



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

ANNE MARIE SCHUBERT
District Attorney

Stephen J. Grippi
Chief Deputy

Michael A. Neves
Assistant District Attorney

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Non-Violent Parole Review Process
Board of Parole Hearings
Correspondence - NV
Post Box 4036
Sacramento, CA 95812-4036

RE: CORDELL RICHARD JONES

CDC # AW0494

Docket: 14F06952

My office recently received notice that Inmate Cordell Jones is again seeking early release from the 15 year prison sentence imposed by the Honorable Patrick Marlette on February 25, 2015. This request comes less than one year removed from the October 23, 2018 decision by BPH to deny Mr. Jones early release. BPH denied Mr. Jones release because it recognized, "the current crimes are found to be an aggravating risk factor in the case." The BPH decision further stated in no uncertain terms that, "The inmates prior criminal convictions show a pattern of assaultive behavior or a pattern of similar criminal conduct that is increasing in severity." In evaluating Mr. Jones institutional adjustment, the board found, "the inmate has limited participation in available rehabilitative or self-help programming to address the circumstances that contributed to his criminal behavior, ... and has limited involvement in domestic violence programs, given his 20 year history of violence, especially directed towards women." In reviewing the entirety of the record and denying release, the board concluded that, "the factors aggravating the inmate's current risk of violence outweigh the factors mitigating the inmates current risk of violence."¹

The passage of a mere 11 months should change nothing about the original assessment of Mr. Jones.

Inmate Jones has a documented, life-long, and consistent history of committing violent crimes and should not be granted early release on parole. The circumstances surrounding his current conviction, as well as his prior criminal record, show that he poses an unreasonable risk of violence to our community and by extension the many women he has abused over the course his life.

Mr. Jones began committing abusive crimes in 1990. On September 10, 1990, Yuma Police responded to a domestic violence call. Documented in Yuma Arizona Police Report 90-30721, responding officers met with victim D [REDACTED]. Ms. [REDACTED] detailed that during an argument over their two-year-old daughter, the inmate grabbed her by the throat, strangled her, and threw her into a wall. The officers saw injuries to the neck consistent with the victim's statement and saw a hole in the drywall. When asked about what occurred, Mr. Jones stated he "snapped" [REDACTED]. The following date, 9/11/90, Mr. Jones was convicted of misdemeanor charges of assault and damaging property.

¹ Nonviolent Parole Review Decision, Inmate Cordell Jones, October 24, 2018. Signed by Ana Soares – Deputy Commissioner

Within 2 months, Mr. Jones was once again arrested related to a reckless shooting incident. According to Yuma Police Report 90-38035, Officers contacted a victim stating he had been shot at by Mr. Jones. The officers responded to the defendant's residence, locating his girlfriend who was acting erratic and crying. She described Mr. Jones being upset and being in an argument with him earlier in the evening. In the course of the dispute, Mr. Jones left the apartment while armed with a pistol. The male victim stated the inmate brandished the firearm at him and stated, "I should just put you away right here." As the inmate advanced, the victim fled and described Mr. Jones firing a round into the sidewalk. Mr. Jones later stated he was drunk, did not recall firing a gun and stated it must have been an accident. On 1/24/91, Mr. Jones was convicted of Aggravated Assault in violation of Arizona State Code 13-1201, and a misdemeanor assault offense.

One month following this conviction, Mr. Jones was once again arrested for a domestic violence incident. As documented in Yuma Police Department Report 91-7568, an adult female victim claimed her boyfriend, Mr. Jones, attacked her by pushing her and pulling her hair after suspecting she was having an affair. The following day, the inmate was convicted of a misdemeanor assault.

In September of 1991, Mr. Jones was again arrested related to an assault [REDACTED] Ms. [REDACTED] as reported in Yuma Police Report 91-30627, stated she was assaulted during a domestic dispute and argument when she asked the inmates' friends to leave their apartment. As the officers were arresting Mr. Jones, Mr. Jones began to threaten them, stating he was going to get all the cops, specifically saying, "I'll blow your heads off!" He was convicted of misdemeanor assault on September 5, 1991, concluding a year in which he was convicted of four separate assaultive crimes against at least 2 different women.

[REDACTED] on December 11, 1992. Detailed in Yuma Police Report 92-15837, Ms. [REDACTED] detailed that earlier that day, Mr. Jones came to her residence and a dispute arose [REDACTED] during the conflict, the inmate threatened to stab her in the eye with a pen. She also stated that during the argument, Mr. Jones made several threats to kill her. This conduct resulted in a misdemeanor assault conviction.

The following year, according to Mesa Police Report 93-3250058, Mr. Jones was once again arrested for a domestic assault. On November 21, 1993, Mr. Jones arrived home and became upset [REDACTED] The defendant began pushing the victim, who covered her head with her hands. Mr. Jones then struck the victim, delivering blows to her head and face. Responding officers observed injuries to the victim consistent with her statement. The matter was resolved on December 10, 1999 as a misdemeanor assault. The reason for the delay between arrest and conviction is unknown, however a portion of the delay can be explained by an additional arrest in 1996.

On February 13, 1996, Mr. Jones was arrested for armed robbery in New Orleans, Louisiana. The matter was disposed on April 17, 1998, when the inmate was sentenced to serve one year and three months in the Louisiana Department of Corrections. On September 1, 1998, Mr. Jones was paroled. He was later terminated from parole as "unsatisfactory".

