



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

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March 15, 2018

Barbara Adams
Senior Investigator
Board of Parole Hearing
Sacramento, CA 9581

RE: Application for Clemency by Lawrence Pela
Sacramento Superior Court # 07F05487

Dear Senior Investigator Adams,

As the District Attorney of Sacramento County, I am opposed to the Application for Executive Clemency submitted by and on behalf of Lawrence Pela. The application should be denied.

Mr. Pela was convicted by a jury of eleven counts of robbery in violation of Penal Code Section 211, and eleven separate findings that he personally used a firearm in violation of Penal Code Section 12022.53(b). A commutation of his sentence would result in an unjust reduction of his sentence of 46 years and 8 months for these violent crimes, as they involved ten separate victims during a robbery spree that lasted from March through May of 2007.¹

In this case, Mr. Pela targeted a number of GameStop stores and a Circle K in a series of armed robberies. According to Sacramento Police Report #07-102646, on March 26, 2007, the inmate entered a GameStop store located on 3645 Northgate Boulevard. Wearing a black beanie and ski mask over his face, Mr. Pela demanded an Xbox 360 (game system) and money from the cash registers. He stated, "Hurry the fuck up and no one will get hurt." He then pulled out a black revolver and pointed it at the two sales clerks. The clerks provided Mr. Pela with the game system and money from the registers. Post-conviction, in June of 2009, the victim, [REDACTED] G., indicated that as a result of the crime he was paranoid to go to work and experienced emotional difficulty related to the incident.²

¹ Mr. Pela was charged with three additional and separate violations of Penal Code Section 211 occurring in February of 2007, however those charges were dismissed after the jury failed to reach a verdict.

² Other victims were recently contacted and were informed of Mr. Pela's clemency request. [REDACTED] J. requested our office to forward her email to the Governor on this subject. We did not get permission from the other victims to disclose their identity or specific comments that identify them. However, there are some of them who think Mr. Pela should not get out early, one had no opinion, and others believe he should get less time if he has reformed and would not re-offend.

A review of Sacramento Sheriff's Department report 07-18955, relating to Counts 5 and 6, indicates that on April 4, 2007, Mr. Pela entered a GameStop store located on 5163 Madison Avenue. Wearing a black ski mask and gloves, the inmate approached the sales counter and pulled a gun out of his pocket. Following a demand for cash, the male victim [REDACTED] Z. provided Mr. Pela with \$1,599.00, as the female victim, [REDACTED] J., cried and cowered in fear. A letter from [REDACTED] J. is enclosed.

The facts underlying Count 7 are summarized in Sacramento Police Department Report 07-123960. According to this document, on April 13, 2007, Mr. Pela entered a Circle K convenience store located at 600 Rio Terra Drive. Wearing a black ski mask, he approached the victim, displayed a handgun and demanded money. The clerk provided the inmate with \$97.91.

The events related to Counts 8 and 9 are described in Sacramento Sheriff's Department Report 07-21092. On April 15, 2007, Mr. Pela entered a GameStop store located at 5100 Madison Avenue. Children were present inside the location at the time. Displaying a black revolver, he pointed the firearm at the clerks and demanded money. He was given \$1,085.00 and fled the scene.

Sacramento Police Report 07-128721 summarizes the criminal conduct supporting the conviction for Count 10. On April 17, 2007, Mr. Pela returned to the GameStop he robbed on March 26th. The victim recognized Mr. Pela from the previous robbery. Mr. Pela, wearing a black ski mask and gloves, pulled a black revolver from his jacket and demanded money. He was given \$750.00 and left the store.

The facts supporting Count 11 are recounted in Sacramento Sheriff's Department Report 07-26340. On May 11, 2007, Mr. Pela entered a GameStop located at 10853 Olson Drive. The manager of the store [REDACTED] L., described the inmate as wearing all black clothing and a black knit mask. Mr. Pela demanded money and displayed a revolver. He stole \$1,800.00 and left on foot.

The charges in Count 12 occurred on May 15, 2007. According to Sacramento Sheriff's Department Report 07-26819, Mr. Pela entered a GameStop store located at 2820 Marconi Avenue. The inmate, wearing a mask, pulled a revolver out of his pocket and demanded money from the clerk. Four other individuals were present in the store, a mother, [REDACTED] F. and her three minor children. They tried to leave the store but Mr. Pela ordered them to stay. The clerk gave Mr. Pela \$450.00 and he fled.

Elk Grove Police Department Report 07-5820 summarizes the events leading to the inmate's conviction on Count 17. On May 16, 2007, Mr. Pela entered a GameStop store located at 7717 Laguna Boulevard. The victim, [REDACTED] V., indicated the suspect was wearing a black ski mask. [REDACTED] further stated he believed he recognized the perpetrator as the same person that robbed seven other GameStops. Mr. Pela pointed a gun at the victim while demanding money. [REDACTED] gave the inmate approximately \$666.00 in cash.

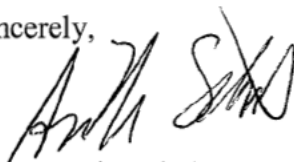
The final conviction for robbery, Count 18, is described in Sacramento Police Report 07-184296. On May 31, 2007, Mr. Pela entered a GameStop store at 3645 Northgate Boulevard, the same

store he had robbed in late March 2007. The victim, [REDACTED] B., stated the suspect was wearing a ski mask and gloves when he entered the store. Mr. Pela pulled out a snub nose revolver and demanded money. [REDACTED] B. provided the inmate with approximately \$500.00, along with an attached tracking tag, unbeknownst to Mr. Pela. Law enforcement officers followed the tracking signal and located the inmate in a car. Officers discovered the stolen money, the tracking device, live ammunition, and a loaded Taurus .357 revolver. Mr. Pela provided a statement to police where he stated the items in the car belonged to him, but denied committing the robbery. In a later interview conducted by the probation department, and following his conviction for the eleven robbery counts described herein, Mr. Pela admitted lying to police officers and admitted to committing the robbery of the Northgate GameStop on May 31, 2007. He continued to deny commission of any of the other charges.

The Probation Officer's Report in this case (#07F05487), dated July 10, 2009, and attached hereto, accurately reflected that the manner in which Mr. Pela carried out his crimes. Pela used a repeated criminal method that demonstrated sophistication and planning. Additionally, he engaged in violent conduct that highlighted how serious a danger he was to society. (Probation Officer's Report 7/10/09). Appropriately, the Probation Department recommended an initial sentence of 56 years and 4 months in prison. The Court instead handed down a more lenient sentence of 46 years and 8 months.

In conclusion, the nature and circumstances of Mr. Pela's violent crimes, and the magnitude of danger Mr. Pela poses to the community should he be released early, do not warrant the granting of the extraordinary relief Mr. Pela requests. Nor does Mr. Pela deserve to be relieved of the consequences he seeks to circumvent. He committed eleven armed robberies. He traumatized multiple victims and his crimes continue to impact the lives of those he victimized. He was convicted by a jury and sentenced to 46 years and 8 months in prison. That sentence was affirmed by the Court of Appeal. For all of the reasons stated in this letter, as the District Attorney of Sacramento County, I respectfully request that Mr. Pela's application for executive clemency be denied.

Sincerely,



Anne Marie Schubert
District Attorney

Enclosed: Probation Officer's Report in this case (#07F05487), dated July 10, 2009
Email letter from [REDACTED] J., dated January 4, 2018.

cc: Lawrence Pela