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August 7, 2018

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

**Re: Inmate Michael Allan Kragh, CDCR AY9917
Ventura County Superior Court Case 2015024915
Opposition Letter Due to Board of Parole Hearings August 8, 2018**

Dear Board Members:

This letter is written to recommend denial of early parole for inmate Michael Kragh. On January 25, 2016, the inmate was sentenced to ten years in prison. Releasing the inmate now means he would serve approximately 35 percent of his actual sentence. This recommendation to deny early release is based upon:

- 1) The inmate's commitment offenses.
- 2) The inmate's significant criminal history.
- 3) The unreasonable risk of violence to the community if the inmate is released early.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF COMMITMENT OFFENSES

On August 5, 2015, the inmate and Lorena Holdaway were involved in an altercation at a motel. When officers contacted the inmate, he pressed his body against the outside of the room's doorway, crouched towards the corner of the door, pivoted, and stood up, raising his hands, holding a cell phone, water bottle, and keys. He was agitated and nervous and ignored the officers' directives.

According to the motel manager, she walked to the motel room with the inmate when he began yelling at Ms. Holdaway. A surveillance video showed the inmate was earlier unable to open the door and kicked it. Police observed that the room's door knob was bent and there was a hole in the door.

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Officers observed a loaded Smith & Wesson .38 caliber revolver in the doorway of the room, where the inmate had been crouching down. Ms. Holdaway claimed the gun was hers and that the inmate had asked her for the gun because of her history of suicide attempts. That firearm was determined to have been stolen on March 9, 2015, out of Los Angeles County.

Police determined there was another firearm outstanding. The inmate admitted that he retrieved a gun from his van and hid it in a backpack underneath the bathroom sink. The backpack had a container with bindles of heroin, but no firearm. During a search of the room, several other items of contraband were found: a bowl with cocaine and heroin, 25 bindles of methamphetamine, seven bindles of heroin, two bindles of cocaine, a methamphetamine pipe, two Soma pills, and a Brillo steel wool pad, commonly used to smoke rock cocaine.

Police then searched the inmate's vehicle and retrieved a suitcase which held a loaded Glock .45 caliber with a loaded magazine. Two large bindles with methamphetamine and heroin were also in the suitcase. It was noted that all the clothing in the suitcase was men's clothing. Inside a chest in the van, officers discovered two counterfeit \$20 bills along with baggies like the ones the inmate had in his pocket. There were also two boxes of foil and a box of sandwich bags. Six 9 mm ammunition and a spent .45 caliber shell casing were on the floorboard. In a second backpack, there was a user's manual for the Glock handgun along with mail addressed to the inmate. In the rear cargo area, there was a notebook appearing to reference gram amounts and prices (pay/owe sheets).

The total weight of all the narcotics found was 172.2 grams methamphetamine, 69.4 grams of heroin, and 48.3 grams of cocaine. The inmate pled guilty to possession of heroin for sale, as well as possession of a controlled substance with a firearm. He also admitted 11 special allegations which include 3 prior drug sales convictions and 8 prison priors. He was sentenced to ten years prison.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

The inmate's adult record dates to 1987. His record consists of theft convictions between 1987-1992, a misdemeanor lewd conduct conviction in 1991, an assault with a deadly weapon in 1996, and at least 12 felony and misdemeanor drug sales/possession/or under the influence convictions between 1996-2015, not including his commitment offense.

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DISCUSSION

The inmate has been poisoning our community through drug sales for the last two decades; most recently while possessing a loaded gun. Drugs and guns are dangerous on their own, yet such combination, especially when considering the inmate is also a drug user, poses a heightened threat of violence to our community.

Granting early parole of the inmate poses a safety risk to the community. The inmate's criminal history stretches back 30 years and clearly shows a pattern of disregard towards others and the law. Despite numerous opportunities on probation and parole, the inmate cannot obey the rule of law.

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,



MICHAEL D. SCHWARTZ
Chief Assistant District Attorney

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