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RE: CDCR PLANNED EARLY RELEASES OF CONVICTED FELONS

Today, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation announced the planned release of an estimated 8,000 convicted felons who have not served the entirety of their sentence. This action is in addition to 10,000 convicted felons who have already been released early from prisons since April.

In addition, the Department of Corrections has for months denied the transfer of inmates from local jails who have been sentenced to state prisons, and only recently began to slowly accept inmates sentenced to serve their sentence in state prison. The failure of Newsom's CDCR to do perform its core function has further led to countless early releases by jails that aren't built to take on the responsibility that Newsom's CDCR is unwilling to shoulder. The Newsom administration's management of the CDCR has effectively taken the punitive aspect of the criminal justice system off the table, and our community is paying the price.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer rebuked the continuing actions of CDCR, stating:

"Governor Newsom has made clear time and time again his intent to fill our communities with violent felons. He has repeatedly issued commutations for convicted, notorious killers, and now has opened wide the floodgates for violent felons to be released into our streets. Rather than implement policies that make our prisons safe, he has chosen to use the pandemic as an excuse to intentionally cripple the criminal justice system and single-handedly overrule sentences set by hundreds of judges across the state under laws approved by the People. The Newsom administration's continuing actions are a dereliction of his duty to the citizens and laws of California."