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# NEW YORK STATE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT DIVISION OF PAROLE

# PAROLE BOARD HEARING

IN THE MATTER

-OF-

DIN #

NYSID #

TYPE OF HEARING:

REAPPEARANCE

HELD AT:

GREAT MEADOW CF

HELD ON:

MAY 12, 2009

BEFORE:

COMMISSIONER FERGUSON

COMMISSIONER LUDLOW

COMMISSIONER ELOVICH

DIVISION OF PAROLE RECEIVED

MUN 1 5 2009

-APPEALS UNIT

HEARING REPORTER:

JOSEPH D'AMBROSIO

		2
1	BYC	COMMISSIONER LUDLOW:
2	Q	Have a seat, sir. You're
3	A A	Yes, sir.
4	ł Q	Good morning.
Ę	A	Good morning.
€	5	
-	Q	I'm Commissioner Ludlow and next to me is Commissioner
8	3	Ferguson and also Commissioner Elovich.
9		COMMISSIONER FERGUSON:
		Good manning
10	9	Good morning.
1:	L	COMMISSIONER ELOVICH: Good
12	2	morning.
13	3	INMATE: Good morning.
14		
Te	COM	MISSIONER LUDLOW:
15	Q	Mr. I believe this is your third appearance before
16	11	
17	7	the Board of Parole, is that correct, sir?
18	A	Yes, it is, sir.
19		And you're now fifty-six years old, correct?
20		Yes.
2	Q	You were found guilty to Murder 2nd, two counts, sentenced to
22	2	25 to Life. You pled to Hindering Prosecution, 2 to 4
23	3	concurrent, is that correct?
24		
25	A	Yes, sir.
-		

1	Q	Sir, do you have any appeals pending or do you anticipate
2		filing any appeals on the verdict?
3	A	No, sir.
4	Q	None the less, I call your attention to the fact that we're
5		taking a stenographic record of the interview. That means
6		every word we discuss is being reduced to a written transcript.
7		
8		It's possible that that transcript could find its way to public
9		forums. We caution you about what you may say regarding the
10		terms of circumstances of this crime so as to not impede, limit
11		or jeopardize any future opportunity you may have for an
12		appeal, do you understand, sir?
13	A	Yes, sir.
14	Q	You may decline to discuss the terms of circumstances of the
15		crime if you wish. We'll not hold that against you, do you
16	7.1	understand, sir?
17		
18	A	Yes, I do.
19	Q	Okay. Are you maintaining your innocence as to the verdict?
20	A	We'll, not especially, because, I mean, you know, I am, you
21		know, responsible to a degree and, you know, I have to accept
22		responsibility for my actions, and I do.
23	Q	Okay. You were on parole at the time, a little over eighteen
24		months at the time, a little over eighteen months from a 1978
25		

1		Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance 3rd, is that correct,
2		sir?
3	A	Yes, it is.
4	Q	You've been in a very long time, sir. We recognize that you've
5		been in almost twenty-nine years by my calculations, is that
6		accurate?
7	A	Yes.
8		
9	Q	Okay. We have the Sentencing Minutes on file from what
10		County Court, 1981, before Judge
11		; at that time you were represented by Mr.
12		We also have Minutes on file from County Court,
13		, 1988 before Judge . At that time you were
14		also represented by Mr.
15	A	I just think that the year is I don't think it's 1988.
16	Q	1982. If I misspoke, I apologize.
17 18	A	All right.
19	Q	, 1982.
20	A	Yes.
21	Q	Okay. Is that accurate, sir?
22	A	Yes.
23	Q	We have both sets of Minutes in the file. We received them as
24		
25		part of the record. Was anything stated at the Sentencing

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18	A
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Minutes, I know it was a long time ago, sir, but anything stated at the Sentencing Minutes that you can remember that we should be especially aware of today?

No. It's just the basic, from what I recall, there was no recommendation one way or the other, you know, whether I should be released or whether I should not be released. I don't think that, you know --

Okay. We have a report from the Office of Mental Health, a Mental Status Examination Report. You were seen by that agency 2009 because of the nature of the underlying conviction due to an Order of the Chairman of the Board of Parole. We were required to receive this and consider it at the time of the interview and we have the report on file. This was completed by a psychologist, one individual; do you recall that interview by the Office of Mental Health?

A Yes, I do.

