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November 20, 2017

Governor Jerry Brown  
State Capital  
Suite 1173

Re: Inmate Jeen Han, CDC #W73789

Dear Governor Brown:

This letter serves to express the opposition of the Orange County District Attorney's Office (OCDA) regarding the parole of Jeen "Gina" Han, an inmate who continues to pose an unreasonable risk of danger to society. The Board of Parole Hearings granted parole to this inmate at her initial parole hearing on Oct. 31, 2017. I write to request a strong reconsideration as to Han's suitability for parole for several reasons. Ultimately, I ask that you use your executive power to reverse the Board's decision.

**Han's Crime**

In 1996, Gina Han meticulously, carefully, thoughtfully, and over time plotted the murder of her twin sister, Sunny Han. As part of that plan, she manipulated two younger males (one a minor at the time) to assist in her crimes; this is indicative of her determination to carry out her plan, regardless of the consequences either to herself or anyone else. While the boys' conduct cannot be minimized, it appears they were under the control of Gina Han. Up until the day before the offense, Gina Han repeatedly attempted to recruit different accomplices to participate in her elaborate scheme to get revenge on Sunny Han for pressing criminal charges against her. While offering money to potential accomplices, Gina Han also inquired how to obtain a gun.

Gina Han planned this crime over several weeks. She attempted to enlist others to kill her sister, or at least physically harm her; obtained a firearm; attempted to obtain a key to her sister's residence by posing as her sister; bought "props" to allow her accomplices to obtain access to the apartment by posing as door-to-door salesmen; obtained items needed to subdue her sister so that she could easily be murdered (rope, tape, gloves); and her final acquisition to finish her nefarious plot – garbage bags and Pine Sol cleaner to clean the crime scene so she could get away with it. Gina Han had each part of her crime carefully planned – the beginning, middle, end, and get-away.

On Nov. 6, 1996, Irvine Police Department (IPD) received a report of a possible burglary or rape in progress at a residence. Sunny Han called 911 and said she believed her roommate, Helen Kim, was being raped by someone who had broken in. At the time of the crime, then 19-year old Kim indicated she was playing Nintendo in her living room when defendant Archie Bryant knocked on the door and introduced himself as a magazine salesman. When Kim leaned out of the doorway, she noticed defendant John Sayarath was also outside leaning against the wall. After Kim refused to



purchase the magazines, Bryant and Sayarath forced their way into the apartment. Bryant then placed a gun to the left side of Kim's head and told her to shut up before pushing her to the floor. Sayarath tied Kim's hands behind her back with plastic twine, placed duct tape over her mouth, picked her up and forced her into the bathtub (located in Sunny Han's bedroom).

Kim struggled with the rope and was eventually able to loosen it, get up, and run for the front door. Before she could reach the doorknob, defendant Sayarath grabbed her from behind and pulled her to the floor and said "I should just shoot you for trying that." Kim was re-tied and had duct tape wrapped over her mouth and completely around her head. She was then taken to victim Han's room where she saw victim Han lying face down. Defendant Bryant grabbed Kim and instructed her to get into the bathtub along with Sunny Han. The defendants were rummaging through Han's bedroom when Kim heard someone yell "shit, police!" and Bryant re-entered the bathroom and began removing the tape and rope while instructing them to tell the police that it had all been a "joke."

In Sunny Han's interview with police, she stated she had just gotten out of the shower when she heard her roommate say "Please don't hurt me, take anything you want" before hearing a struggle. Sunny Han believed her roommate was being raped and went into the bathroom, closed the door, and dialed 911. While she was talking to the IPD dispatcher, she heard one of the defendants say "Where's your roommate?" and subsequently heard her bathroom door open. She quickly turned off her phone so that defendant Bryant would not realize she was calling the police. Defendant Bryant put a gun to her head and asked if she was calling the cops, but she denied doing so. In her interview, Sunny Han stated she believed the defendant was going to kill her and told him "take anything, just don't hurt me." Victim Han struggled as defendant Bryant threw her to the floor and placed duct tape over her mouth and wrapped it around her entire head, covering her hair and mouth. She pleaded with him not to cover her nose so she could breathe. Bryant continually asked Sayarath for more tape as he was taping Han, and he continually pushed her to the floor while she pleaded with him not to hurt her.

