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August 1, 2018

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

**Re: Inmate Jacob Angel Stephenson; CDCR AV8457
Ventura County Superior Court Case 201401101
Opposition Letter Due to Board of Parole Hearings August 5, 2018**

Dear Board Members:

This letter is written to recommend denial of early parole for inmate Jacob Stephenson. In February 2015, the inmate was sentenced to 14 years in prison, with 282 actual days of custody credit. Releasing the inmate now means he would serve about 29 percent of his actual sentence. This recommendation to deny early release is based upon:

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

On April 18, 2013, at approximately 11:15 p.m., victim Louis Phillips, a known gang member, drove his car to the gas pumps at a convenience store in the city of Oxnard. There was a passenger in the right front seat of Phillips' vehicle. Phillips walked inside the store, paid for gas, and returned to his vehicle. Phillips began to pump gas into his vehicle.

The inmate, a known gang member, drove his vehicle by Phillips. The inmate's two passengers, Mario Hernandez and Ruben Hernandez, were both known gang members. The inmate parked his vehicle in front of the convenience store about 30 feet from where Phillips was pumping gas.

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The inmate and Ruben Hernandez exited the inmate's vehicle, looked at Phillips, then leaned back into the inmate's vehicle. Mario Hernandez then exited the inmate's vehicle.

The inmate, Ruben Hernandez, and Mario Hernandez walked towards Phillips. The three then triangulated on Phillips and his car and approached from different angles. The three attacked Phillips and Phillips' passenger. Ruben Hernandez used a box cutter to slash at Phillips. Mario Hernandez chased the passenger off, and the inmate threw a punch and chased Phillips and his passenger away from Phillips' vehicle.

As soon as Phillips and his passenger were chased a short distance away from their vehicle, Mario Hernandez ran back to Phillips' car, jumped in the driver's seat, and sped away in the vehicle. Ruben Hernandez and the inmate continued to chase the passenger around the parking lot attempting to assault him. Phillips then pulled out a .40 caliber handgun and attempted to enter the back seat of his own vehicle now stolen by Mario Hernandez. Phillips shot several rounds into his own car. Mario Hernandez was able to drive the stolen car away.

Ruben Hernandez and the inmate re-entered the inmate's vehicle and fled the scene. As Ruben Hernandez and the inmate were fleeing, Phillips ran towards the inmate's vehicle and fired several more rounds at the inmate's car. Phillips fired a total of six rounds during the incident.

The inmate was charged with carjacking and street terrorism. He eventually pled guilty to assault with force likely to cause great bodily injury and committed for the benefit of his gang. He also admitted a strike prior and serious/violent felony prior. He was sentenced to 14 years in prison.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Like many criminal street gang members, the inmate's criminal history began as a juvenile. In 2008, the 17-year-old inmate was charged as an adult and convicted of second-degree robbery with the criminal street gang allegation.

As an adult, in 2012, the inmate was convicted of auto theft. The inmate was sentenced to 365 days in the Ventura County jail and three years of formal felony probation. The inmate was on probation when he committed his commitment offense.

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DISCUSSION

Granting early parole of the inmate poses a safety risk to the community. The inmate is a criminal street gang member who has been convicted on two separate occasions of violent gang crimes. The inmate committed these crimes with other violent criminal street gang members, and his conduct benefited criminal street gangs at the expense of members of the community.

The inmate's complete criminal history demonstrates he has not changed. The inmate's behavior of being an active criminal street gang member and committing crimes with other violent criminal street gang members make him a danger if released from custody.

The inmate has displayed throughout his life a disregard for the law. He is a hardened gang member, engaging violent activities with other gang members. His criminal activity is increasingly violent. The inmate is unable to refrain from engaging in violent, dangerous criminal conduct. He should serve his full prison term.

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

MDS:kd

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