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October 10, 2017

Board of Parole Hearings
Attn: Nonviolent Parole Review Process
Post Office Box 4036
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

**Re: Inmate Christian Rascon; CDCR AI1521
Ventura County Superior Court Case 2015012772
Opposition Letter Due to Board of Parole Hearings October 11, 2017**

Dear Board Members:

This letter is written to recommend denial of early parole for inmate Christian Rascon. The inmate was sentenced to serve 9 years 8 months prison on July 28, 2016. If released now he will have served less than 30 percent of his sentence. This recommendation is based upon:

- 1) The inmate's commitment offense.
- 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 OFFENSE

On April 21, 2015, at approximately 12:00 a.m. the inmate's brother, victim Juan Rascon, had returned home from work and was heating food when the inmate entered the residence. The inmate took issue with the noise the victim was making with the microwave and became inexplicably enraged. The inmate leaped from the couch and threatened to stab Juan while holding a screwdriver to his face. The inmate told Juan he was going to kill him. When their mother heard the commotion, she ran to Juan's aid and made the inmate leave. Before he left, the inmate told Juan he'd better watch out. Juan contacted police to come to his aid because he feared the inmate would return to harm him, or was lying in wait.

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Juan told the responding officers he feared for his life and the inmate was a danger to everyone. Several hours later, officers located the inmate who attempted to avoid arrest by walking away from them and into a residence. The residents did not know the inmate nor did they consent to his entry. The officers searched the residence and located the inmate under a pile of clothing in a bedroom. The inmate refused to cooperate with the officers.

The inmate was found guilty by a jury and on July 28, 2016, was sentenced to 9 years 8 months prison.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

At the age of 13, the inmate pushed a victim off a motorized scooter and then stole it. That same year, he broke into a middle school to vandalize school computers and other property by tagging his gang moniker on the items.

The inmate's violence escalated quickly. At the age of 14, he robbed a victim at knife point with other gang members. The inmate put the knife to the victim's throat and told the victim to hand over his money. Less than one year later, the inmate attacked another high school student and beat him in the face while yelling the name of his gang.

As a documented gang member, the inmate was mandated to avoid associating with other gang members or being within the injunction zone. However, the inmate repeatedly violated those mandates and ran from the police each time he was contacted. In 2011, the inmate pointed his anger and violence at his own family. Simply because his mother asked him to go to school, he threatened to kill her and her boyfriend while holding a knife. When the inmate's brother tried to intervene, the inmate threatened him and yelled gang monikers.

After threatening to kill his family, the inmate was sent to prison for two years. However, his criminal behavior continued, undeterred upon his release. He began disobeying a gang injunction as soon as he left prison, and started abusing drugs as well. The inmate was sent back to prison in 2012 for convictions of drug possession and being a convicted felon in possession of a sawed-off shotgun and ammunition. He had been released from prison for only five weeks when he committed the commitment offense. While on bail for the present offense, the inmate was found inside the injunction zone. When confronted by police he ran and was located hiding near a .40 caliber handgun.

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DISCUSSION

Regardless of the label applied to the current offense, the inmate is a violent offender. Numerous opportunities for reform on probation and parole have gone unheeded as the inmate's behavior has become increasingly violent. He has no respect for authority or even the sanctity of his own family. There is nothing in the inmate's lengthy criminal background to suggest he will change.

CONCLUSION

The inmate poses an unreasonable risk of violence to the community and his own family if granted early parole. I respectfully request the Board deny early parole for the inmate.

Very truly yours,



GREGORY D. TOTTEN
District Attorney

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