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District Attorney Recommendation - FUSL000102 (2018-10-17)

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY
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Richard A. Brown
District Attorney

October 17th, 2018

SORC
Department of Corrections & Community Supervision
Green Haven Correctional Facility
594 Rt. 216
Stormville, NY 12582-0010

RE: [REDACTED]
DIN No.: [REDACTED]
NYSID: [REDACTED]
Ind. No.: [REDACTED]

Dear SORC:

It has come to the attention of the Queens County District Attorney's Office that the defendant is scheduled to reappear before the New York State Parole Board in November, 2018. The defendant was convicted by a jury of Murder 2^o and other related charges for the brutal shooting of New York City Police Officer [REDACTED].

On December 16th, 1981, Police Officer [REDACTED] was with his wife, whom he had recently married, and several other family members at his home, decorating a Christmas tree. Later that same evening, the victim's father-in-law, [REDACTED], returned home with a briefcase containing approximately \$25,000. When [REDACTED] exited his car, he was struck on the back of his head from behind and ordered to put his hands up.

The defendant and his accomplices forcibly removed the briefcase and an altercation began between the robbers and [REDACTED]. Although off-duty, Police Officer [REDACTED] heard the commotion outside and went to the aide of his father-in-law. P.O. [REDACTED] displayed his shield, identified himself as a police officer and ordered all three men, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to put their hands up. [REDACTED] pointed his gun directly at P.O. [REDACTED] and shot him in the chest.

When P.O. [REDACTED] fell to the ground his wife and brother-in-law ran to assist him. At that time, the robbers opened fire on them and attempted to shoot them also. Police Officer [REDACTED] was transported to a nearby hospital, but succumbed to his injuries. His wife and brother-in-law were not physically injured in the shootings.

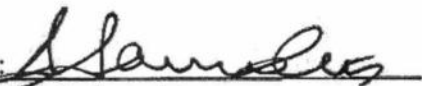
The defendant and his accomplices fled the location with the briefcase in a stolen car and went to a nearby diner, where they disposed of the car. The defendants then stole another car from the parking lot of the diner and fled. An extensive search by members of the New York City Police Department spanned approximately 6 months. The defendants were arrested when they attempted to cash checks that were stolen. On March 23rd, 1982, the defendant made a video-taped statement with regard to his involvement in the crime.

The defendant was convicted on January 25th, 1983, of Murder 2^o, Attempted Murder 2^o, Robbery 1^o (3 counts) and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2^o. On May 24th, 1983, the defendant was sentenced to concurrent terms of 25 years to life on the murder conviction, and lesser concurrent sentences on the remaining counts.

At the time of P.O. [REDACTED]'s death, he was 34 years old, married 14 months and a member of the New York City Police Department for 13 years. Members of his family are forever haunted and scarred by the events of that evening. His widow, [REDACTED], refused to put up a Christmas tree in the years following the murder. Although the crime happened many years ago, the passage of time has in no way lessened the severity of the pain that Officer [REDACTED]'s family continually lives with.

Furthermore, in light of the sentence imposed for the heinous shooting of Police Officer [REDACTED], the District Attorney strenuously opposes the release of this defendant and recommends that he serve the maximum term of the sentence imposed.

Very truly yours,

By: 
Daniel A. Saunders
Executive Assistant District Attorney

DAS/LJD