Okay. That is part of the file; we do receive that as part of the record. And the underlying offense, you had a codefendant,

and we have some facts in the file I'd like read.

Certainly the Division of Parole is about to render a very important and critical decision and we want to base that on a thorough and complete and accurate information. I'm going to

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read some information to you to see if your comments, to see if it's accurate and whatever response you would care to offer to us. The underlying offense took place on 1980 at County. There was a sixteen year old girl by the name of and she apparently had an after school job at a library. And she was walking home at that time. Now, the facts also allege that on that day and evening, , 1980, you and were drinking at a local bar. Sometime after 7 p.m. left the library, you and Mr. her walking along past the bar and began to follow her. viciously struck her in the head with a rock, and then pursued her as she attempted to escape down a driveway. You caught and overpowered her, knocking her to the ground. Mr. continued to viciously beat about the head and neck until she was then pulled down her pants and raped her as you supposedly watched. After left the scene, the facts state that you raped the sixteen year old girl a second time. When she began to groan, you took a knife and stabbed her in the back five times, left her lying down in a pool lifeless body was found earlier the next

Q

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believe

morning. Apparently, according to the facts, you tried to dispose of the murder weapon by throwing it into a nearby lake, but it was acquired by the police. Do you have any response to that, sir? Is it accurate or is there anything missing, any clarification that you feel we should have as to those facts that I just recited? I can't exactly agree to everything that was, you know, everything that you just read. There was never any indication that I was with at the time of the attack. had made several confessions where he takes sole responsibility for the attack and never implicated me in the attack. I do acknowledge and I've always acknowledged that I did see the attack, but I never participated in the actual attack. Okay. Regarding, you know, a rape being committed upon the only indication of sex offenses being committed against are in confessions to those crimes. The medical examiner never was able to indicate in, well, in one way or the other whether those crimes, you know, ever occurred. Personally, I mean, I tend to

confessions that he did, you know,

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commit those crimes, but, you know, I mean, I guess nobody
really knows, you know, but him, being that the medical
examiner couldn't, you know, state one way or the other.
Are you denying physical contact with the victim?
Yes, I am.
Okay. Whether directly or by some instrument; be it a rock or
something of that nature?
Right. See, that assault with the rock, again, is what
outlined in his confessions. He said that he left the
bar and that he fell down and bumped his head, saw the
victim, ran up behind the victim, hit her with, well, what he
described, you know, as a rock in the head. And that she got
up, ran away, threw it at her, beat her up, you know, and the
assault continued. But, you know, the other aspect that I
wanted to respond, as far as the stabbing, you know, again,
you know, acknowledges that he inflicted
those stab wounds. I submitted to the Division of Parole in
Albany and the parole officer here at the facility the
confessions of In those confessions he

the multiple stab wounds that were inflicted.

1	Q	Okay. Now, you say that you only witnessed the crime, you
2		did not participate directly in the crime; you had no physical
3		contact with the victim.
4	A	Yes.
5	Q	What placed you at the scene of the crime; why, otherwise
6 7		stated, why were you there?
8	A	When I that evening I was in the , in the bar.
9		The bar in question, and, yes, I had left the bar at some point
10		in time and I was in a telephone booth across the street from
11		the bar right next door to what is a police booth, for lack of
12		it's a small rotunda, where the police are in the center of town.
13		And I was using a telephone in that police booth. And I saw
14		walking up the street, and it seems to me he
15		was walking behind an individual. And although I didn't know
16		I recognized as being in the
17 18		bar, and I believed that had been an individual
19		that I suspected of stealing a wallet that I had that was on the
20		bar while I was playing, what they call one of those bowling
21		machines in the bar. And I guess maybe that's what drew my
22		attention to him. And I saw the initial assault take place?
23	Q	From what distance?
24	A	A block, a block and a half.
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Because the prosecution, my prosecution was that -- or I should say the theory of the prosecution was that they were together at the time in the bar and we had left the bar together and that we were together when the actual crime occurred. I mean, I'm not telling you these things to portray myself as some kind of victim, because that's crazy, I'm not a victim. We only want to the truth, sir.

Right. And I'm not a victim, because the thing was, when I saw the initial assault occur, you know, I should have done what the average member of society would have done, and I should have gone to the police. And, you know, when I saw the assault, you know, continue, you know, again, I should again, I should have gone to the police. And I should have, you know, done what --

Did you know Q personally?