Sunny Han indicated she believed the defendants were either going to kill them, rape them, or steal from them. Defendant Bryant told Kim to get up and grabbed her by the arm and threw her into the bathtub. Bryant then ordered Sunny Han to get up and forced her into the bathtub with Kim. While in the bathtub Sunny Han heard jingling of her keys in her purse and then a police officer yelling from outside — Bryant then ran back into the bathroom and told the victims to tell the police it was a big joke. Bryant then left the bedroom, and Victims Han and Kim walked out of the residence through the front door.

When Sunny Han was advised by officers that her sister might be involved in the crime, she stated that it was not possible because her sister was in custody in San Diego county. In May 1996, Sunny Han lived in Placentia and Gina Han moved in with her after spending time in jail for stealing money from their aunt and uncle. Shortly after moving in, Gina Han had stolen Sunny's car, wallet, credit cards, and ID. Gina Han used Sunny's ID to withdraw money from the bank, and used her calling card to place telephone calls. Gina Han was arrested by the El Cajon Police Department (ECPD) in June 1996, Sunny Han cooperated with law enforcement, and Gina was sentenced to jail. Sunny Han also described Gina Han as having a serious gambling problem. Gina Han had contacted Sunny Han numerous times from jail, but Sunny Han did not know how Gina Han learned her address.

While IPD officers were responding to Sunny Han's call regarding an attempted burglary and rape in progress, IPD also received a phone call from ECPD, indicating they recently received information regarding a solicitation for murder. An informant had been present and overheard Gina



Han talk about killing her sister. After the incident, Gina Han was en route to the Alamo rent-a-car near San Diego Airport and was arrested by officers awaiting onsite. When she was taken into custody, Gina Han identified herself to San Diego Police Department officers as Sunny Han, and produced Sunny Han's California driver's license. In her possession, she had a receipt for two pairs of gloves, poly twine, and utility tape, along with several other receipts for credit card purchases in the San Diego County area in the name of Sunny Han—many of which were accompanied by pawn slips. The defendant had several credit cards and IDs belonging to Sunny Han. The theft of her sister Sunny's identity after the murder plot shows her callous disregard for her sister and her determination to evade custody by any means possible.

When interviewed, Gina Han's co-conspirator, Archie Bryant, told officers at the time that he had discussed killing Sunny Han with Gina Han. He indicated that Gina Han was the one that brought it up.

When interviewed, Gina Han's other co-conspirator, Johnathan Sayarath, told officers at the time that Gina Han told him at first that she wanted to go to get her own identification from her sister's house. En route to the house, she showed him the firearm for the first time. Gina Han also stopped and bought magazines, tape, and twine while driving from El Cajon to Sunny Han's residence in Irvine. He said that Gina Han gave them directions to go to the victim's door, gain entry, and tape and tie Sunny Han. Gina Han sent them to the apartment while she waited in the car. He indicated Gina Han wanted to kill her sister Sunny. Lastly, he said Gina Han ordered them to secure Sunny Han and then come and get her from the car so she could come in and kill her.

During her parole hearing, Gina Han admitted to wanting to murder her sister, and admitted to being the one who planned it, and directed the young men on how to accomplish her desire.

The offense in this case, namely conspiracy to commit first degree murder, was carried out in an especially cold, brutal, and callous manner, demonstrating zero regard for the life and suffering of her sister Sunny Han, as well as her sister's roommate who by a terrible twist of fate, happened to be in the apartment at the time. Both victims reported they were extremely frightened and their lives have changed as a result of the defendant's actions. One can only speculate as to the horror these young women undoubtedly experienced when they were attacked, bound, and thrown into a bathtub, which lead them to believe their lives were coming to an end. Although not physically injured, the psychological scars are likely to remain with them for a very long time. In fact, *but for* Sunny Han miraculously having a cell phone on her person when Gina Han's accomplices stormed the apartment, this would have most certainly been a first degree murder, if not a double-homicide.

### **Prior Criminal History and Prison Violations**

This was by no means the inmate's first brush with the law. She began at an early age, stealing personal items like cosmetics from Target as a juvenile (which she later oddly told the parole board that she was stealing to support herself – clearly they were for her own use).

