

DATE TYPED: March 08, 2017  
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**IN RE: RAYMOND TIBBETTS, CCI #A363-178**

**STATE OF OHIO  
ADULT PAROLE AUTHORITY  
COLUMBUS, OHIO**

Date of Meeting: January 17, 2017

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the  
Adult Parole Authority held at 770 West Broad Street,  
Columbus, Ohio 43222 on the above date.

**IN RE: Raymond Tibbetts, CCI #A363-178**

SUBJECT: Death Sentence Clemency

CRIMES, CONVICTIONS: Aggravated Murder, Aggravated Murder, Aggravated Robbery

DATE, PLACE OF CRIME: November 5, 1997 in Cincinnati, Ohio

COUNTY: Hamilton

CASE NUMBER: B9708596

VICTIMS: Judith Sue Crawford (age 42) – deceased  
Fred Hicks (age 67) – deceased

INDICTMENT: Count 1: Aggravated Murder with Capital Offense Specification (victim Judith Crawford)  
Count 2: Aggravated Murder with Capital Offense Specification (victim Judith Crawford)  
Count 3: Aggravated Murder with Capital Offense Specification (victim Fred Hicks)  
Count 4: Aggravated Murder with Capital Offense Specification (victim Fred Hicks)  
Count 5: Aggravated Robbery (victim Fred Hicks)

TRIAL: Found guilty by jury of counts 1 (lesser included offense of Murder, merged with count 2), 2, 3, 4 (merged with count 3), and count 5

DATE OF SENTENCE: August 27, 1998

SENTENCE: Count 1: Merged with Count 2  
Count 2: Life without Parole  
Count 3: DEATH  
Count 4: Merged with Count 3  
Count 5: 10 years

Counts 2, 3, and 5 to be served consecutively to each other.

ADMITTED TO INSTITUTION: September 2, 1998

JAIL TIME CREDIT: 6 days

TIME SERVED: 222 months (does not include jail time credit)

AGE AT ADMISSION: 41 years old

CURRENT AGE: 59 years old

DATE OF BIRTH: June 8, 1957

JUDGE: Honorable Patrick T. Dinkelacker

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY: Joseph T. Deters

**FOREWORD:**

A clemency proceeding in the case of Raymond Tibbetts, A363-178, was initiated by the Ohio Parole Board pursuant to Sections 2967.03 and 2967.07 of the Ohio Revised Code and Parole Board Policy #105-PBD-01.

On January 3, 2017, the Parole Board interviewed Tibbetts, who appeared via videoconference from the Chillicothe Correctional Institution. A clemency hearing was then held on January 17, 2017 with twelve (12) members of the Parole Board participating. Arguments in support of, and in opposition to, clemency were presented at that hearing.

The Parole Board considered all of the written submissions, arguments, and information disseminated by presenters at the hearing, as well as the judicial decisions. The Parole Board deliberated upon the propriety of clemency in this case. With twelve (12) members participating, the Board voted eleven (11) to one (1) to provide an unfavorable recommendation for clemency to the Honorable John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio.

**DETAILS OF THE INSTANT OFFENSE (B9708596):**

The following account of the instant offenses was obtained from the Ohio Supreme Court's opinion, decided July 5, 2001:

On November 6, 1997, Hicks's sister, Joan Hicks Landwehr, arrived at Hicks's home in Cincinnati to meet him for lunch. Landwehr often visited Hicks, who was sixty-seven years old and suffered from emphysema. Due to his condition, Hicks employed Crawford as a live-in caretaker. Tibbetts, who had married Crawford just over a month earlier, also lived in the house.

After getting no answer at the door and seeing Hicks's car missing from its usual parking space, Landwehr entered the home with her spare key. Landwehr went to a second-floor living room and found Hicks's dead body slumped in a chair. Landwehr immediately called 911. Landwehr noticed that her brother's chest and stomach were bloody and that his right pants pocket, where Hicks usually kept his money, was turned inside out.

When Cincinnati police officers responded a short time later, they found Hicks with a tube still connecting his nose to a nearby oxygen tank. Two knives protruded from Hicks's chest, a third knife protruded from his back, and the broken blade of a fourth knife was also in his back. Officers found additional knives and a knife sheath near Hicks. A butcher block used to store knives lay behind Hicks's chair. Deputy coroner Daniel Schultz later determined that Hicks died as a result of multiple stab wounds to his chest that punctured Hicks's heart, lungs, and aorta. Hicks did not have any defensive wounds.

Officers searched the rest of the house and found Crawford lying dead on the floor of a third-floor room, covered with a sheet. Crawford had been brutally beaten; her head was cracked open and lay in a pool of blood. Pieces of Crawford's brain were lying on the floor next to her head. Crawford had also been stabbed several times, with one knife still stuck in her neck. Crawford also had a broken left arm, which Dr. Schultz characterized as a probable result of her attempt to ward off blows. Police found a bloodstained baseball bat and several knives near Crawford's body. Dr. Schultz concluded that Crawford died of multiple skull fractures and that at least nine of her stab wounds were inflicted after her death. In all, Crawford had been struck at least four times in the head with blunt-force blows and sustained stab wounds to her back, lungs, chest, arm, shoulder, and neck.

Dr. Schultz, who also investigated the crime scene, determined that Hicks and Crawford had been dead for several hours. Police investigators found no identifiable fingerprints on the baseball bat or the knives. The only fingerprints found in the house belonged to either Tibbetts or Crawford. There were no signs of forced entry anywhere in the residence. Police also learned from Landwehr and others at the scene that Hicks's car, a white Geo Metro, was missing. Landwehr told police that Tibbetts did not have permission to drive the car.

The day after discovering the bodies, Cincinnati police learned that a Covington, Kentucky police officer had stopped Tibbetts on the night of the murders. Just after midnight on November 6, 1997, Covington police lieutenant Michael Kraft found Tibbetts in a white Geo Metro that had broken down in the middle of an intersection. According to Kraft, Tibbetts appeared nervous and "smelled somewhat of intoxicants." Tibbetts also lied to Kraft about the car's owner, saying that the car belonged to a friend in Covington.

Kraft summoned another officer to the scene to assist Tibbetts and investigate whether Tibbetts was driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Officer David Finan arrived a short time later and also noted that Tibbetts was nervous and smelled of intoxicants. He allowed Tibbetts to go, however, after concluding that Tibbetts was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The car was towed away and impounded by Covington police. Cincinnati police later recovered the Geo Metro from the Covington impoundment lot and found bloodstains on the steering wheel, gearshift, door panel, and brake handle.