No, I didn't even know

Q Did he know you?

No.

COMMISSIONER ELOVICH: Were

INMATE: We were under the same

you drinking with him previously?

roof, but it wasn't like I was sitting next to him and we were drinking together, partying the night away. When I was in the I have the later than the later

COMMISSIONER FERGUSON: So

why did you follow and go up to where the codefendant was?

INMATE: Because I was just, I

mean, I wanted to do something, but then again, I really don't want to get involved with what to do.

#### COMMISSIONER FERGUSON:

Listen, you're saying that you're drunk; you said you think out of your mind or something like that.

INMATE: I was.

#### COMMISSIONER FERGUSON:

You're saying that you're significantly intoxicated, but at a distance see who the person is and something I going on and

then still approach the situation, you know, and then you don't want to call anybody up because you're scared because you're on parole. But, you approached the situation in the first place and if you were someone who was looking not to get in trouble, why wouldn't you then walk away?

INMATE: Because my first

reaction was to do, you know, was right.

#### COMMISSIONER FERGUSON:

Where were you when you first saw them?

INMATE: I was, as I said, I was in

the telephone booth. I was speaking to somebody on the phone and they were --

#### COMMISSIONER FERGUSON: So

you had a phone in your hand that you could have made an anonymous call to 911.

INMATE: Really, all I had to turn around and walk up some stairs. There was an officer in the police booth right there.

#### COMMISSIONER FERGUSON:

What I'm getting at, if your version is to be believed, you had multiple methods available to you to not only assist this girl, but to avoid detection. That's your version -- if your version is

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to be believed that you're some innocent person that, basically, watched a girl get raped and murdered. Innocent is an inappropriate word to use for conduct like that. You could have gone back in the bar, the person, your friend and say, hey, this guy is following her, this guy is beating her up, call the police. You have a phone in your hand, you're in a phone booth, but you chose to go follow this guy which makes your version that much less credible, that you know her, you're drunk and you don't want to get in trouble. But you're going out there in public and approaching a scene that is going to perhaps gather some attention, because there's some girl who's, you know, being beaten and raped. And I'm sure she's not being quiet about it. I'm sure she was struggling and perhaps screaming. And that's where you go to not get caught?

INMATE: I mean, you know, in large part I agree with what you're saying. You know, I don't understand even to this day why my actions were what they were, why I didn't, you know, do like you said, make an anonymous telephone call or just go directly to the police.

You know, I just --

1	COMMISSIONER ELOVICH: So
2	how were you connected to this crime, at trial?
3	INMATE: Well, I mean, I admitted,
4	you know, in being questioned by the police department, you
5	know, what I had saw and, you know, the attack that I saw and
6	once I lied about it, because initially
7	
8	COMMISSIONER ELOVICH: Other
9	than your statement, what other evidence was presented
10	against you?
11	INMATE: Just the fact regarding
12	my hindering the prosecution, because once I lied
13	COMMISSIONER FERGUSON: But,
14	you were also observed leaving the bar. You were at the same
15	bar with him.
16	INMATE: Right.
17	COMMISSIONER FERGUSON: And
18	
19	he leaves the bar, you leave the bar, so that's all
20	circumstantial evidence.
21	INMATE: Yes.
22	COMMISSIONER FERGUSON: That
23	tied you to the scene, and plus you're admitting being at the
4	scene.
5	

INMATE: Right.

COMMISSIONER ELOVICH: The

jury found you guilty of Murder beyond a reasonable doubt, and that's a pretty high standard.

INMATE: Yes.

COMMISSIONER ELOVICH: So, I

mean, your version, based on that and based on what you've said is just lacking credibility, quite frankly.

#### COMMISSIONER LUDLOW:

- Q Did you -- go ahead and answer if you want to.
  - I don't know if I didn't agree with your description of that, because once I hindered, I lied to them -- initially they asked me what I saw, you know, what took place. I told them I didn't know nothing from Adam. I didn't know nothing about seeing anything, hearing anything, knowing anything. They arrested me for Hindering Prosecution. Once they realized, law enforcement realized that I had lied and that I did see an altercation take place, because I mentioned it to the bar maid,
  - you have something to hide. And once those facts came out, it was -- it just --

COMMISSIONER FERGUSON: Why

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did you lie about that?

