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LOS ANGELES POLICE PROTECTIVE LEAGUE

A PROFESSIONAL POLICE UNION

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January 21, 2010

Parole Board
California Board of Prison Terms
c/o California Men's Colony
P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-8101

ENRIQUE A. HERNANDEZ, ESQ.
GENERAL COUNSEL

TIM YARYAN, ESQ.
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
& ADVOCATE

Re: Gregory Powell, CDC# A-57622

Dear Parole Boardmembers:

As president of the Los Angeles Police Protective League, the organization representing the more than 9,900 sworn members of the Los Angeles Police Department, I am writing on behalf of LAPD officers and many others in the law enforcement community to urge you **not** to grant parole to Gregory Powell, the murderer of LAPD Officer Ian Campbell.

You are probably familiar with the case through Joseph Wambaugh's book *The Onion Field* and movie of the same name, which chronicled the horrifying true story of two robbers who kidnapped two LAPD officers at gunpoint and drove them to Bakersfield before executing Officer Campbell in a deserted onion field.

On March 9, 1963, 31-year-old Campbell and his partner, 28-year-old Officer Karl Hettinger, pulled over two suspicious-looking men driving a Ford coupe with out-of-state plates.

The driver of the coupe, Gregory Powell, had been in and out of jail since childhood, and he and his partner in crime, Jimmy Lee Smith, had been looking for a liquor store to rob before the officers interrupted their plan. As we know from accounts of that night from Officer Hettinger, who survived the incident, Campbell felt uneasy as he stepped out of the car and told Hettinger to be careful. Campbell approached the driver's side and asked Powell for his license and registration, then ordered the two men out of the car.

Smith stepped out quickly with his arms in the air. But Powell turned and stuck a gun in Campbell's back. Powell then ordered both officers into the car. Officer Campbell was

forced to drive with a gun in his ribs while Officer Hettinger rode in back with a gun pointed at him.

Powell instructed Campbell to drive north on the Hollywood Freeway. Near Bakersfield, Powell spotted a gravel road and ordered Campbell to pull off the freeway. After crossing a series of dirt roads, Officers Campbell and Hettinger were ordered out of the car into a vast field, where they stood still with their arms in the air. Then Powell asked Campbell, "Have you ever heard of The Little Lindbergh Law?" and shot him.

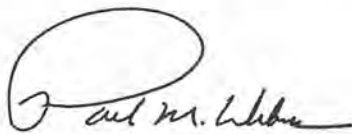
Helpless to save his partner, Officer Hettinger was able to elude his captors and escape with his life – but he did not avoid the emotional injury of seeing his partner murdered in cold blood. The incident haunted him the rest of his life.

I urge the Parole Board to deny parole for Gregory Powell. This vicious murderer has not yet paid his debt to society and should be forced to serve the maximum term of his sentence.

We must never show any tolerance for the killing of police officers. Please send the clear message that the murder of police officers is unacceptable and all those who are guilty of it must expect the harshest possible punishment available under the law.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Los Angeles Police Protective League

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul M. Weber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

PAUL M. WEBER
President

cc: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor, State of California
Steve Cooley, Los Angeles County District Attorney
Charlie Beck, Los Angeles Chief of Police