After learning of the Covington police's encounter with Tibbetts, Cincinnati police charged Tibbetts with receiving stolen property and obtained an arrest

warrant on November 7, 1997. The very next day, Tibbetts voluntarily admitted himself to the psychiatric unit at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Edgewood, Kentucky. Tibbetts told nurses that his name was Ray Harvey and provided an incorrect Social Security number. Despite the false name and identification information, nurses at the psychiatric unit recognized Tibbetts from his previous treatment at the hospital. On the same day that Tibbetts checked into St. Elizabeth, police arrested Tibbetts on the warrant for receiving stolen property and took him to a local jail for questioning.

Tibbetts signed a waiver of his *Miranda* rights and calmly cooperated with the two investigating officers who questioned him. Tibbetts had a noticeable cut on his hand and told the investigators he had cut his hand on a river barge where he had been staying. When an officer asked whether Tibbetts had seen his wife lately, Tibbetts responded that he had not and then terminated the interview. As police were leaving, Tibbetts queried, "What's the charge, manslaughter?" The investigators, who had not mentioned the murders to Tibbetts during the interview, responded that the matter was under investigation.

A few days later, a Cincinnati police officer retrieved from St. Elizabeth the clothing Tibbetts was wearing when he checked himself into the psychiatric unit and took it to the crime lab for DNA testing. The socks, T-shirt, and blue jeans Tibbetts was wearing on November 8, 1997, were all stained with human blood. A serologist found that the blood on Tibbetts's T-shirt matched Tibbetts's blood, that blood on the socks matched Hicks's blood, and that blood on the blue jeans matched blood from Tibbetts, Crawford, and an unknown person. The serologist also analyzed blood found in the Geo Metro and concluded that blood on the door, brake handle, and gearshift matched Tibbetts's blood.

A Hamilton County grand jury indicted Tibbetts on four counts of aggravated murder (two counts per victim) with death-penalty specifications. The first and third counts alleged aggravated murder with prior calculation and design. *R.C. 2903.01(A)*. The second and fourth counts charged aggravated murder in the course of committing aggravated robbery. *R.C. 2903.01(B)*. Each count carried two death-penalty specifications: (1) a course of conduct involving the purposeful killing of two or more persons, *R.C. 2929.04(A) (5)*; and (2) murder while the principal offender in an aggravated robbery, *R.C. 2929.04(A)(7)*. A fifth count in the indictment charged Tibbetts with aggravated robbery in connection with the theft of Hicks's car. *R.C. 2911.01(A) (3)*.

A jury returned guilty verdicts on three counts of aggravated murder. On these counts, the jury also found Tibbetts guilty of each death-penalty specification. The jury found Tibbetts not guilty on count one, the aggravated murder of Crawford with prior calculation and design, but found him guilty of the lesser included offense of murder. *R.C. 2903.02*. The jury also returned a guilty verdict on the aggravated-robbery count. The trial court merged the murder verdicts into two counts for purposes of sentencing.

At the conclusion of the penalty phase, the jury recommended that Tibbetts be sentenced to death for the Hicks murder and to life imprisonment without parole for the Crawford murder. The trial court adopted the jury's recommendation and sentenced Tibbetts accordingly.

### **PRIOR RECORD**

#### **Juvenile Offenses:**

Tibbetts has the following known juvenile record (information obtained from the Pre-Sentence Investigation completed in 1980 in relation to case number B802469):

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Offense</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Disposition</u></b>
05/23/74	Possession of Intoxicant	Cincinnati, OH	Admonished
06/17/74	Intoxication	Cincinnati, OH	Costs remitted
09/27/74	Receiving Stolen Property	Cincinnati, OH	Probation
10/07/74	Breaking & Entering (2 counts) Safecracking (2 counts)	Cincinnati, OH	Probation
12/17/74	Loitering where Drugs Used	Fort Lauderdale, FL	10 days, sentence suspended
12/27/74	Breaking & Entering	Cincinnati, OH	Committed to Ohio Youth Commission

#### **Adult Offenses:**

Tibbetts has the following known adult arrest record (information obtained from the Pre-Sentence Investigation completed in 1980 in relation to case number B802469; the Post-Sentence Investigation completed in 1982 in relation to case number B820772; and the Offender Background Investigation completed in 1998 in relation to case number B9708596, the instant offenses):

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Offense</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Disposition</u></b>
11/21/75	Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle	Clermont County	\$250 fine plus costs 30 days (suspended)
01/15/76	Driving under the Influence (DUI) Vandalism	Fort Lauderdale, FL	\$52 dollar fine \$352 fine, 10 days confinement
02/13/76	Procuring Prostitution Offer for Lewd and Lascivious Act	Fort Lauderdale, FL	34 days confinement

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04/20/77	Resisting Arrest	Cincinnati, OH	\$50 fine
07/22/77	Theft	Cincinnati, OH	30 days confinement, 2 years of probation
09/30/77	Theft Assault	Cincinnati, OH	30 days confinement- 30 days confinement
08/28/78	Theft	Cincinnati, OH	6 months confinement
12/19/78	Disorderly Conduct	Cincinnati, OH	10 days confinement
03/20/79	Resisting Arrest	Cincinnati, OH	3 months confinement
06/25/80	Breaking & Entering (B802469) <b>(R113-289)</b>	Cincinnati, OH	2-5 years ODRC Admitted: 09/16/80 Paroled: 11/16/81 Revoked: 04/19/82

Details: Tibbetts broke into an antiques store (his former employer) and stole \$40,000 worth of merchandise.

01/05/82	Breaking and Entering	Cincinnati, OH	30 day confinement
01/14/82	Petty Theft (B820772) <b>(A167-730)</b>	Cincinnati, OH	1-10 years ODRC Admitted: 04/19/82 Paroled: 12/15/83 Revoked: 05/25/84

Details: Tibbetts stole a vehicle and other items from the residence of a male victim.

02/05/84	Trafficking & Sale of Counterfeit Drugs (B840462) <b>(A179-487)</b>	Cincinnati, OH	1 year ODRC Admitted: 05/25/84 Paroled: 07/02/85 Administratively Released: 05/07/90 (Tibbetts was in Federal Custody)
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Details: Tibbetts sold LSD that was later determined to be transparent tape.

05/01/88	Theft Persistent Felony Offender	Newport, KY	10 years KY DOC Admitted: 10/21/88
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Details: Tibbetts stole \$169.91 in merchandise from a K-Mart department store.

05/24/91	Theft	Cincinnati, OH	6 months and costs
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Details: Tibbetts was shoplifting.

