

BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS
Executive Board Meeting
July 21, 2020

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AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2020*

Meeting called to order at 9:08 a.m.

Roll Call: Commissioners Anderson, Barton, Cassady, Castro, Chappell, De La Torre, Dobbs, Grounds, Gutierrez, Minor, Ruff, San Juan, Schneider, Sharrieff, Taira and Thornton present. Commissioners Long and Roberts absent

In compliance with Executive Order N-28-20, and to minimize the spread and mitigate the effects of COVID-19, the meeting was conducted by telephone.

Commissioner ANDERSON stated that the majority of the currently-appointed commissioners are present.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner GROUNDS moved to approve the consent calendar. Commissioner CASSADY seconded the motion, which carried unanimously, with Commissioner DE LA TORRE abstaining.

EN BANC REFERRALS

Referral by the Governor, pursuant to Penal Code section 4802, to review of a pardon application.

A. SMITH, JEFFREY
CRN7476 & CRN13649

No speakers.

Referral, pursuant to Penal Code section 1170, subdivision (e), to determine eligibility for recommendation to sentencing court for recall of sentence.

B. CARROLL, MATTHEW
H83081

MARGARET TAFOYA, El Dorado County District Attorney's Office,
opposed a recommendation for recall of sentence

C. McGEE, MAURICE
K95332

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No speakers.

Referral by the Governor, pursuant to Penal Code section 3041.1 and California Code of Regulations, title 15, section 2044, subdivision (b), to request review of a parole decision by the full Board

D. BURCH, CLARENCE
C49694

MICHELLE GARFINKEL, inmate's' attorney, supported the parole grant.

DONNA LEBOWITZ, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

E. COOPER, MICHAEL
D35909

MILLARD MURPHY, inmate's attorney, NORMAN MITCHELL, TROY WILLIAMS, TROY BARTHOLOMEW, ABDUL NASIR, RUDY CORPUZ AND EDWARD MARCIEL supported the parole grant.

CONNIE LASKY, San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

F. CRUZ, LOIDA
X07286

PRINCESS PURNELL, LEONORA CACORDA, BARBARA PRITCHETT, SLANNRY CHIIM, ANA LYLES, ELIZA SHERPA, KELLY SAVAGE, FRANCES TACORDA, RIO SHARF, EMMANUEL BOQUIREN, MARY ALICE WHALLEY, CELIA MORANO, AMINIAH ELESTER, THAO NGUYEN, BIOLA ANDERSON, SHEILA CLEMENTE, JOYCE MUNOZ, DEMMA CLEMENTE, CELIO CLEMENTE, GLADYS DUALAY and ERIKA SOLANO, supported the parole grant.

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JILL KLINGE, Alameda County District Attorney's Office, JANEL BOQUIREN, MAUREEN BAUTISTA, JENNIFER SOTO, KEN SOTO, JORGE WONG, JISELLE BOQUARIN WONG and STEPHANIE MANUEL recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

G. HARWOOD, WILLIAM
F88218

MICHELLE GARFINKEL, inmate's attorney, supported the parole grant.

H. HUDSON, CHARLES
C11763

SYDNEY SHUTE supported the parole grant.

PHYLLIS SHESS, San Diego County District Attorney's Office, recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

I. LUNA, DANIEL
V38772

LEONARD RUBIO, DWAYNE HARMON, DANIEL LUNA Jnr. and MICHAEL BALDWIN supported the parole grant.

DONNA LEBOWITZ, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, ISABEL LUNA, MARY JOHNSON and SALINA NATIZAZAD recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

J. MILLER, JUSTIN
V39447

JANIS RAMAZZINI, REBECCA TANNER and FRANCESCA PALEY supported the parole grant.

TRANG JENSEN, Lake County District Attorney's Office, recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

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SERRANO, FRANK
H21510

TRACY LUM, inmate's attorney, SARAH SERRANO, OTIS BOOKER, ROBERT GARCIA and DORIS POTTER supported the parole grant.

CONNIE LASKY, San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

K. STARKES, KAREEM
J56138

CHARLES CARBONE, inmate's attorney, SHIVONN GABELU and HENRY STARKES supported the parole grant.

DEAN ARCHIBALD, Sacramento County District Attorney's Office, recommended ordering a rescission hearing.

Referral by a panel member, pursuant to Penal Code section 3041, subdivision (a) (5) and California Code of regulations, title 15, section 2044, subdivision (a), to request review of a parole decision by the full board.

L. JONES, CHARLES
C32991

DONNA LEBOWITZ, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, submitted that the inmate should be denied parole.

Referral, pursuant to Penal Code section 3041, when there is a tie vote.

M. JONES, CHARLES
C32991

No public comment permitted.

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REPORTS

Report from Executive Officer, Jennifer Shaffer

SHAFFER welcomed Commissioner DE LA TORRE to the Board. She stated that the Board is expediting the review process for parole decisions, particularly regarding inmates at institutions where there are active cases of COVID-19. SHAFFER emphasized that the thoroughness of the review will not be compromised. She requested that interested parties send their comments regarding decision review as soon as possible after distribution of the hearing transcript.

SHAFFER stated that the Board has conducted 1,045 hearings by video conference, between April 1 and July 17, 2020. Of the hearings, 34% resulted in a parole grant and 66% in a denial. In addition, 853 hearings were postponed, most of which have now been re-scheduled.

SHAFFER requested that her report on the 2020-21 budget be moved to next month's meeting.

Report from Chief Psychologist, Dr. Cliff Kusaj

KUSAJ stated that in July 2020, the Forensic Assessment Division's psychologists were assigned 371 comprehensive risk assessments, to be completed in August. During the first half of 2020, psychologists administered 2,117 CRAs. By comparison, they administered 3,013 in the whole of 2019. KUSAJ stated that, of the CRAs administered in August, 56% will be finalized less than 60 days before hearings scheduled before October 15, 2020. All CRAs administered in August will be finalized more than 30 days before the hearing.

At some institutions, quarantine restrictions have prevented psychologists from conducting video conference interviews with inmates. The pre-hearing CRA objection process has continued. Fewer than 1% of inmates have refused to take part in video conference interviews. KUSAJ commended the psychologists and Board staff for their efforts during the COVID-19 crisis.

OPEN COMMENT

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance, expressed frustration with the department's mental health division's continuing reluctance to distribute to inmates valuable programming materials produced by LSA in conjunction with the department's mental health professionals CDCR's mental health professionals and distributed by institutions and Life Support Alliance.

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CHRISTINE WARD, Crime Victims Alliance and I-Can, stated that many victims have expressed frustration at being denied the opportunity to attend hearings in person. Many victims are elderly and have difficulty with the video conferencing technology.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.