura Avenue Gangsters ("VAG"), a criminal street gang. On that day, the victim was jumped by five or six members of VAG, including the inmate's son, Gustavo Galvan. During the attack, VAG members beat the victim and stole merchandise from his cart.

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After the attack, the victim positively identified Galvan and one of the other VAG members in photographic lineups. The victim had also known Galvan and the other assailant, having sold food and drinks to them on prior occasions. Galvan and the other gang member were subsequently arrested and charged with second-degree robbery, and committing the crime for the benefit of, at the direction, or in association with the Ventura Avenue Gangsters. Galvan later pled guilty to the robbery and an unrelated misdemeanor shoplifting offense in January 2017. He was sentenced to prison for his crimes.

On August 2, 2015, during the pendency of her son's case, the inmate and her youngest son, Andy D., a minor, approached the same victim while he was near Ventura Avenue operating his food cart. During this encounter, which was captured on cell phone video by an eyewitness, the inmate told the victim to drop the charges against her son, and threatened to kill the victim if he testified in her son's case. She also threatened that the gang members would break him and kill him if he testified against her son. After the inmate's verbal threats, the minor, Andy D., punched the victim in the side of his head. It should be noted that in addition to Gustavo Galvan, the inmate's oldest son, Luis Galvan, and her minor son, Andy D., are also documented members of VAG.

The inmate ultimately pled guilty to dissuading a witness by force or threat of force, a felony. The inmate also admitted she committed the crime for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with the Ventura Avenue Gangsters. On May 15, 2017, the inmate was sentenced to seven years prison.

## **CRIMINAL HISTORY**

The inmate has a criminal history that dates to 2005.

In October 2005, at the age of 26, the inmate was arrested for trespassing in Santa Barbara County. She was subsequently convicted of obstructing or intimidating business operators.

In December 2010, the inmate was arrested and subsequently convicted of public intoxication in Santa Barbara County.

In March 2013, the inmate was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and driving on a suspended license in Santa Barbara County. She was convicted of both charges and sentenced to three years probation and five days jail.

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## **DISCUSSION**

The inmate demonstrated that she is a violent threat to the public safety of our communities. She and her family are thoroughly entrenched in violent gang mentality. Not only did she personally threaten force, but she used the fear of the Ventura Avenue Gangsters, a violent criminal street gang, to threaten and intimidate the victim. She brought her other son, another documented member of the gang, to batter the victim after she delivered her threats. The very crime that she pled guilty to, dissuading a witness by force or threat, is one of the most egregious crimes a person can commit since it is an attempt to thwart the administration of justice in our courts. In addition, the inmate has shown a disregard for leading a law-abiding life with prior convictions for obstructing or intimidating business operators, public intoxication, and driving under the influence. Moreover, she committed her commitment offense while on a grant of probation from Santa Barbara County.

## **CONCLUSION**

The inmate poses an unreasonable risk to public safety if granted early parole. I respectfully request this Board deny early parole for the inmate.

Very truly yours,



GREGORY D. TOTTEN  
District Attorney

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E-mail: [BPH.CorrespondenceUnit@cdcr.ca.gov](mailto:BPH.CorrespondenceUnit@cdcr.ca.gov)