06/18/91	Driving under the Influence	Cincinnati, OH	Fine and \$200 costs
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06/21/97	Driving under the Influence	Cincinnati, OH	Fine and \$500 costs Unknown jail days
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11/05/97 (Age 40)	Aggravated Murder Aggravated Murder Aggravated Robbery (B9708596) (A363-178)	Cincinnati, OH	<b>INSTANT OFFENSES</b>
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**Institutional Adjustment:**

Tibbetts was admitted to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction on September 2, 1998. His work assignments while at the Mansfield Correctional Institution included Student, Tutor, Recreation Worker, and Barber. While incarcerated at the Ohio State Penitentiary, Tibbetts's work assignments included Library Aide and Porter.

Presently, Tibbetts is a Porter at the Chillicothe Correctional Institution. No program or community service completion was noted. According to the Offender Background Investigation, Tibbetts received his General Education Diploma (GED) while incarcerated under a previous inmate number and has an 11th grade education.

Since his admission, Tibbetts has not been placed in disciplinary or local control. He has received the following conduct reports that did not result in placement in disciplinary control:

- 10/02/98: Disrespect to an officer, staff member, visitor, or other inmate. Tibbetts had a verbal altercation with an officer and called the officer a "fucking asshole." Tibbetts received a 10-day recreation restriction for this rule infraction.
- 08/16/08: Possession of contraband, including any article knowingly possessed which has been altered or for which permission has not been given. Tibbetts was in possession of two razor blades that were broken out of a razor used to shave the face. Tibbetts received a verbal warning for this rule infraction.
- 12/24/14: Disrespect to an officer, staff member, visitor, or other inmate. Tibbetts told an officer "Hey idiot open my door." Tibbetts received a warning for this rule infraction.

- 04/12/16: Disobedience of a direct order. Tibbetts wore a hat (personal toboggan) while on a visit in violation of visiting rules and regulations. Tibbetts received a warning for this rule infraction.

**APPLICANT'S STATEMENT:**

On January 3, 2017, members of the Ohio Parole Board conducted an interview with Tibbetts via videoconference from the Chillicothe Correctional Institution.

The following individuals observed the interview via videoconference, but did not participate: Keven Stanek, Assistant Chief Counsel, Office of Governor John Kasich; Brenda Leikala, Assistant Attorney General; Stephen Maher, Assistant Attorney General; Sharon Hicks, Attorney for Tibbetts; Jacob Cairns, Attorney for Tibbetts; David Doughten, Attorney for Tibbetts; Julie Roberts, Attorney for Tibbetts; and Philip Cummings, Assistant Hamilton County Prosecuting Attorney.

Ohio Parole Board Chair Andre Imbrogno commenced the interview by introducing himself and the other members of the Parole Board to Tibbetts. Chair Imbrogno identified the individuals who were observing the interview, but were not participating. He explained to Tibbetts the purpose of the clemency interview and noted that Tibbetts's clemency hearing is scheduled for January 17, 2017.

Chair Imbrogno asked Tibbetts what he would like the Board to consider in determining whether to make a favorable or unfavorable recommendation for clemency in his case. Tibbetts responded that he was unsure how to respond to that question, but that he has given his life to Jesus Christ and that he thanks God for having allowed him to live as long as he has. He believes that he is not deserving of that time given the crimes he committed, but he is grateful for every day that God allows him. He accepts responsibility for killing Crawford and Hicks and if he could switch places with them he would. Tibbetts acknowledged that he did not, at first, admit the crimes, noting that during much of his life he was a habitual liar. Today, he admits the crimes, though he avoids thinking about the murders because it is incomprehensible to him that he could commit such heinous acts.

Tibbetts could recall little about the murders themselves nor the events immediately before or after, noting that he was regularly abusing cocaine and alcohol at that time, including on the day of the murders. At that time, Tibbetts described, he was receiving workers' compensation for an injury he sustained while working on a barge. He used most of those benefits to support a cocaine habit that cost approximately 50 to 60 dollars per day to sustain.

According to Tibbetts, it was drugs and alcohol that brought him to his present point in life, though he does not blame substance abuse for his current situation. He had opportunities in his life to stop drinking and to stop taking drugs, Tibbetts recounted, and had people in his life who tried to help him. At the same time, drugs and alcohol were the reason that he was not in his right mind when he killed Crawford and Hicks.

While Tibbetts denied any specific memories of the crimes, Tibbetts did recall arguing with Crawford that day, possibly about his drug use and his having stolen jewelry from Crawford

to buy drugs. He and Crawford argued with some frequency, and those altercations had become physical in the past, Tibbetts recounted. Both he and Crawford were drug users, though their drugs of choice differed. Crawford was fond of knives, Tibbetts continued, and may have threatened him with a knife in the moments before he killed her, though Tibbetts does not specifically recall her threatening him in that fashion.

Tibbetts further recalled that after leaving the scene of the crime, he drove to Kentucky where he awoke in a mobile home that he had broken into. Upon awakening, Tibbetts noticed that he was cut and knew that something terrible had happened. He could also vaguely recall speaking to the police about the Geo Metro he was driving, which at the time he believed was Crawford's car, and taking himself to the hospital after the crime.

Tibbetts could vaguely remember calling his former girlfriend, Robin Amburgey, after the crime and telling her that he had done something wrong. Tibbetts explained that he was occasionally speaking to Amburgey during that period and that he deeply regretted that his substance abuse had led to their breakup. He still loved Amburgey and missed both her and the son he had fathered with her, Tibbetts recalled, though he is certain that is not the reason why he killed Crawford. He could have simply left Crawford without having to resort to taking her life, Tibbetts observed. Though the situation with Crawford was not good and their relationship was stressful, Tibbetts insisted that there was nothing about the relationship that would have led him to kill her.

Still, Tibbetts remains at a loss as to why he killed Crawford. He said he went "berserk" and exhibited a level of violence that he never exhibited in the past. He is aware that the murders were very brutal in nature, and he is unsure as to how he could have gotten into such a state of rage. He never carried knives or any other types of weapons.

Tibbetts is particularly troubled by what he did to Hicks, a good, hard-working man whom he liked. Tibbetts described how he and Hicks would sometimes watch television together, and described Hicks as a friend he had no reason whatsoever to harm. When asked why Hicks's body was found with the pants pockets turned inside-out, Tibbetts responded that he does not recall going through Hicks's pockets but if he did, he was probably searching for money that he could use to purchase more cocaine. Though he denies any specific recollection of killing Crawford and Hicks, Tibbetts believes today that he did in fact commit the murders as he was the only other person in the home.

