



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

August 30, 2018

Attn: Non-Violent Parole Review Process
Board of Parole Hearings
Correspondence-NV
P.O. Box 4036
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

RE: Harris, Dennis T54066

Dear Board of Parole Hearings,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Board regarding the administrative review of inmate Dennis Joseph Harris, T54066, and his suitability for early release.

Over the past few years, I, or other attorneys in my office have written to you indicating our opposition to Mr. Harris' early release. Prior to the passage of Proposition 57, we opposed the inmate's release based on his status as a Non-Violent Second Striker (NVSS). Since its passage, we have opposed his release once prior, and it was denied due to his excessive criminality. From the documents we have received, it appears as if Mr. Harris' initial application was denied, he was granted a second hearing, which also resulted in a denial of his application. Sadly, we have received no new information about Mr. Harris that would change our opinion and are unaware of any actions he has taken since that would justify his early release.

Prior to his conviction in the instant case, Mr. Harris was a very prolific thief. Even if one were to ignore any non-residential burglary conviction, Mr. Harris' theft history is something to behold. In 1986, Mr. Harris was convicted of four separate counts of residential burglary and sentenced to 7 years 4 months prison. In 1994, Mr. Harris was sentenced to 32 months prison for possession of methamphetamine. On June 24, 2002, Mr. Harris was again convicted of two separate counts of residential burglary and a second count of second degree burglary in Yuba County. His total sentence for that offense was 22 years.

However, that does not even give an accurate picture of Mr. Harris' criminal activity. Around the time Mr. Harris was committing multiple burglaries in Yuba County, he committed the burglary for which he is currently serving a sentence out of Yolo County. Over a relatively short period of time, Mr. Harris has committed no less than seven (7) residential burglaries. Each of these crimes would qualify as a strike offense. Since the passage of the Three Strikes Law, Mr. Harris has been eligible for a life sentence. It seems clear just given his criminal history and disregard for the safety and property of others that any benefit Mr. Harris received was in not getting multiple life sentences in 2002.

While every burglary is serious, the offense for which Mr. Harris serving time out of Yolo County is especially egregious. Mr. Harris came upon a home in rural Yolo County. He broke a window and entered a residence, taking numerous items including shoes, a watch, a VCR and other items. However, most concerning was that Mr. Harris stole a .22 caliber Baretta Pistol. It should be noted that, at the time of this theft, Mr. Harris was already a six time convicted felon, meaning that was illegal for him to even possess the firearm, let alone break in to someone's house and steal one.

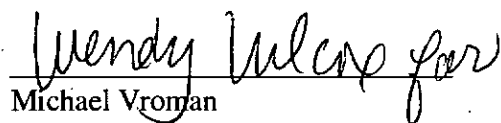
Further, from a review of the various burglary convictions Mr. Harris has accumulated over the years, the actions in this case were not an anomaly. Rather, around the time that Mr. Harris broke into the residence in Yolo County, he had broken in to multiple homes in Yuba County. Among the property taken during those burglaries includes at least one other firearm.

Finally, despite the fact that Mr. Harris voluntarily entered in to multiple plea bargains as part of these cases, knowing full well that he was to be sentenced to a total term of 24 years 8 months for his serious crimes, Mr. Harris has been trying every avenue to get out of prison well earlier than he originally agreed. In April, 2013, Mr. Harris filed a Notice of Intent to Commute his burglary sentence.

Mr. Harris has consistently and repeatedly shown through his extensive and uninterrupted criminal history that he was and remains a threat to public safety if released. While his crimes do not involve the infliction of violence, it appears as if nothing can, or will, stop him from committing serious offenses, and, he should not be released.

Thank you for your time in considering our opposition to his parole. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Michael Vroman
Deputy District Attorney