



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

November 3, 2017

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

**Re: Inmate Jose Arreguin Medina; CDCR AH2731
Ventura County Superior Court Case 2009001245
Opposition Letter Due to Board of Parole Hearings November 3, 2017**

Dear Board Members:

This letter is written to recommend denial of early parole for inmate Jose Medina. In April 2011, the inmate was sentenced to 22 years in prison. Releasing the inmate now means he would serve less than 33 percent of his actual sentence. This recommendation to deny early release is based upon:

- 1) The inmate's commitment offense.
- 2) The unreasonable risk of violence to the community if the inmate is released early.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF COMMITMENT OFFENSE

In 2007, the inmate, who resided in Michoacán, Mexico, entered into an agreement with several codefendants and other coconspirators based in the United States to transport various controlled substances, including heroin and methamphetamine, from Mexico to locations in California. The inmate, otherwise known as "Don Pepe" and dubbed the "King of Heroin" by the Mexican media, was the head of an international drug trafficking organization. He regularly supplied heroin and methamphetamine to subordinates in the United States, and he coordinated and directed distribution of the drugs to a variety of lower-level dealers. The inmate also coordinated the collection of drug sales revenue from his network of dealers in the United States, and directed the return of cash to himself in Mexico.

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From late 2006 through early 2008, the Ventura County Combined Agency Team, a multi-agency narcotics task force, along with agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration, conducted an extensive investigation of drug trafficking activities associated with the inmate's organization. Using wiretaps, law enforcement intercepted numerous conversations between the inmate and his subordinates, in which the inmate explicitly gave instructions concerning distribution of drugs, packaging and delivery of drugs and money, processing of drugs, and the renting of homes and apartments for use as stash houses. Numerous individuals, including family members, friends, and associates of the inmate, were identified as participants in the inmate's drug trafficking organization at various levels. Approximately 45 individuals were ultimately arrested.

In February 2008, approximately 78 kilograms of heroin, 27 kilograms of methamphetamine, one kilogram of cocaine, various weapons, and roughly \$330,000 in drug proceeds were seized by law enforcement in direct connection with the activities of the inmate's drug trafficking organization. The inmate was extradited from Mexico to the United States in October 2010, to face the charges in this case.

On March 16, 2011, the inmate pleaded guilty to conspiracy to possession heroin for sale, a violation of Penal Code section 182(a)(1), Health and Safety Code section 11351, and admitted a special allegation that the quantity of heroin exceeded 40 kilograms per Health and Safety Code section 11370.4(a)(5). On April 13, 2011, the inmate was sentenced to 22 years in prison.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

The inmate does not have any other documented criminal history in the United States.

DISCUSSION

Granting early parole of the inmate poses a great risk to the safety of the community. The circumstances of the commitment offense are extreme. The inmate was the head of an international drug trafficking organization which transported extremely large quantities of heroin and methamphetamine from Mexico to California. In this position, the inmate personally monitored and coordinated the distribution of these drugs throughout his network, reaping a great amount of profit in the process. The actions of the inmate's organization, based on the inmate's directions and commands, caused a great deal of harm by poisoning the community with illegal substances. Though no specific instances of violence were observed, several firearms were recovered during law enforcement operations. Ultimately, only a snapshot of the organization's activities was observed, yet the potential for violence clearly existed.

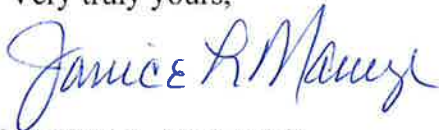
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Given the inmate's status in his criminal organization and the widespread nature of the organization itself, it is highly unlikely the inmate will now turn to a crime-free life if released. Releasing the inmate early would pose a grave threat to the community. Moreover, it would be a severe injustice if this inmate, who orchestrated the importation of drugs into our country, was released after serving merely a third of his much-deserved sentence.

CONCLUSION

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

Very truly yours,



JANICE L. MAURIZI
Chief Assistant District Attorney

JLM:ls

E-mail: BPH.CorrespondenceUnit@cdcr.ca.gov