Tibbetts related that he has fathered two children in his lifetime, a daughter with Crawford and a son with Amburgey. While neither his son nor daughter has wanted to be a part of his life, he has family with whom he is close, including a brother, a sister, and cousins. Living with the knowledge that Tibbetts took two lives hurts his family deeply. Tibbetts added that he also has friends in his support system, including pen pals and a Bible study group, all of whom he tries to uplift through the word of God. He is grateful for the friends and family who have stuck by him through the years.

At the conclusion of the interview, Tibbetts thanked the Board for speaking to him and for considering him for clemency. He stated that while he does not deserve clemency and is resigned to whatever plan God has for him, he does want to live and that if granted clemency, he could make a successful transition to general population and would use his time

productively to help others. Thereafter, Chair Imbrogno thanked Tibbetts for participating and concluded the interview.

### **ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF CLEMENCY:**

At the hearing held on January 17, 2017, Tibbetts's attorneys, Sharon Hicks, Jacob Cairns, and Erin Barnhart, presented arguments in support of clemency supplementing the written application previously received.

Tibbetts's attorneys presented several arguments in support of clemency. First, they argued that Tibbetts's traumatic upbringing irreparably impaired his brain's neurological development. Second, Tibbetts's attorneys argued that his impaired neurological development and untreated chemical dependency led to his present situation. Third, they argued that Tibbetts's jury was not fully informed of his traumatic upbringing and the role his dysfunctional childhood played in the crimes. Lastly, Tibbetts's attorneys argued that Tibbetts has a supportive family and friends in the community who value his life.

### **Tibbetts's traumatic upbringing irreparably impaired his brain's neurological development**

Tibbetts's attorneys showed a video featuring several of Tibbetts's siblings, which included statements from his older sister, Suzanne Freeman, and his older brother, Rick Tibbetts. Freeman stated that Tibbetts was never loved as a child and never received any affection. According to Freeman, Tibbetts never had a chance. She described Tibbetts's home life as traumatic and chaotic, noting that both their parents were alcoholics who struggled to provide their children with basic care. That left Freeman, who was a child herself, responsible for her siblings, for whom she tried to provide care. Freeman described her siblings weeping in their parents' absence, noting that she would try to console them but sometimes ended up simply weeping along with them.

Freeman and Rick Tibbetts noted that their father was largely absent from their lives and that when he did appear, he physically abused their mother and only added to the home's chaotic atmosphere. Freeman described their mother as cold, distant, and uncaring. According to Freeman, her mother was incapable of conveying affection.

In July 1959, Tibbetts and his siblings were removed from the family home and placed into foster care with the Merriman family. Rick Tibbetts described the Merriman home as evil, opining that the Merrimans should have never been permitted to care for children, as they were both mentally and physically abusive. According to Tibbetts's attorneys, in 1960, a children services agency acknowledged the unsatisfactory conditions in the Merriman home but took no steps to remove Tibbetts or his siblings. Freeman said the physical conditions in the home were so bad that she would have to sleep with pillows around her ears to protect them from roaches and other insects. The Merriman home was a "nightmare," Freeman recalled.

Freeman and Rick Tibbetts related that the Merrimans, who would routinely go out at night, would tie the Tibbetts children to their beds to ensure they remained in the home. Rick

Tibbetts recalled sometimes urinating in the bed during those confinements. Freeman said she would occasionally loosen the children's knots so her siblings could play in their beds.

Rick Tibbetts described being routinely abused in the Merriman home. He said he would be forced to stand in the corner of a room for so long that he would collapse to his knees. He stated that the Merrimans had four biological children residing in their home in addition to the five Tibbetts children. The Merriman children, who were forced to care for Rick Tibbetts and his siblings, treated them terribly, he recalled. He and his siblings cried constantly. Neither Rick Tibbetts nor Freeman could recall anyone from children services talking to them about conditions in the home.

In May 1961, Tibbetts's mother brought Freeman and Rick Tibbetts back to the family home. Claiming a lack of resources, Tibbetts's mother left Tibbetts and his brothers Archie and George ("Willie") with the Merrimans. Freeman and Rick Tibbetts told their mother that they were abused in the Merriman home, yet no one took any action to remove their siblings. Freeman stated that she continues to feel tremendously guilty about leaving Tibbetts and her other siblings with the Merrimans.

Upon returning home, Freeman was hopeful that things with her mother would be different, but her mother remained devoid of love and affection. That disappointment broke her heart, Freeman recalled. According to Rick Tibbetts, his experience with his mother upon returning home was similarly negative, noting how his mother would experience drug-induced psychotic fits during which she locked him out of the home forcing him to sleep on the streets.

In a videotaped statement, Willie Tibbetts recalled sustaining a severe burn at the Merrimans' home, which was the catalyst for children services finally removing him and his siblings in November 1961. Thereafter, Tibbetts and his brothers were placed in the foster care of the Oswalds, whom Willie Tibbetts described as equally abusive as the Merrimans. Willie Tibbetts described an incident during which he said his foster father hit him in the head with a 2x4 on the mistaken belief that Willie Tibbetts was throwing rocks at Oswald's biological son. In retaliation for the perceived attack on Oswald's son, Willie Tibbetts said that Oswald then restrained him and threw rocks at him. Willie Tibbetts also described being sexually abused in the Oswald home.

Willie Tibbetts described how he and Tibbetts ran away from home on multiple occasions, resulting in the boys' confinement in juvenile detention centers, where he said they continued to be abused. Following those stints in juvenile detention, the boys would be returned to the Oswald home. Meanwhile, the boys' biological mother was avoiding contact with her sons despite social workers' attempts to reconnect them. By age 14, Tibbetts had begun drinking alcohol and using drugs. After ten years in the Oswalds' home, Tibbetts and Willie were removed and placed in various group homes and orphanages until they reached the age of 18, at which time they were released from state custody to essentially fend for themselves.

In her videotaped statement, Freeman lamented that Tibbetts and her other brothers never had a place to call home and that fundamentally no one cared for or about them. She recalled suffering less than her brothers, noting that at least she was close with one of their grandmothers.

Epilogues in the video detailed the lifelong struggles of each of Tibbetts's siblings. Their various challenges included substance abuse, problems in their interpersonal relationships, incarcerations, and mental illness. Tibbetts's brother, Archie, committed suicide at the age of 44.

Patti Van Eys, a licensed psychologist, described the effects of early childhood trauma on brain development, noting that it is empirically linked to negative outcomes in adulthood. Van Eys explained that in the first years of life, the human brain undergoes phenomenal growth, doubling in size in the first year of life and achieving 80% of its total volume by age three. In the first eighteen months of a child's life, neural connections in the brain are forming rapidly. This period of neurological development is critical, Van Eys explained, because it lays the foundation for high-order cognitive functioning.