INMATE: Because I don't want to

be involved. I was on parole. I was definitely --

# COMMISSIONER FERGUSON:

Again, see, I mean, we're trying to understand your version and on the one hand you're either, you know, a sadistic individual who's been involved in the brutal rape and murder of a helpless teenage girl who had seventy years of life to live and completely destroyed her family, or you're a demented individual who wanted to avoid trouble, but he's out drinking out at a bar. If you're not supposed to be drinking, you're also not supposed to be in a bar. You're intoxicated, you're now observing someone, that's what I'm trying to understand. You're intoxicated but you're still able to observe that someone is about to engage in inappropriate conduct. And you follow them and you get in this crime scene where someone, some helpless sixteen-year-old girl is being beaten and raped. And you do nothing about it. Again, if that's to be believed, and you don't want to be in trouble, you're the only -- you've got the phone there, you see something that you think that looks suspicious, and you looked the other way, you go home

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911 call with the phone in your hand or you go to the cops,
you know, and say, hey, I think there's something going on up
there. But instead you wanted to avoid trouble, go to a
situation where someone is being raped and murdered. It just
doesn't make sense. That's why the Commissioner said your
version is incredible, because on one hand you're saying you
want to avoid trouble, but you go to the heart of it.

INMATE: But, my initial intention was to do something. Once I got there, when I got there it was -- it passed, when I got there.

### COMMISSIONER FERGUSON:

Okay. You're going down the street, whatever, your codefendant was he leaves her alone --

INMATE: I don't even know his name. And ultimately I did go to the police booth and I did report the crime. I had told the officer what I had seen, and I had brought him up to that area, but they never found When I brought the cop there, I ran to the police booth and when I saw what was going on, taking place, I got scared crapless and I ran down the street. And I went inside that police booth and the officer's testimony was that I grabbed

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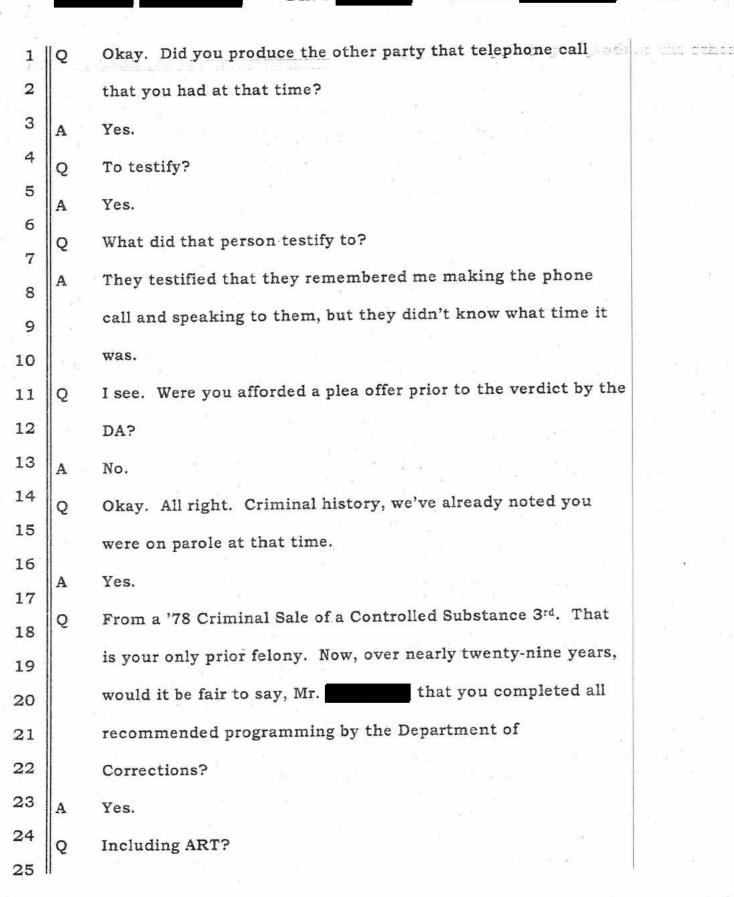
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him by the front of his shirt. I had trouble; I had trouble and a second mouthing my words. And I was white as a ghost and I grabbed him by the front of his shirt and attempted to drag him out of the booth. He knew who I was. I ran, I brought him where the initial assault occurred and he never did anything. He never found that night. And I brought him to the same distance from where I was from where I saw the attack occurred. And he never looked any further. And he never found wasn't found until the next day.