Once an adult, she began her life of crime in earnest.

On April 5, 1996, Gina Han committed two counts of second degree burglary, two counts of grand theft, and two counts of check forgery in San Diego county. In that case, Gina Han stole checks and credit cards belonging to her uncle, a family friend, and her uncle's mother. She cashed checks numerous times, causing a loss to Wells Fargo Bank of \$7,500, Mission Federal Credit Union of \$1,500, and a personal loss to the family friend of \$50.



Then, on June 3, 1996, Gina Han entered Bank of America in El Cajon, and identified herself as the victim in her crime, her twin sister Sunny Han. She attempted to cash two checks, which were stolen the day before at Bank of America. It was also discovered she had tried to cash yet another stolen check a half hour before that. She had in her possession a total of five completed forged checks. She continued to insist she was in fact Sunny Han. She was then charged with an additional two counts of felony second degree burglary, three counts of check fraud, two counts of possessing stolen property, and 4 counts of forgery.

When apprehended, Gina Han's purse was searched and the police found numerous credit cards belonging to her uncle and her uncle's mother. She pleaded guilty on Sept. 5, 1996 to one count of second degree felony burglary and was sentenced to a year in jail and ordered to pay nearly \$10,000 in restitution.

In the interim, on April 14, 1996, Gina Han's uncle reported that blank checks and credit cards were missing from his apartment. These items were later found in Gina Han's possession in her wallet, along with numerous credit cards belonging to other people. She was charged in San Diego with one count of felony receiving stolen property, and 5 counts of forgery. On May 22, 1996 she pleaded guilty to one count of felony receiving stolen property, and was sentenced to six months in jail.

Gina Han's life crime was aggravated in that she had these felony priors, as well as the fact that she was a felon in possession of a firearm at the time of her conspiracy to murder her sister.

Finally, in October 1996, Gina Han was allowed to serve part of her sentence in San Diego as a work furlough and was allowed to leave the jail for a five-hour pass. At her first opportunity, she escaped from that work furlough. She told another inmate what she planned to do, telling her how much she hated her sister. She detailed her plan of how she would escape, cash in gold jewelry, and fly to Korea from Tijuana, Mexico. Gina Han did not return to jail until she was arrested in the city of Irvine on Nov. 6, 1996. It was while she was at large that she committed her life crime.

### **Psychological Evaluations of Inmate's Lack of Remorse and Insight into her Crime**

In preparation for the parole hearing, Dr. Brianna Satterthwaite, Psy.D., Forensic Psychologist for the Board of Parole Hearings/Forensic Assessment Division prepared a Comprehensive Risk Assessment in regard to Ms. Han in July of 2017. In Dr. Satterthwaite's assesment, she diagnoses Ms. Han with "Borderline Personality Disorder with Antisocial Traits". According to the Mayo Clinic, Borderline Personality Disorder is mainly treated using psychotherapy, with medication as an additional tool that can be added ([www.mayoclinic.org](http://www.mayoclinic.org)). There are specific therapies that are effective, including Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Schema-focused therapy, Mentalization-based Therapy, and Transference-Focused Psychotherapy. Hospitalization may also be needed for more intense treatment of someone with Boderline Personality Disorder. The Mayo Clinic cautions recovery, if possible at all, takes time and could include several years of treatment. They refer to treatment for Borderline Personality Disorder as potentially "intense and long term", and the treatment should be focused on the nature of the disorder particularly (Ibid.).

The very cause of her antisocial and heinous crimes, namely her borderline personality disorder with antisocial traits coupled with a traumatic childhood, has never specifically been



addressed by Gina Han. At her parole hearing, she lamented her treatment by her mother, whom she characterized as mean, abusive, and toxic. She cried at times, detailing her perceived wrongs at the hands of her mother, and her sister who was favored as the elder of the twins.

The facts regarding the root cause of her meticulously plotting to kill her sister have (1) not been addressed and (2) are still present, which indicate she continues to pose a substantial future risk to society. The ease with which Gina Han can intelligently pose as other people, and manipulate others to do her evil bidding is part and parcel of the affects of her personality disorder that remains untreated.