For decades, Van Eys continued, it was known that babies who are loved and nurtured have better outcomes as they progress into adulthood and today we understand the science underlying that phenomenon. Certain neurological functions—vision and language, for example—are established early in one's life and those functions cannot develop unless stimulated in a child early and often. If those stimuli are not present at the right time in a child's life, the opportunity to fully develop those neurological functions is forever lost. This is known as "pruning," Van Eys explained.

Van Eys played a video from Harvard University's Center for the Developing Child, which noted that early experiences in a child's life affect the architecture of the child's brain and determines whether the child's brain will have a strong or weak foundation for later high-order functioning. Emotions, motor control, memory, and impulse control all derive from neurological development that occurs very early in a child's life. Neurological connections that are stimulated in, and used more frequently by, a child become stronger while those that are used less frequently fade away, or "prune."

Van Eys described the process of "attachment," which is the bond formed between a child and its caregiver. The period between birth and age three is an important period in the attachment process, with the first 18 months of a child's life the most critical, Van Eys explained. Individuals who experience successful attachment in childhood exhibit a number of pro-social traits, including the capacity for self-control; the ability to trust and empathize; feelings of self-efficacy and self-worth; better physical health; and better cognitive, or learning, abilities.

Whether healthy attachment occurs depends upon the caregiver's response to a baby's basic stress reactions, like crying. When a caregiver responds positively to a baby's cries, Van Eys continued, it allows the child's brain to relax and for the child's arousal level to lower. Repeatedly responding to the child's cries correctly wires the child's brain around normal stress responses. "What fires together, wires together," Van Eys noted. When a baby's stress responses are met with a soothing response from the caregiver, the child's brain pairs relationships with a sense of calm. That is healthy attachment, Van Eys explained. It internalizes in the child's brain a positive working model for all future relationships.

Tibbetts had no opportunity to develop a healthy brain, Van Eys opined. According to Van Eys, the chaotic atmosphere in the Tibbetts's home; the absence of any attachment figure in his life other than his sister Suzanne, who lived separately from him for much of his life; the unavailability of toys with which to stimulate his brain; and his parents' struggles with addiction and mental illness created an atmosphere of "toxic stress" that negatively affected the development of Tibbetts's brain, leading it to become wired in very unhealthy ways.

Toxic stress is a key intergenerational transmitter of social and health disparities, Van Eys continued. Citing the Kaiser Permanente Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study, which investigated the effects of childhood abuse and neglect on health and well-being in later life, Van Eys noted that adverse childhood experiences like those experienced by Tibbetts are correlated to poor outcomes into adulthood. Early adverse childhood experiences disrupt neurological development, creating a brain that does not have a foundation conducive to normal stress response. That, in turn, leads to later social, cognitive, and emotional impairments as well as the adoption of high-risk behaviors, including self-medicating with drugs and alcohol. Drugs and alcohol are used to soothe the hyper-active stress response that was never correctly hard wired during childhood, Van Eys related.

Van Eys noted that the ACE study identified 10 adverse childhood experiences correlated with negative outcomes in adulthood. According to Van Eys, Tibbetts experienced nine of those ten.<sup>1</sup> The one adverse experience not clearly present in Tibbetts's childhood, sexual abuse, may in fact have occurred given his brother Willie's memory of being sexually abused in the Oswald home, Van Eys added. The presence of those risk factors put Tibbetts at high risk for a poor adult outcome, she opined.

The environments in which Tibbetts was raised were chronically toxic, Van Eys suggested, noting that Tibbetts never had a chance to develop a healthy brain. Even after he was first placed in foster care, there was still an opportunity to "mold" his brain and to ameliorate the effects of the mistreatment he had experienced to that point. However, instead of being placed in therapeutic environments he was placed in one abusive setting after another, Van Eys stated.

Tibbetts's childhood was devoid of opportunities to "rewire," his brain, Van Eys continued. Supportive relationships, which could have accomplished that rewiring, were largely absent. Tibbetts's sister Suzanne, who initially provided some "buffer" against the toxic household environment, was separated from him for much of his childhood. By the time he was released to the streets at age 18—without any support or safety net, Van Eys added—the opportunity to reverse the negative effects of Tibbetts's upbringing was largely gone, as the plasticity of the human brain fades rather dramatically from early childhood on.

According to Van Eys, the brains of individuals who, like Tibbetts, are raised in toxic environments are commonly dominated by the region of the brain known as the amygdala, which is responsible for autonomic responses associated with fear; that is, the fight, flight, or freeze responses, as opposed to that part of the brain responsible for reasoned decision-

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<sup>1</sup> According to Van Eys, the ten adverse childhood experiences identified in the ACE study are physical abuse, emotional abuse, physical neglect, emotional neglect, a battered mother, substance abuse, familial incarcerations, absent parents, mental illness, and sexual abuse.

making. Individuals in whom the amygdala dominates tend to quickly go into survival mode and dissociate—that is, detach from reality—in response to perceived threats. Dissociation is often accompanied by memory loss, which would explain Tibbetts’s significant and persistent lapses in memory. Van Eys hypothesized that Tibbetts perceived some threat on the night of the murders, perhaps from Crawford herself. Van Eys further hypothesized that Tibbetts was reenacting the traumas of his own past, which may explain the very violent nature of the crimes.

### **Tibbetts’s impaired neurological development and untreated chemical dependency led to his present situation**

Cairns noted that, for many years, Tibbetts recognized that he had a severe substance abuse problem and that he needed help to overcome it. Though he took steps to get help, Tibbetts never overcame his addiction, Cairns stated.

Bob Stinson, a forensic psychologist, described Tibbetts’s childhood and upbringing as a “recipe for disaster,” noting that Tibbetts had an absent father, grew up in a violent household, had family members who were incarcerated, was separated from his siblings, and was neglected throughout his childhood. His parents’ substance abuse was another key ingredient in that recipe for disaster, Stinson added, in that it negatively affected Tibbetts in two ways. First, by definition, parents who are struggling with addiction will exhibit some level of dysfunction in their parenting. In addition, there is a strong genetic component to addiction that would have predisposed Tibbetts to his own substance abuse disorder.

His parents’ mental health issues, Stinson continued, likewise had a two-fold negative effect upon Tibbetts, rendering them dysfunctional parents and genetically predisposing Tibbetts to his own mental health issues. In short, Tibbetts was subject to a confluence of risk factors, both genetic and environmental, which pointed to a very negative outcome for him.

