

## COUNTY OF YOLO OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

RE: Santiago, Pedro CDC # AL4495

Dear Board of Parole Hearings,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Board regarding the administrative review of inmate Pedro Alberto Santiago, AL4495, and his suitability for early release.

Based upon his criminal history and the facts of his recent cases, Mr. Santiago poses an unreasonable risk and should be not considered for early release.

Prior to his convictions in his current cases, Mr. Santiago had already managed to develop an extensive criminal history. At the young age of 18, Mr. Santiago was convicted of criminal street gang activity under § 186.22(b). He was given a chance at probation when he was sentenced on January 31, 2002. By October, 2013, Mr. Santiago had violated his probation and was sentenced to prison for a total term of 2 years.

On August 2, 2011, Mr. Santiago was driving a vehicle around midnight with a minor in the car. Upon driving through a church parking lot at high rates of speed, Mr. Santiago was stopped by law enforcement. He was displaying signs and symptoms of someone under the influence of methamphetamine, which a later test showed to be true. Further, Mr. Santiago had in his possession no less than ten separate baggies of methamphetamine, each weighing approximately 1.5 grams. The total weight of the methamphetamine was over 12 grams, or approximately ½ ounce. Officers determined that the methamphetamine, based on its weight (1.5 grams are commonly sold on the streets as 1/16 of an ounce, or a "teener") and packaging were possessed for the purpose of sale.

While out on bail and pending charges for that case, Mr. Santiago was discovered in his apartment complex during the execution of a search warrant. During that search, which occurred on February 21, 2012, officers located even more methamphetamine. Throughout the apartment, which was littered with methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia and drug users, officers found numerous items that can easily be associated with Mr. Santiago.

Specifically, officers found a bag that contained a digital scale and indicia for Mr. Santiago in the kitchen of the apartment. In garage associated with the apartment, officers found more indicia for Mr. Santiago, a second digital scale (commonly used to weigh drugs during the sales process), and a total of 183.7 grams of methamphetamine (over 6.5 ounces). Further, in the same garage, there was a vehicle which contained Mr. Santiago's driver's license. Inside that car, officers found an additional 11 grams of methamphetamine.

Based on the above factors, there are significant concerns about Mr. Santiago's actions when he gets out of custody. First, he has a history of failing to appear in court, as evidenced by his conviction for a felony violation of Penal Code § 1320. Second, the fact that he was out on bail when he committed the second offense shows that he does not change his ways and that the threat of additional criminal penalties does not appear to weigh on his conscience at all. Finally, the facts of the February, 2012 case show that Mr. Santiago not only does not stop his criminal activity upon being arrested, but increases it over ten fold.

Given the defendant's criminal history, his performance on probation, and the facts of the two most recent cases, Mr. Santiago poses an unreasonable risk and should not be considered for early release.

Thank you for your time in considering this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael Vroman

Deputy District Attorney

Yolo County District Attorney's Office

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