



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

THIEN HO
District Attorney

September 9, 2024

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

Re: Royal, Ronald

CDC # BT8496

Court Docket: 22FE015536

Inmate Royal is a well-established violent 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 violence to the community.

For two months in 2022, Sacramento Police officers investigated Inmate Royal. It quickly became clear that he was operating as a drug trafficker and bringing large amounts of drugs into Sacramento County. On September 14, 2022, officers monitored Inmate Royal's cell phone and watched his phone show that he left Sacramento County and drove straight down to Los Angeles County. He stopped there for two hours and turned off his cell phone. He then immediately started driving back to Sacramento. Officers caught up with him in Stanislaus County and observed him as the sole occupant of a rented car. Officers eventually pulled him over and searched his car pursuant to a search warrant based on all the evidence they had gathered. While speaking to officers, Inmate Royal lied about where he had been and what he was doing. Officers quickly located over 22 pounds of cocaine and 20 pounds of methamphetamine in his rental car. These drugs have over a \$200,000 street value. In his home, officers later found a scale, a cash counter, a large amount of cash, and over 10 pounds of processed marijuana that appeared to be packaged to ship.

According to national studies, the most conservative numbers indicate that at least 80% of prisoners have a substance abuse problem, while only 24.1% of this population is incarcerated for the possession or sales of drugs. While the illegal sales of these incredibly harmful drugs is in and of itself a problem, these statistics are alarming because they show that at the root of most crime is a drug problem. When someone like Inmate Royal provides dangerous drugs to the community, he is adding to our state's terrible crime rates not just by his own criminality, but because he is providing an incredibly harmful substance to other people that tends to lead to violent results. Cocaine and methamphetamine are not substances that people can use regularly and be functioning members of society. Instead, Inmate Royal was providing drugs that most likely lead to other people committing their own set of crimes to be able to support their addictions.

According to recent statistics by the California Attorney General, from 2018 to 2023, the violent crime rate in California increased by 15.1%. Most of these crimes involved substance abuse at some stage. Inmate Royal was using other people's addiction to support his lifestyle and it is alarming to think how much drugs he was regularly bringing into Sacramento if he was found with over \$200,000 worth of drugs after one quick trip to Los Angeles. His crimes are so egregious that he was sentenced under a drug weight enhancement because of the sheer quantity of drugs he was in possession of.

Inmate Royal has previously served a 7-year prison sentence for the violent offense of robbery. He was discharged from parole a mere 4 years before he was arrested on his current committing offense. As part of a negotiated resolution in his current case, Inmate Royal was sentenced to 11 years in state prison. Other charges and enhancements were dismissed. He has already received a vastly reduced sentence in this case. To have him serve anything less would amount to encouraging him to continue his ways and continue to traffic drugs into Sacramento or whatever other area he chooses to victimize.

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 Royal's prison conduct. However, from the record that is available, it is clear that Inmate Royal should not be released as he poses a significant and unreasonable risk of violence to the community. Parole should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Maroun

Stephanie Maroun
Deputy District Attorney
Sacramento County District Attorney's Office