

## 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: Whitfield, Tyrice CDC # F084170 Court Docket: 15F01292

Inmate Whitfield is a well-established felon, and should not be paroled. The circumstances surrounding his current conviction and his prior criminal record show that he poses an unreasonable risk of ongoing criminal activity to the community.

In 2006, Inmate Whitfield was convicted of his first felony, PC 530.5(a) (aka Identity Theft). Since that time, Inmate Whitfield has not changed his criminal ways in any manner. Since that first felony conviction, within a year he was convicted of two first degree burglaries, for which he was sentenced to four (4) years in State Prison. In addition, Placer County convicted him in 2007 of second degree burglary for 16 months in State Prison. After his release, Inmate Whitfield was convicted of Penal Code section 496d(a) in 2012 for a 32-month State Prison sentence. A misdemeanor second degree burglary conviction followed in 2014.

Which leads to Inmate Whitfield's current committing offense. In December of 2015, the victim in the current case had his backpack stolen from his vehicle. Shortly after that theft, the victim was notified that someone had changed his bank password. Ultimately, Inmate Whitfield was tracked down because he opened or attempted to open at least five different accounts using the victim's name and Inmate Whitfield's address and phone number. When confronted with the facts of this case, Inmate Whitfield lied to investigators claiming he was in a relationship with the victim and that the victim's financial information had been left at his house intentionally. The truth was much simpler, Inmate Whitfield illegally obtained the victims financial information and fraudulently opened accounts in the victim's name. In addition, Inmate Whitfield was able to fraudulently withdraw funds from the victim's employer, **Section** on two

It may appear that the crime of identity theft is a step down from first degree, burglary, but really it is just victimizing innocent people in a different way. This conduct is consistent with Inmate Whitfield's pattern of behavior in that he consistently takes from innocent victims, goods and financial identities. The Bureau of Justice Statistics found "[a]n estimated 17.6 million persons . . . were victims of at least one incident of identity theft," in 2014. Many victims spend months attempting to resolve the damage done through identity theft, often experiencing

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emotional distress in the process. Rough estimates suggest that identity theft cost victims in the United States upwards of \$25 billion dollars as reported by the U.S. Department of Justice. The average victim, just like Inmate Whitfield's victim, is a hard working person who will spend hundreds of hours trying to repair their credit, and many will continue to be victims for years after the first time they become aware of the fraudulent conduct.

release. He has never successfully completed a term of probation. When Inmate Whitfield is eventually released, he will undoubtedly continue his criminal ways. Providing him with a reduced prison sentence only serves to reward his conduct and further punish the victims and citizens of Sacramento County. Whitfield has only been in State Prison for four (4) years in this case, after receiving an aggregate sentence for 18 years. Providing Inmate Whitfield with a reduced sentence for stealing someone's financial identity after having previously been convicted of identity theft, as well as two first degree burglaries, would only serve to hurt the public.

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 Whitfield's prison conduct. However, from the record that is available it is clear that Inmate Whitfield should not be released as he poses a significant, unreasonable risk of ongoing criminal activity. As Inmate Whitfield has been incarcerated for only 60 months, it is unreasonable to conclude that he has transformed his behavior in such a short period of time after not doing so for the past 13 years. Parole should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michelle Carlson Deputy District Attorney Sacramento County District Attorney's Office