#### COMMISSIONER LUDLOW:

- Q How far away?
- A The same, ten, fifteen yards.
- Q Why didn't the police officer see the body?
  - Because he never looked. He never looked, because I guess that he thought that I didn't know what I was talking about, because I was so drunk.
  - Q You were twenty-seven or twenty-eight at that time?
  - A It was just before my twentieth birthday -- I was twenty-seven.
- Q Did you testify at trial?
- A No.
- Q Do you think you should have?
- 24 A Yes.



1.	A	Yes.
2	Q	ASAT?
3	A	Well, I took an ASAT Program when I was down in Arthur Kill,
4		it was called Staying Out, but
5	Q	Similar.
6	A	It was just a little bit longer.
7		
8	Q	Okay. I note that you have satisfactory Transitional Services
9		I, II, and III.
10	A	Yes.
11	Q	You've been in various vocational programming.
12	A	Yes.
13	Q	Any other programs over that period of time that you've been
14		in that we should be appraised of, sir?
15	A	Well, I believe at the time that the Panel, you know, may be a
16		- may be aware that I took the Computer Course down at
17		
18		Arthur Kill. You know, I stayed in that for about a year and a
19		half. Actually, it was about six months longer than normally,
20		but I was applying myself, and they allowed me to stay in it,
21		because I wanted to stay in it, you know, it was Practical
22		Skills.
23	Q	Since your last appearance you've had two Tier III's and five
24		Tier II tickets, is that correct?
25		

1	A	Yes.
2	Q	Okay. Tier III's apparently involved drug use, Drug Possession
3		Contraband. You've done some time in the SHU since your
4		last Board?
5	A	Yes.
6		
7	Q	Is that correct?
8	A	Yes.
9	Q	The file references eighty-four days, is that accurate?
10	A	Just about.
11	Q	Okay. Now, if you're paroled you have an address in
12		is that ?
13	A	Yes, that's County.
14	Q	What type of residence is that?
15	A	It's an employee of a law firm,
16		attorney and he's agreed to hire me as a paralegal working
17		
18		with him and Miss, she's an employee at the firm. And
19		she's going to allow me to live in her home in
20		County.
21	Q	Would that be fulltime employment?
22	A	Yes.
23	Q	Okay. You have experience as a paralegal or study in that
24		regard?
25		

Right. You know, I took a legal research course, and, you 1 2 know, I type very well. And basically, you know, being that he 3 knows me from handling my appeals that he would hire me. 4 Q Okay. I note that we have a letter on file of support from 5 . How do you 6 know Mr. 7 I know Mr. from when I was involved in the church, A 8 while I was down in Arthur Kill for, you know, several years, I 9 know Mr. 10 11 We have a letter on file from yourself to the chairman of the Q 12 Parole Board. What would you like us to know from that letter 13 in particular, sir? 14 Well, you know, I wrote to the chairman of Parole, because, 15 you know, the letter includes some of the information that I 16 explained to you as far as Mr. confessions to the 17 crime, you know, showing that he didn't implicate me. And I 18 also wanted to explain to the Parole chairman the Misbehavior 19 Report that I had with the drugs that led me to be sanctioned. 20 21 Okay. Q 22 And, you know, my previous positive urinalysis is a little over 23 eighteen and a half years ago. You know, I don't have a 24 history of, you know, drug use, you know, while I've been in

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the Department of Corrections. My I only have three
members of my family left, and all three of them are fairly
sick. You know, over the last year it's been, you know, it's
been difficult, you know, with all three of them becoming ill,
especially my mother. When I found out that my mother was
sick, it was especially hard, and I lost focus and, you know, I
did what I did, I'm responsible for what I did and, you know, I
mean, you know, I have a problem and it has to be dealt with.
I do note we have a very nice letter on file from your mother,

A Yes.

Q

- That was received on March 20th, 2009.
- Yes.
- And she references that she's turning eighty and she could use your support as well as other family members could use your support and assistance. Okay. Commissioner Ferguson?

# COMMISSIONER FERGUSON:

Nothing further.

## COMMISSIONER LUDLOW:

anything additional for the Board of Parole, sir, that is material and relevant to parole consideration.

