

Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

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

Re: Harris, Leonard CDC # AX9868 Court Docket: 15F02787

The Board of Parole Hearings has already once reviewed and denied an early release for Inmate Harris. That review and denial was done on September 7, 2017. It has only been a mere 11 months since that early release denial. Nothing has happened in the past 11 months that now warrants an early release for Harris. He is a habitual and violent career-criminal and should not be paroled. The circumstances surrounding his current conviction and his prior criminal record show that he poses an unreasonable risk of violence to the community.

On April 17, 2015, while Harris was on parole, he stole three paintings from the lobby at an apartment building run by the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency. Harris is seen on video surveillance sleeping on the couch of the lobby room in the early morning hours. The video then shows Harris, dressed in a dark suit and wearing glasses, take the paintings off the wall and proceed to leave with them in tow. An ex-girlfriend of Harris', a resident at this apartment complex, positively identified the man in the video surveillance as inmate Harris. Harris was rightfully convicted of Penal Code Section 459, burglary in the first degree, a felony strike, and was sentenced to six years in state prison. Thankfully, nobody was present in the lobby when Harris decided to commit his crime so nobody was physically harmed. However, this does not suggest that Harris is not a violent person.

On June 8, 2014, inmate Harris grabbed his girlfriend around her neck and bit her hand in an effort to take back the cash that he had just given her. Verification sustained injuries which included swelling and redness around the neck, a scratch on her back, the right side of her neck, on both of her arms, and on top of her breasts. Two months later, in August of 2014, Harris and his girlfriend again got into a verbal argument that resulted in violence. Harris tried to grab his backpack off of his girlfriend's back, but instead broke her purse that was over her neck, causing her to stumble backwards. Her earring was pulled out and scratched her neck. While these incidents did not result in convictions, Verification is still a victim of Harris' and these altercations give us a glimpse into Harris' violent character.

Harris' lengthy criminal history speaks for itself. Beginning at the young age of 21, Harris has accumulated a total of six misdemeanor convictions over the years, including: carrying a loaded firearm in public, grand theft, forgery and disobeying a court order. These six misdemeanor convictions pale in comparison to his fifteen felony convictions. Seven of those fifteen convictions are violent offenses where Harris has hurt others or put them in danger: two convictions for robbery in the first degree, two convictions for grand theft of a person, two convictions for burglary in the first degree, and one conviction of robbery and willful elder abuse. These convictions are proof of Harris' volatile nature and lack of regard for the lives of others. The arrest reports relating to Harris' prior violent convictions are unavailable to the District Attorney's office at this time so I am unable to provide the Board with the facts of those cases. However, Harris' multiple violent, felony strike convictions clearly make him eligible for a life sentence on any future case where he is convicted of a felony. A life sentence was also a possibility on his current case.

In addition to his multiple convictions, Harris has violated his parole seven times in the last seven years. Prison life clearly hasn't made an impact on inmate Harris as he has never successfully completed a parole period. This time will be no different. Harris has demonstrated time and time again that he cannot be a productive member of society and, quite frankly, that he does not wish to be one either.

As we are given 30 days to respond, and we are not provided with any disciplinary history or any other information aside from the one page notice of parole review, I cannot comment on inmate Harris' prison conduct. However, from the record that is available it is clear that inmate Harris should not be released as he poses a significant, unreasonable risk of violence to the community. Parole should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey Severi

Deputy District Attorney

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