In fact, Dr. Satterthwaite says as much in her Risk Assessment:

“...[Elements of Borderline Personality disorder] are not generally expected to significantly remit without care.”

“[The inmate has] never participated in mental health treatment, and thus it is unlikely some core interpersonal maladaptive stylistic habits have been adjusted.”

“...[Transitioning to parole] poses a substantially greater risk for coping difficulties, and it would behoove her to remain aware of the critical nature of recognizing relationship boundaries and her own emotional register. This could be viably addressed in ongoing treatment...”

“...[G]aps in her insight into her life crime remained a point of possible concern.”

“...[H]er recitation of her life crime was done with little affect, and with little acknowledgement of the extremity of action she formulated and implemented, relative to the impetus.”

In fact, Dr. Satterthwaite points out that maturation in age will only “serve to partially mitigate” her future risk.

While Dr. Satterthwaite also lauds the inmate for a relatively positive disciplinary history, her educational accomplishments (which are not surprising; the inmate is very intelligent – as evidenced by her ability to enter the US with no english skills at age 12, and then just a few years later graduating from her high school as validictorian), and vocational accomplishments, she then lists three VERY serious reservations:

1. “To leave a childhood of trauma and an adulthood of criminality and incarceration unaddressed presents undue risk.”
2. “[The inmate] is encouraged to increase her insight into her personality disorder and its correlate functioning.”
3. “It would behoove [the inmate] to explore her lasting impressions of her life crime. She spoke matter of factly, and did not appear to have many emotions tied to her criminal behavior. Such personal introspection might serve to help her understand her boundaries, and, possibly, to reduce her risk for future violence...”

Although it is somewhat inexplicable that Dr. Satterthwaite then suggests the inmate is a “low” risk for violence, one of the other risk factors she relied upon was the idea that the inmate was a

"youthful offender" at the time of the plot to murder her twin sister. Penal Code §3051 defines a "youthful offender" as someone under 23 years of age. At the time of the commission of the murder plot, the inmate was 22 years, 6 months, and 7 days old. In less than six months from the day of her crime, she turned 23. Because of this, the idea of this inmate being a "youthful offender" should be mitigated.

Lastly, the inmate seems to not only have left her mental disorder unaddressed, but uses contextually troubling words to describe why she plotted her sister's murder: she claims she was "reckless," "impulsive," "selfish," and made "bad choices." Those types of words are used to describe run-of-the-mill youthful indiscretions. They in no way should be used to describe the manipulative, scheming, and evil behavior the inmate indulged in over the course of two months in order to end her sister's life and assume her identity. This further shows a large lack of insight into the underlying reasons for her criminality.

### **Conclusion and Prayer**

The heinous plot the inmate conceived and carried out was not the folly of youth; it stemmed from a distinct personality disorder that only ameliorates after lengthy specific treatment. Gina Han has not engaged in any of that treatment. That disorder was enhanced by her toxic upbringing and relationship with her mother and sister. Yet, Gina Han explains in her parole plans the inexplicable goal of reunification.

All of the above listed factors contribute to the determination that the inmate continues to present a current and substantial risk of danger to society. The inmate's personality disorder coupled with a traumatic childhood caused her to take what would normally be sibling rivalry into the realm of savagely trying to take the life of another human being – her very own twin sister.

At the parole hearing, Gina Han, at first blush appeared to have attempted introspection; however she is very intelligent and still manipulative. As an example, in support of her parole plans, she submitted to the board letters from men from all over the country and even abroad that she had "met" while in prison. In just writing letters to them, she "facilitated" them in offering her money, lodging, jobs, and with regard to a gentleman in England, even giving her \$100,000 after only corresponding with her for 12 months. This manipulative ability is not surprising, given her extreme intelligence coupled with an untreated personality disorder. The fact remains that she is still flexing the manipulation muscles that she used when she recruited two young men to murder her sister, and they appear to be as keen as they were in 1996.

Gina Han has yet to take the specific, crucial steps to address her personality disorder. That should be done well before we expose the public to her. Untreated, she poses a serious safety risk.

We urge you to take all of this into consideration and find the inmate remains unsuitable for parole.

Regards,



Nikki Chambers  
Deputy District Attorney  
Special Prosecutions Unit