Q

Well, you know, a lot of my actions, you know, at that time,
you know, they probably don't make sense. I mean, you know,
they don't necessarily make sense to me. I don't know why,
you know, I did the things I did, why I carried myself the way
that I did. You know, I mean, I was drunk, I mean, I was
beyond drunk. Maybe that was a part of it; maybe a part of it
was fear. I really don't know what I was specifically thinking
about at that time. I don't know exactly what I was going
through, what my thought process was, you know, at that
time. I wanted to help; I didn't know how to help. I'm
worrying about, you know, I'm more concerned about a
violation for a parole violation for drinking instead of just
screwing the parole violation, you know, screw whatever might
happen and just go and report the crime, say what I saw, you
know, taking the parole violation and helping an innocent
victim. That's what I should have done. It's not what I did. I
mean, you know, I lost sight of what it meant to be human,
you know.

We have attempted to give you a full, fair and accurate interview today. In your opinion, have you received that?

Yes, I believe that I have, you know, I mean, you know, the Panel asked me questions, you know, sometimes they do,

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sometimes, you know, they don't. You know, maybe it's one

or two questions. I got a lot of questions today. I don't know, you know, how well my answers were, because I really can't, you know, explain my actions that night. I can't, I mean, there's no explanation for why or how I conducted myself. I don't know, I don't know why I carried myself the way I did, you know. I still don't know that. But, probably, you know, I mean, I can't, you know, unfortunately make up for bad behavior in the past. You know, my behavior definitely was bad. My behavior was questionable. But, I really believe that I can make a difference with my behavior, you know, in the future. I intend to. I believe that I not only can, but will be productive in the future.

Okav.

And even though I have employment and housing, I really believe that it's in my best interest to address, really what, you know, the alcohol problem, you know. I don't necessarily have a drug problem per say, but I definitely have a problem with alcohol. You know, I have for years, while I was, you know, in the streets, and, you know, I mean, there is a, you know, a real chance that this could come to the forefront again. So I really believe that it's in my best interest to get

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program. I tried to contact the Blaisdell Program, which is in Orangetown, New York, who agreed at my last parole appearance to accept me in their program. I have not received any response from them this time, but I did contact them and received a response from the Altamont Program in Albany.

There has been several religious priest and individuals that have tried to help me and they've contacted Father for me. And I did hear from them and they're willing to accept me, but from what I understand, the Division of Parole or maybe it's DOCS wants individuals to return to the counties where they're from. But I understand that, you know, it is possible to go to, you know, an area other than that.

- Q Right.
- A The county of conviction with the approval of the Board, and that's what I'd like to do.
- Q All right, sir. Well stated. At fifty-six, we wish you good luck.

  We'll advise you in writing.
- A Okay.
- Q Good luck to you, Mr. Have a good day.
- A Just one last thing. You know, I don't mean to make it appear that I, you know, am any sort of a victim in, you know, the

crime, or in the case in anyway, shape or form. You know, I
mean, I can't even find the words, you know, to express, you
know, the remorse that I have for my actions, and, you know,
what I did and didn't do on the night that, you know,
lost her life. I wish I had done things differently.
And, you know, I failed to do that and I realized that, you
know, the Hearing, you know, for although it's me that stands
before the Panel, you know, for release, you know, the Hearing
isn't necessarily, you know, only about me. It's about the
family, and, you know, I believe that it's only, you
know, right and fair. But I know that I will be productive if,
you know, the Panel releases me and if they grant me parole,
you know.
All right.
It won't be misplaced.
All right, sir. Well stated. And again, we wish you good luck.
We'll advise you in writing.
All right. Okay. Thank you very much.

(After due deliberation by the Parole Board Panel, the following

Decision has been rendered:)

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#### DECISION

Parole is denied. Hold 24 months. Next appearance date is 05/2011.

Following a careful review and deliberation of your record and interview, this Panel concludes that discretionary release is not presently warranted due to concern for the public safety and welfare.

The following factors were properly weighed and considered:

Your instant offense in County in involved you and codefendant attacking a sixteen-year-old female, which resulted in her death. Your criminal history indicates you were on parole at that time, less than nineteen months from a 1978 Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance 3rd. Your institutional programming indicates progress, which is noted to your credit. Your disciplinary record reflects five Tier II and two Tier III reports; you have received SHU time. Based on all required factors in the file, considered discretionary release at this time is not consistent with the public safety and welfare. Your discretionary release at this time would thus not be compatible with the welfare of society at large and would tend deprecate the seriousness of the instant offenses and undermine respect for the law.

All Commissioners concur.