Ordinarily, the removal of a child from a family home like Tibbetts’s would prove beneficial for the child; however, the foster care system of the 1960s was not what it is today, Stinson stated. Children services’ records indicate that Tibbetts’s foster homes were neglectful and abusive environments. Stinson stated that in both the family home and in foster care, Tibbetts experienced persistent and very tragic emotional abuse and neglect that compromised his chances for success into adulthood. Tibbetts’s very challenging upbringing later manifested itself in severe substance abuse and suicide attempts. Tibbetts, who was already genetically predisposed to addiction, used substances to numb his pain and achieve some feeling of euphoria, Stinson opined. Had Tibbetts been raised in a healthy environment, Stinson added, his life may have been very different.

Still, Stinson continued, there were opportunities to prevent a negative outcome. Stinson presented a timeline of Tibbetts’s substance use beginning in 1972, when it was first documented that Tibbetts was sniffing glue. By age 13 or 14, he was using alcohol, Stinson continued, and by the mid-1970s, Tibbetts was using alcohol quite heavily. In the early 1980s, Tibbetts had been through the prison system and had identified drugs and alcohol as a serious problem. Though he sought out Alcoholics Anonymous, Tibbetts was beyond self-help and was in need of intensive treatment. By the mid-1980s, Tibbetts was smoking marijuana and using large amounts of cocaine, Stinson related.

In the early 1990s, Stinson continued, Tibbetts had been arriving in emergency rooms intoxicated and telling hospital staff that he is using drugs and alcohol to self-medicate. Though Tibbetts made it clear to his treatment providers that he had concurrent mental health and substance abuse issues, they refused him mental health treatment until he addressed his substance abuse. What Tibbetts needed, Stinson urged, was the kind of integrated, dual-diagnosis treatment that he would receive today if presenting with those symptoms. Today, Tibbetts's treatment providers would address his mental health and substance abuse problems concurrently, recognizing that the issues are interrelated. Unfortunately, at the time Tibbetts was seeking treatment, dual-diagnosis treatment was not the standard approach.

Stinson described a brief period in the mid-1990s when Tibbetts was sober and regularly employed. That period came to an end after he sustained a work-related knee injury and was prescribed narcotics following surgery. Stinson opined that Tibbetts should never have been prescribed that kind of medication given his history of substance abuse, and if he was, it should have been provided to him with great care and oversight. Inevitably, Stinson continued, Tibbetts relapsed and became increasingly despondent to the point where he twice checked into a psychiatric hospital declaring that he was hopeless and suicidal. Instead of providing extended treatment, the hospital put Tibbetts through detox and quickly released him back to the community. Stinson urged that would not happen today.

Six weeks after his second admission to the psychiatric hospital, Tibbetts was arrested for killing Crawford and Hicks, Stinson noted. If Tibbetts had received the kind of ninety-day treatment program he could have received today, Tibbetts would not be facing execution, Stinson opined. While Stinson believes that Tibbetts is ultimately responsible for his own behavior, Stinson cannot help but feel frustrated knowing that with one or more appropriate interventions, things could have been very different.

### **Tibbetts's jury was not fully informed of his traumatic upbringing**

Barnhart stated that the Ohio Parole Board is one of the few entities that has been in a position to evaluate Tibbetts's case in the context of all of the relevant information and without limitation. The only other entity in a similar position was the Ohio Supreme Court, which reviewed Tibbetts's case on direct appeal. However, the Supreme Court's review, Barnhart observed, was constrained by the trial record, whereas the Board is not similarly constrained.

Among the facts that did not find their way into the trial record, Barnhart continued, was that Tibbetts was sent away from home at just fourteen months old. Nor did the jury know about his mother's mental health problems; that the children had no toys to play with; that there was sexual abuse occurring in one of Tibbetts's foster homes; that the children were routinely locked out of their home; that Tibbetts's mother accepted two of his siblings back into her home but not Tibbetts; that Tibbetts's mother resisted social workers' attempts to reconnect her and Tibbetts; that Tibbetts's brother Willie was burned on a stove; and that Tibbetts ran away from home, slept outside, and was placed in abusive juvenile facilities. The trial court was also unaware that Tibbetts's siblings had the benefit of a protector in their grandmother, who was not a presence in Tibbetts's life, Barnhart added.

What *was* provided to the jury, Barnhart continued, was testimony from a psychiatrist, Dr. Glenn Weaver, who noted that Tibbetts had a horrible childhood that included alcoholic and drug-addicted parents, “punitive” foster parents, and the absence of any nurturing. However, Tibbetts’s trial attorneys never attempted to buttress Weaver’s testimony by, for example, presenting testimony from Tibbetts’s siblings. Nor did the trial attorneys draw a connection between Tibbetts’s dysfunctional childhood and his crimes by, for example, discussing the impact of that childhood on Tibbetts’s neurological development, Barnhart added. While the trial attorneys did collect records from the Ohio Department of Human Services and other agencies documenting Tibbetts’s dysfunctional past, Barnhart argued that they simply “dumped” those records on the jury for it to review without any context.

Barnhart argued, further, that what little relevant information was presented to the jury about Tibbetts’s childhood was dramatically undermined by a prosecuting attorney who told the jury that he reviewed the Human Services records “extensively” and that he saw nothing in the records that referenced a “terrible childhood.” According to Barnhart, those records were further undermined by statements by the prosecution to the effect that the records indicate that “the best thing that ever happened to him [Tibbetts] was being put in a foster home” where he received “care and love.” Contrary to those assertions, Barnhart argued that the Human Services records demonstrate that Tibbetts’s childhood was in fact very bad.

According to Barnhart, the prosecution further minimized Tibbetts’s troubled childhood by suggesting that everyone has problems in their lives and by suggesting that Tibbetts’s siblings essentially turned out fine, which was not true. Barnhart argued that the prosecution’s mischaracterization and minimization of Tibbetts’s dysfunctional childhood, together with the failure of Tibbetts’s trial attorneys to flesh out for the jury the extent of Tibbetts’s mistreatment, left the jury with an inaccurate picture of his childhood. Barnhart urged the Board to look objectively at the evidence of Tibbetts’s traumatic childhood.

