December 28, 2016

Non-Violent Second Striker Board of Parole Hearings
Correspondence – NVSS
Post Office Box 4036
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

Re: Marshall Loren Staats; CDC# AY2696

Twenty-three year old [redacted] never saw it coming. She was the front seat passenger in a car driven by [redacted] inmate Marshall Staats. Inmate Staats was driving approximately 40 mph when he unexpectedly made an unsafe right turn, resulting in a major collision with the car driving next to him. After the collision, as [redacted] sat in that front seat of inmate Staats’ car unconscious and dying from her injuries, inmate Staats grabbed a bag of marijuana out of the backseat of the car and fled the scene. Not once did he render aide to [redacted], or think to even call for help. Instead, he left her to die, and she did. Toxicology results later confirmed that at the time of the collision, inmate Staats was driving under the influence of cocaine, marijuana, and Benzylpiperazine.

Prior to stealing [redacted] life away from her, inmate Staats had been arrested and convicted of multiple drug possession charges, two wet-reckless charges, and multiple driving with a suspended license charges. It was clear then that inmate Staats had a serious drug and alcohol problem, and still he continued to drive under the influence and endanger the lives of other. After being convicted of vehicular manslaught for the death of [redacted] inmate Staats was yet again arrested for driving under the influence. In the case that resulted in his current four year prison sentence, inmate Staats fled from an officer after the officer observed Staats smoking a marijuana cigarette while driving. When officers eventually located inmate Staats, he initially denied it was him and then resisted arrest. Tests later revealed that inmate Staats was in fact driving under the influence of drugs.

Not even five years after killing a young woman because of his decision to drive impaired, inmate Staats was back at it. Back driving impaired, back endangering the lives of other, and back to proving that he had yet to learn his lesson. Not only would it be a disservice to [redacted] memory to release inmate Staats early from his current prison sentence, but it is also likely to be a death sentence to some other unsuspecting citizen.

I would like to conclude this letter by stating the obvious, inmate Staats is not some young naïve person who made a huge mistake, and thus is deserving of a second-chance. Instead, he is a proud repeat-offender whose addiction problems leave him with no regard for human life. It is not a matter of if inmate Staats will drive under the influence again, it is a matter of when he’ll
next drive impaired. Is it not in the best interest of society that we keep this menace off the streets for every possible second we can? Surely his next victim will think so. Accordingly, the Sacramento County District Attorney’s Office strongly opposes Marshall Staats’ early release from state prison.

Respectfully,

[Signature]
Irene Williams
Deputy District Attorney
Sacramento County District Attorney’s Office