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October 12, 2018

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

**Re: Inmate Jaime Romero, CDCR BB6750
Ventura County Superior Court Case 2016037597
Opposition Letter Due to Board of Parole Hearings October 14, 2018**

Dear Board Members:

This letter is written to recommend denial of early parole for inmate Jaime Romero. In November 2016, the inmate was sentenced to four years prison, plus an additional 364 days. Releasing the inmate now means he would serve about 40 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

The inmate and victim Nathalie Mendoza were previously involved in a dating relationship. On April 19, 2016, the inmate was arrested for domestic violence against the victim. Shortly thereafter, their relationship ended. On May 12, 2016, the inmate was convicted of domestic violence and placed on formal probation.¹ A Criminal Protective Order was issued preventing the inmate from contacting with the victim and her children.

¹ This incident will be discussed in detail in his criminal history.

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On October 14, 2016, despite a valid restraining order, surveillance video from the victim's apartment complex showed the inmate freely coming and going from victim's residence. At approximately 6:15 p.m., the inmate was standing in the victim's doorway, apparently waiting for her arrival. Shortly thereafter, while inside of the victim's residence, the inmate slapped the victim on the face twice with an open hand, resulting in a laceration on her inner lip.

The inmate then entered the kitchen and grabbed a knife. He approached the victim and threatened to stab her. During this time, the inmate telephoned his mother and father. While the inmate was on his phone, the victim attempted to text one of her friends to call the police; however, the inmate ripped her phone from her hands. A struggle ensued, and the inmate overpowered her.

A short time later, the inmate's mother, Estella Cabrera, and sister, Iliana Romero, arrived at the victim's residence. Iliana directed the inmate to leave the victim's home, but he refused. She then began to record the incident with her cell phone. The inmate yelled, "You want to get your car blown!" While the incident escalated, the inmate threw items inside the home. He also picked up a glass jar and began to hit himself on the head with it. After the inmate learned that his sister called the police, he attempted to grab a knife from the kitchen, but fled the scene empty-handed.

After this domestic violence incident, the victim purchased another cell phone. The victim received several calls from a "private caller," but she did not answer the phone. On October 15, 2016, at 6:51 p.m., while the victim was at work, she received a text message from the inmate's sister. The inmate's sister advised that the inmate made threatening remarks saying he was going to kill her (the sister), his mother, and the victim. The victim feared for her safety and called the police. She was afraid to go home and believed the inmate would be waiting to kill her. A short time later, the victim was escorted to her residence and obtained some belongings. She then stayed with relatives because she did not feel safe in her home.

Two days later, the inmate was located and arrested by the police. The inmate later pled guilty to inflicting corporal injury on a former cohabitant, and disobeying a domestic relations court order, with a prior conviction for violating a domestic court order. The inmate also admitted a strike prior and a prior domestic battery within seven years of the offense. The inmate was sentenced to 4 years 364 days in prison.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

The inmate's adult record dates to 2009, when he was the age of 19. At 19, the inmate was convicted of an assault with a firearm done for the benefit of a criminal street gang. There, the inmate punched his father, injured his mother, disabled two telephones, pointed a gun at his father and threatened to shoot him. This was done in front of his three younger siblings. A fully loaded handgun and rifle were found in his home.

While on probation on his strike offense, he was convicted of felony vandalism where he took and destroyed his neighbor's surveillance cameras. Later in 2013, he was convicted of second-degree commercial burglary. While on probation for burglary in 2015, he was convicted of driving under the influence with a BAC of more than .15 percent.

In 2016, he began abusing his girlfriend, Ms. Mendoza. On April 19, 2016, an argument ensued after an unknown male commented on the victim's Instagram account. The inmate accused the victim of cheating and broke her cell phone. The victim responded by breaking the inmate's cell phone. The inmate then grabbed the victim by her shoulders and threw her to the floor, causing her to hit her head. A roommate attempted to help the victim, but the inmate grabbed the victim by her neck and pushed her down on the couch. The police were called. When the inmate was contacted by officers, he resisted and pulled away as officers attempted to handcuff him. The victim then obtained a restraining order against the inmate. While in custody, the defendant attempted to call the victim several times despite the criminal protective order not to have any contact with her. The inmate pled guilty to felony domestic violence and violation of a domestic violence restraining order.

DISCUSSION

Granting early parole of the inmate poses a substantial safety risk to the community. The inmate's criminal history demonstrates he has a propensity for violence and no self-control. He even commits acts of violence against members of his own family and loved ones. It also speaks volumes that the inmate's own sister called the police against him, fully knowing the consequences that would result. The inmate's history of possessing deadly weapons, associating with criminal street gangs and committing acts of violence is a deadly combination. There is absolutely no evidence that the inmate's violent behavior will cease upon release.

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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,



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District Attorney

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