### **Tibbetts’s family and others in the community value his life**

Tibbetts’s attorneys played videotaped statements from several of Tibbetts’s pastors and friends, all of whom asked that Tibbetts’s life be spared. Those spiritual advisors and friends described Tibbetts as someone who is more concerned for others than himself. They note that Tibbetts accepts responsibility for his crimes and is remorseful. Today, he is at “peace” in the sense that he owns his past but does not allow it to define him and he is a very spiritual individual who uplifts and inspires others. According to his friends and spiritual advisors, Tibbetts is a kind and loving individual who harbors no anger or ill will toward anyone. They urged that Tibbetts is proof positive that people can transform and that, if Tibbetts’s life is spared, he can serve a purpose from prison.

Hicks noted that although, as a child, Tibbetts had no one in his life who could act as a buffer against the mistreatment he was experiencing, he has that buffer today in his religious faith. According to Hicks, Tibbetts’s faith provides his life with structure and a basis for ongoing, pro-social interactions with people in the community who care about him.

Tibbetts’s attorneys played videotaped statements from Tibbetts’s siblings, who asked that their brother’s life be spared. Rick Tibbetts noted that he knows from firsthand experience

what Tibbetts went through as a child. Rick Tibbetts lamented that no one ever helped his brother and urged that it is time to help him today.

Willie Tibbetts noted that he visits Tibbetts monthly and that those visits trigger difficult memories of his own incarceration. Nevertheless, Willie Tibbetts believes that the visits brighten Tibbetts's day. His brother is a human being who has been through a lot, Willie Tibbetts stressed, and he deserves to be saved from his past even if that means a lifetime in prison. Willie Tibbetts stated that he and his brother have been through "a lot of hell."

Suzanne Freeman, Tibbetts's sister, noted that she loves her brother and needs him in her life. Her family has suffered enough, she urged. Her brother is a better person and has grown a great deal in prison. He deserves a chance and has much to give. Freeman asked that the Board and Governor give her brother that chance.

The disorganized, chaotic crimes that Tibbetts committed are not indicative of evil, Barnhart argued. The Board should focus not on whether Tibbetts's crimes are the worst of the worst, but rather whether Tibbetts is among the worst of the worst offenders given what he endured as a child. Barnhart urged that there is no excuse for Tibbetts's crimes and that he is not asking for forgiveness, he is asking for mercy.

Hicks related that Tibbetts does want to receive clemency and if he conveyed any ambivalence on that point during his interview with the Board, it was due to nervousness. She stated that part of Tibbetts thinks he is underserving of clemency but he welcomes the opportunity to live.

Tibbetts's attorneys concluded their presentation by asking that the Parole Board grant Tibbetts's request that his sentence be commuted to life without the possibility of parole.

### **ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO CLEMENCY:**

Ronald Springman, Hamilton County Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, and Brenda Leikala, Assistant Ohio Attorney General, presented arguments in opposition to clemency.

Springman stated that it is his responsibility to present the State's position on clemency, especially as it relates to victim representatives who oppose clemency in this case. He noted that no one involved in this process, regardless of the side they are on, should allow their own prejudices or biases to creep into the proceedings.

Springman stated that in listening to the presentations in support of clemency, he heard a number of reasons as to why Tibbetts committed the murders. Though substance abuse is one explanation being offered, Tibbetts was perfectly capable of having a coherent conversation with his former girlfriend and asking for her forgiveness on the night of the murders, Springman observed. Despite his alleged impairment that night, Springman continued, police he encountered in Covington did not arrest him for impaired driving.

One question that stands out above all and that cannot be answered, Springman added, is why Tibbetts murdered Crawford in the brutal manner that he did. One should not lose sight of

the extreme cruelty exhibited in the murders, Springman urged. That cruelty must be balanced against the mitigation evidence.

While Tibbetts's difficult upbringing deserves some weight, it does not outweigh the brutality of the murders, particularly the killing of Hicks, Springman argued. Even assuming for the sake of argument that Crawford posed some sort of physical threat to Tibbetts on the night she was killed, there is no explanation for Hicks's gratuitous murder. That is the struggle here, Springman continued—the extreme brutality that Tibbetts exhibited toward Hicks, a person he called a friend, cannot be explained even by the modern psychological science presented by Tibbetts's attorneys.

Leikala described the facts of the case in detail, noting that Crawford was likely killed first, her head “bashed in” so hard that the coroner estimated she was struck with the baseball bat at least four times. One-third of Crawford's brain matter was outside her skull. She was also stabbed 21 times, 19 in the back, Leikala noted. Stab wounds were delivered post-mortem and a knife was left protruding from her neck. The knife wounds nicked her lungs and diaphragm. Crawford sustained defensive wounds, including a broken arm. Leikala observed that Crawford's arm was likely broken while Crawford was attempting to protect herself from a blow from the baseball bat.

Leikala noted that Hicks was stabbed 12 times, all in the area of his heart, and a knife blade was left in his body. His aorta was severed, causing him to bleed into his chest cavity. Hicks was found still attached to his oxygen tank with no defensive wounds on his body.

Leikala described Tibbetts's phone call with his ex-girlfriend, Robin Amburgey, on the night of the murders, noting that Tibbetts asked Amburgey for forgiveness and that, according to Amburgey, Tibbetts sounded “chipper.” Leikala noted that after killing Crawford and Hicks, Tibbetts also spoke with Crawford's sister, who noticed that the house was much quieter than when she called earlier that night. Tibbetts told Crawford's sister that everyone had gone to sleep.

There is surveillance footage of Tibbetts leaving the area in Hick's automobile, Leikala continued, and the car eventually broke down in Kentucky leading to an encounter with Covington police officers. Those officers, who at that time knew nothing about the double murder in Ohio, smelled alcohol on Tibbetts and noticed that he was a little nervous. However, those officers did not think that Tibbetts was too impaired to drive. They let Tibbetts go after he told them that the car belonged to a friend.

Cincinnati police travelled to Kentucky in search of Tibbetts, Leikala noted, finding him at a hospital where he checked in under a false name. After being arrested for being in possession of Hicks's stolen car, Tibbetts asked the police whether he is being charged with manslaughter. After killing Crawford and Hicks, Tibbetts never returned home, Leikala observed. Leikala suggested that Tibbetts's behavior belies the contention that he was dissociated during the murders and immediately thereafter.

One obvious explanation as to why Tibbetts can recall little from the night of the murders is that he is simply lying, Leikala observed. During his interview with the Board, Tibbetts admitted that he has a history of lying, Leikala added.

Leikala argued that there is no explaining away Hicks's brutal murder. The brutality and senselessness of that murder are likely the reasons why the jury handed down a death sentence in connection with Hicks. Hicks was sixty-seven years old, on oxygen and defenseless, Leikala noted. All of Hicks's stab wounds were in the region of his heart. The facts of the case have to be taken into consideration, Leikala stressed.

