

**Union County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council  
1106 K Avenue  
La Grande, Oregon 97850**

May 16, 2013

Board of Parole and Post Prison Supervision  
2575 Center St. NE, Ste 100  
Salem, OR 97301-4621

Re: Sydney Dean Porter

Parole Board Members,

The Union County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) has deep public safety concerns over the recent decision to parole inmate Sydney Dean Porter. Mr. Porter brutally and intentionally murdered John Day Police Officer Frank Ward. Frank Ward's brother lives in Union County and has contacted local law enforcement about this decision, thus our interest.

In reviewing the recent Parole Board hearing, it is very disturbing that the psychological evaluation of Mr. Porter is discussed and it is mentioned that he was found to be a "moderate to high risk for future violent behavior". In fact when Mr. Porter is questioned in the hearing about the psychological exam he himself answers "Sure the signs are there, I can't deny em". Equally disturbing is Mr. Porter's version of the actual crime itself. Mr. Porter clearly still does not take responsibility for this crime yet he was convicted of Aggravated Murder. One of the key elements of Aggravated Murder needed for conviction is that it is **committed intentionally**.

We find it very troubling that one of the Parole Board members commented during the hearing, "I believe you wholeheartedly that you didn't mean for this to happen". In essence this indicates that the Parole Board has taken it upon itself to determine the accuracy of the courts finding in the case. This is not the legal role of the board; rather it is the role of the courts. Mr. Porter filed an appeal of his case and it was rejected so any legal claim he has to accuracy of his conviction and sentence has already been addressed by the courts.

Additionally another board member commented, "I was not completely comfortable today with your inability to talk about your (prevention) relapse plan until it was pulled out by Ms. Weaver" yet despite this concern, the fact that Mr. Porter still will not take responsibility for his crime and the professional findings of the psychologist who found him to be a moderate to high risk of violently reoffending, the board voted to grant him early parole.

As the Union County LPSCC we understand the need for balancing public safety concerns within available resources however we expect the Parole Board to make decisions in the best interest of public safety and the victims of crime. By the information available to us it appears clear that Mr. Porter is still a serious threat to public safety.

The Union County LPSCC formally requests a rehearing of this matter.

Sincerely,

Susan Cederholm, Chair

On behalf of LPSCC members:

Chief Brian Harvey

Sheriff Boyd Rasmussen

Captain Craig Ward

Juvenile Director, Ben Morgan

Mental Health Director Dwight Dill

OSP Lieutenant Gordon Larson

Commission on Children and Families Director Vicki Brogoitti

Commissioner Bill Rosholt

Trial Court Administrator Michelle Leonard

Union County District Attorney, Tim Thompson

Union County Probation Director, Travis Miller

cc: Governor Kitzhaber