



# Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

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January 31, 2017

Non-Violent Second Striker Board of Parole Hearings  
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RE: **Blake, James Lee**                      CDC # **AY5180**                      Sacramento Superior Court case **15F04732**

Inmate Blake is a hardened criminal who deserves every second of his present sentence. He had three prior strike convictions for residential burglary in 1997 and 1998 when he was finally sentenced to state prison. In 2006 he was found to be in possession of ammunition. When stopped by officers, he was wearing a holster and had handcuffs, a double-edged dirk or dagger and two counterfeit \$20 bills. He was convicted of being a felon in possession of ammunition.

He exhibited his extreme indifference to anyone's life but his own on August 20, 2007 when officers attempted to stop Inmate Blake when he was observed while driving a stolen vehicle. Although he initially pulled over in response to the officer's lights and siren, he then revved the engine and sped away. Officers saw drug paraphernalia being thrown from the vehicle.

Inmate Blake took officers on an incredible chase in an attempt to elude them. He reached speeds of 100 MPH on rural roads. They attempted to stop him with a tack strip; however, he was able to avoid the stripe by swerving between lines of traffic. He got onto the freeway and continued to swerve back and forth across all lanes of traffic. Again, his speeds reached 100 MPH. Several motorists had to apply their brakes in order to avoid a collision with the inmate. He increased his speed to 110 MPH before exiting the freeway. Then, while traveling at approximately 90 MPH, he drove in the opposite lane of traffic, nearly colliding with two semis, forcing them to pull to the right side of the roadway in order to avoid a collision. The officer attempted to stop him with another tack strip which he again avoided by swerving across lanes of traffic. He then drove on the wrong side of the road for approximately 6 miles, running stop signs and causing other motorists to take evasive action to avoid a collision. He eventually drove back to the exact location where officers had initially observed him. They saw him throw the vehicle's registration from the vehicle and then he drove out of the residential area at 100 MPH while running red lights. Officers placed a 3<sup>rd</sup> tack strip in an intersection which the inmate ran over, causing his rear tire to become flat. Did that stop him? No. He traveled in the wrong direction of traffic, failed to negotiate a wide turn, drove over the sidewalk and into a large drainage ditch. Even though his vehicle was disabled, he moved away from the vehicle and failed to follow officers' directions. He was eventually apprehended with the aid of a K-9. He possessed a glass narcotic smoking pipe.

Inmate Blake was charged and convicted as a 'three-striker' and sentenced to 25 year to life in prison for this crime series. In 2013, he petition for early release under Proposition 36.

The packet of letters he submitted in his Prop. 36 bid to be rid of his life sentence was quite impressive. In a letter to the court dated 6/27/2013 in support of his bid for early release from his life sentence, [see attached] Inmate Blake wrote this condensed letter:

*During the past few years in prison, I have grown in ways I'd never before dreamed possible. I've matured and learned how to deal with this overwhelming disease of addiction. As well as developed coping skills and methods to fight against addiction.*

*The only reason I've ever disobeyed the law, was because of my unrelenting desire for meth. Without that detestable drug, I am a good father, husband, brother, son and member of the community.<sup>1</sup> Meth turns me into someone I despise and never want to be again! I never thought about consequences or the affects my addiction was having on the community and my family. Meth takes everything away!*

*I always took the time I spent with my family for granted. They're the main reason why I'll never commit another crime or do drugs again. My son, [REDACTED] was 4 yo when I was arrested; he's 10yo now and I've missed so incredibly much of his life. He doesn't even seem like the same little boy I left behind. I'll do anything and everything to prevent missing another single day of his life! He needs his father to guide him in the right direction, to avoid the paths I took.*

*I am not a threat nor danger to public safety, because I will never put myself into any situation that might cause me to relapse. I have a plan set to sever old ties and drug-related acquaintances. I will stay close to my preventative support team; which includes: my sponsor, family, pastors, and members of my Celebrate Recovery group. I'll take time to everyday to spend with God and for self-examination.*

*When I'm finally released, I'll use my life and the miracles that God can perform, to show anyone there are better ways of living. I'd be able to stand before them, a man previously sentenced to 25-years-to-life, and show by the grace of God, a meth-addict was given another chance!*

*I pray that this letter and my impeccable CDCR record shows you that I am both a capable and reformed man. I also hope that all of the letters from my family and supporters gives credible weight that I can be beneficial to society as a law-abiding resident again.*

*I respectfully request that you'll give me the chance.*

His 10 year-old son [REDACTED] wrote a particularly touching letter to the court, [attached] which included the following.

*My Dad is a very good man he just made some bad choices when he was younger... I feel like my dads love for me and our family would be enough to keep him doing the right thing.*

In 2013 Inmate Blake was given the gift of a lifetime when this 25 years to life sentence for violations of Penal Code § 2800.2 and 2800.4 were reduced to 6 years in State Prison and he was released on 10/4/2013 to Sacramento County on P.R.C.S.

As it turns out, neither love of family nor his sponsors nor his conscience prevented him from going out and engaging in the very same conduct that initially earned him his 25-year-to-life sentence.

On 10/6/14 he was released from P.R.C.S. [REDACTED]

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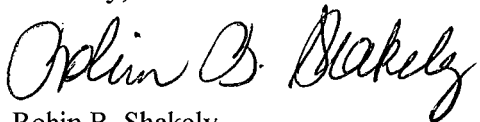
<sup>1</sup> He failed to mention that he was also a 'good' residential burglar.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] on 7/15/15 he 'bought' a motorcycle on Craig's List and paid for it with a fraudulent cashier's check for \$3800. Through investigation, Inmate Blake was identified as the culprit and the motorcycle was recovered. However, on 7/15/15, before he was caught, he was also cited for possession of methamphetamine. He is currently serving a sentence for violation of Vehicle Code § 10851.

Inmate Blake cannot be trusted with his freedom. Shortly after his release, he will renew his affair with his first love, Mistress Meth, steal a car and engage officers once again in a high speed chase. It is only a matter of time before he kills someone. The District Attorney opposes yet another undeserved early release for this inmate who poses a grave risk to public safety. If he submits letters attesting otherwise, they should ring hollow.

Sincerely,



Robin B. Shakely  
Assistant Chief Deputy District Attorney  
Sacramento County District Attorney's Office