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May 29, 2015

Attn: Non-Violent Second Striker  
Board of Parole Hearings  
Correspondence-NVSS  
P.O. Box 4036  
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

RE: Contreras, Armida WE9030

Dear Board of Parole Hearings,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Board regarding the administrative review of inmate Armida Contreras, WE9030, and her suitability for early release.

Based on my knowledge of the case against Ms. Contreras, I do not believe she should be considered for release prior to serving out her sentence. This is based not only on the facts of the case arising in her current commitment to CDCR, but also based on her prior convictions, which show a history of serious and violent criminal conduct.

In the instant case, Ms. Contreras was in a truck with her boyfriend and co-defendant John Dunham. The Yolo County Narcotics Enforcement Team (YONET) had received information that Mr. Dunham was involved in the sale of methamphetamine. Surveillance of Mr. Dunham saw him in the almost continuous companionship of Ms. Contreras. They appeared to live together, go to parole together, and were together almost every time agents sought to follow Mr. Dunham. Agents from the task force obtained a search warrant covering Mr. Dunham's residence, Ms. Contreras' apartment, and the vehicle that Mr. Dunham was driving.

A marked patrol car initiated an enforcement stop of Mr. Dunham's vehicle in order to effectuate the search warrant. Mr. Dunham was driving the truck and pulled in to a gas station parking lot in the city of Davis, CA. As the car was still moving, Ms. Contreras exited the vehicle carrying a white plastic grocery bag and walked in to the convenience store. She walked down one aisle carrying the bag, and then walked up the other without the bag in her hand. A YONET Agent arrested her outside the store, retraced her steps and located the bag which contained almost 2.2 pounds of methamphetamine (999.1 grams).

Inside the vehicle that she and Mr. Dunham were in, agents found scales, baggies, and other indicia of drug sales. Additionally, various chemicals involved in the manufacturing of methamphetamine were located. An expert testified at the preliminary hearing that the bulk price of 1 kilogram of methamphetamine was approximately \$16,000 at the time of this offense.

Given the above facts, Ms. Contreras would not be suitable for early release. Her crime in the instant case was serious and involved a large quantity of controlled substances. Further, she and her boyfriend were found to be in possession of the tools to make more methamphetamine. For those reasons alone, she should remain in prison. However, the facts of her earlier "strike" offenses also show that she should remain in custody.

On March 27, 1991, Ms. Contreras got into an argument with a gentleman regarding the fact that the victim had observed Ms. Contreras spending time with other men. Ms. Contreras, who was with her then boyfriend, denied these accusations. After arguing for approximately 15 minutes, Ms. Contreras took a knife and stabbed the victim in the abdomen. After stabbing the victim once, Ms. Contreras was restrained by her boyfriend as she continued to try and stab the victim.

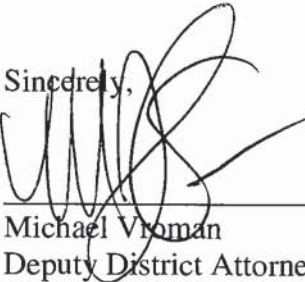
At the hospital, it was discovered that the stab wound damaged the victim's liver.

The defendant was arrested and charged for her actions. Ms. Contreras was convicted in that case of assault with a deadly weapon as well as personal infliction of great bodily injury. She was sentenced to 11 years prison in that case. This was due to the fact that when Ms. Contreras committed the stabbing, she had already been convicted of residential burglary.

At the time of this offense, Ms. Contreras has not spent a period of 5 years free from prison custody or the commission of a new felony offense since 1985 (a period of 27 years). Her life can only be described as a series of incarcerations interrupted by brief periods of release. In fact, even with all of the reforms in prison sentencing over the past 5 years, Ms. Contreras was .9 grams of methamphetamine short of being eligible for a life term in this case due to her record and the amount of methamphetamine seized.

While transporting 2.2 pounds of methamphetamine is not a "serious" or "violent" offense as defined in the penal code, it is certainly a serious offense. Ms. Contreras has, for the past 30 years, lived by her own rules and shown a disregard for the safety and well-being of those around her. Given the seriousness of this offense, the seriousness of some of her past convictions, and her lengthy criminal record, she should not be considered for early release as a "non-violent second striker".

Sincerely,



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Michael Vroman  
Deputy District Attorney  
Yolo County District Attorney's Office