The exact date of Mr. Jones initiating his residency in California is not known, however, less than one year after his 1999 Arizona assault conviction, the inmate was arrested in El Centro, CA for a violent and serious crime. July 1, 2000, detailed in El Centro Police Department Report 07-0014, officers were dispatched to a hospital to contact two female assault victims. The victims, one of whom was the girlfriend of the defendant, described being attacked by the defendant, who hit both of them with a shovel, threatened to kill them, and tried to run them over with a vehicle. Both victims received injuries requiring

stitches and staples to repair. On July 21, 2000, Mr. Jones was convicted of a violation of Penal Code Section 245(a)(1), a strike, and sentenced to the upper term of 4 years in state prison.

Nearly 4 years to the day later, Mr. Jones was again arrested, this time for a violation of Penal Code Section 273.5 (domestic violence) and Penal Code Section 422 (Making Terrorist Threats). On January 6, 2005, this arrest would result in a conviction for false imprisonment, a reasonably related felony under Penal Code Section 236. Admitting the prior strike, Mr. Jones was sentenced to prison once more for 32 months.

Once paroled, the inmate returned to his pattern of abusing women. On April 16, 2007, San Diego police responded to the defendant's residence. There, they contacted the defendant's girlfriend, who stated only a verbal argument had occurred. An interview with the victim's son revealed that the defendant had attacked his mother and strangled her because he suspected she was talking with another man. On September 21, 2007, Mr. Jones was convicted of a felony violation of Penal Code Section 273.5 (a) and admitted his strike prior. The inmate was sentenced to 6 years in state prison.

After serving his third prison term in California and fourth overall, Mr. Jones was once again arrested for a domestic assault. On 5/15/13, Sacramento Police Officers responded to a call [REDACTED]. She described Mr. Jones as being upset, going through her cell phone, and accusing her of cheating on him. She then stated the inmate grabbed her by the throat and began to strangle her. According to the victim, the inmate stated "I'm gonna kill you," again and again. The victim told officers she was very afraid, unable to breathe, and believed she was going to be killed. On 8/23/13, the case resolved as a violation of Penal Code Section 243(e), domestic battery. The defendant was ordered to serve 1 year in the Sacramento County Jail. On November 10, 2013, Mr. Jones was released from jail and back into the community. Less than one year passed before he again committed a violent act of domestic abuse, which would eventually lead him to the current sentence he is serving today.

On October 1, 2014, [REDACTED] Doe was contacted by Sacramento County Sheriff's. The responding deputies noted that both of her eyes were swollen and bruised. She had a "busted" lip, one of her front teeth was chipped, multiple cuts on her hands and arms were observed, as well as bruising to her chest, breasts, and neck. She would later be taken to the hospital where she was diagnosed as having suffered a concussion, and a nasal fracture. Ms. Doe described to the officers that her boyfriend of 2 months, Mr. Jones, had attacked her after seeing a text message on her phone that upset him because it was from another man. Enraged by the text, the defendant grabbed a knife and threatened to "kill her" and "I'll chop you into little pieces." He pummeled the victim multiple times in the face with his fists and strangled her on at least two occasions to the point where she was close to losing consciousness. When she tried to escape, he jabbed a set of keys into her mouth, cutting her lip and chipping her tooth. He derided her as she cried, stating "You bit your lip. I meant to get your throat." Following the attack, Ms. Doe was held captive against her will for a number of days before escaping and contacting the police.

I conducted the jury trial on this case in January of 2015. Ms. Doe testified through tears about the repeated instances where Mr. Jones had attacked her, abused her, and demeaned her. Hearing her compelling and gut-wrenching testimony, the jury returned a verdict of guilty for violations of PC 273.5, 243(d), 245(a)(4) and 245(a)(1). Prior to sentencing, Ms. Doe described her experience as "traumatic" and that she believed she was not only physically scarred, but emotionally scarred for life as well. In addition, Ms. Doe described continuing to have problems with her vision, having trouble sleeping, and having recurring nightmares based on the traumatic events she suffered at the hands of inmate Jones.

Mr. Jones is now asking this board for early release. He has an almost 30-year criminal history of violent acts, spanning 3 states, 5 separate prison commitments, and at a minimum 4 different woman who have experienced extreme violence at his hands; a violence that can be set off because she doesn't make dinner,

or has a text message on her cell phone his fragile ego can't handle. It is my strong opinion that releasing Mr. Jones early will be considered by this inmate as an invitation to commit further crimes, instead of an opportunity to comply with parole and build a better life. To the contrary, release of this inmate will undoubtedly result in a continuation of his well-established pattern of abuse of woman, akin to a literal license to commit further acts of violence against our community.

As we are given 30 days to respond, and we are not provided access to or information pertaining to any disciplinary history or additional information aside from the single page notice of parole review, I cannot comment on the conduct of inmate Jones while in prison. However, from the record that is available, it is clear that inmate Jones should not be released, as he will present a significant and unreasonable risk of violence to the community. Parole should be denied.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frederick R. Gotha".

Frederick R. Gotha
Deputy District Attorney
Sacramento County District Attorney's Office