Springman stated that during his interview with the Board, Tibbetts himself was ambivalent about clemency. He further stated that Tibbetts's attorneys did the best they could to make a case for clemency despite their client's own ambivalence. Tibbetts and his siblings, particularly Willie, were raised under deplorable conditions, and Freeman's attempts to help her siblings are commendable, Springman added. Willie Tibbetts's description of the deplorable conditions under which both he and Tibbetts were raised begs the question as to why, among all of the children, it was only Tibbetts who went on to brutally murder two people, Springman observed.

Tibbetts's terrible childhood deserves some weight, but when weighed against the crimes themselves, particularly Hicks's murder, clemency is not warranted, Springman argued. It is a shame, Springman continued, that Tibbetts could not show Crawford and Hicks just some of the love and kindness he now shows his friends and pastors.

Springman and Leikala concluded the State's presentation by asking that the Board recommend to the Governor that clemency be denied.

### **VICTIMS' REPRESENTATIVES:**

Mark Hicks, Hicks's nephew, noted that after listening to the presentations of Tibbetts's attorneys and the psychologists, he fails to see how a difficult childhood manifests itself in murder. Many people have bad childhoods, but do not become murderers. Mark Hicks related that he too had a very difficult childhood and traumatic experiences as an adult, but he never murdered anyone. He believes that Tibbetts is evil and believes that he took pleasure in killing his uncle. Mark Hicks opined that one cannot kill two people in the manner Tibbetts did without being evil. In his opinion, Tibbetts is a con man and he has conned those friends and pastors who appeared by video in support of clemency. He asked that the Board end his family's agony by making an unfavorable recommendation for clemency.

Toni Strausbaugh, Hicks's niece, stated that it is unfair that she and the other members of her family lost her uncle. She related that her uncle would give you the shirt off his back. Strausbaugh stated that Tibbetts had no business even being in Hicks's home given that it was Crawford, not Tibbetts, who was her uncle's caregiver. Tibbetts exhibited a bad attitude from the moment he became involved with her family, Strausbaugh related. Anyone who would do what he did to Crawford and then go downstairs and kill her uncle is evil. Strausbaugh characterized the arguments presented at the clemency hearing concerning Tibbetts's childhood as "excuses." We all have histories, Strausbaugh observed. Strausbaugh concluded with a plea that Tibbetts's execution go forward so that her family can heal.

Terrie Landwehr-Vance, Hicks's niece, stated that Tibbetts deserves the death penalty. Landwehr-Vance described how the crime has negatively affected her mother, who used to be

a vibrant, spontaneous individual and who, after the murders, became a shut-in. For years, her mother has felt like she could do nothing until justice was done. Tibbetts stole the past 19 years of her mother's life, Landwehr-Vance stated, and he needs to be executed.

Joan Hicks-Landwehr, Hicks's sister, stated that she was very close to her brother. It was a senseless crime that destroyed her life, she related. To this day, she cannot understand how someone could hurt her brother, who was a sick, old man. Hicks-Landwehr stated that after the crime, she was filled with hate and bitterness and could think only of revenge, and she hated feeling that way. For some time, she could neither eat nor sleep and was consumed by flashbacks of discovering her brother's body. Hicks-Landwehr described her brother as a very likeable individual and a loving uncle. He did not deserve to die in the manner he did, and to this day she misses his visits and hugs. Hicks-Landwehr noted that her family loved Crawford, and she likes to think that Crawford is still caring for her brother in a better, safer place. Hicks-Landwehr believes that Tibbetts should pay for her brother's death with his life. He had a fair trial and his death sentence needs to be carried out, she urged.

Crawford's brother, Bobby Crawford, stated that his sister was the love of his life and that he remains devastated by what Tibbetts did to his family. Bobby Crawford stated that he thought the world of Hicks and that Hicks was one of the best men he has ever known. He looks at his picture every day and takes comfort in the fact that Hicks and his sister are together forever.

Stephanie Shoe, Crawford's niece, stated that the clemency hearing feels like revisiting the trial. She noted that she heard some victim blaming during the hearing and that, though Crawford did stab Tibbetts in 1996, she did so in self-defense. Tibbetts routinely beat Crawford, Shoe added, and Crawford was intending to leave Tibbetts. Even if she yelled at Tibbetts on the night he killed her, she did not deserve what he did to her. Before Tibbetts killed her aunt, Shoe never thought about capital punishment. To this day, she does not understand why Tibbetts was spared the death penalty for killing her aunt. Shoe stated that she is aware that Ohio's death penalty and execution process is, and continues to be, heavily litigated and she is resigned to the uncertainty that surrounds Tibbetts's execution. At any rate, Shoe continued, Tibbetts's death will bring neither closure nor justice. Tibbetts will simply be gone. While that will bring some measure of satisfaction, her aunt and Hicks will still be gone too. Tibbetts has had 19 more years to live than her aunt, Shoe observed. She would appreciate a recommendation against clemency.

### **PAROLE BOARD'S POSITION AND CONCLUSION:**

The Ohio Parole Board conducted an exhaustive review of the documentary submissions and carefully considered the information presented at the clemency hearing. A majority of the Board has concluded that Executive clemency is not warranted based on the following:

- While Tibbetts had a very difficult childhood, that upbringing, traumatic as it was, must be weighed against the heinousness of the murders he committed and the fact that Hicks's killing, to which the death penalty specification in Tibbetts's case attaches, was particularly senseless and gratuitous. Balancing all of the considerations presented, clemency would not serve the interest of justice in this case.

- The psychological link that Tibbetts's current attorneys allege exists between his traumatic childhood and the murders is belied by the fact that Tibbetts was largely able to refrain from violence for many years preceding the murders; that others with similarly traumatic backgrounds, including Tibbetts's own siblings, do not generally commit crimes of this nature; and that despite allegedly being in a dissociative state, Tibbetts took actions demonstrating consciousness of his crimes and a desire to avoid apprehension for them. Perhaps most importantly, the psychological science presented offers little insight into why Tibbetts would kill Hicks, a vulnerable, frail sixty-seven year old man whom Tibbetts considered a friend and who could not possibly have posed any threat to Tibbetts, real or imagined.
- Tibbetts's trial attorneys made the jury aware of his troubled youth and a majority of the Board cannot say, with any reasonable degree of confidence, that the outcome of the trial would have been different had his trial attorneys presented that mitigation evidence in the manner suggested by his current attorneys as opposed to how it was presented by his trial attorneys.

One member of the Ohio Parole Board has concluded that Executive clemency in the form of life without the possibility of parole is warranted in this case based on the following:

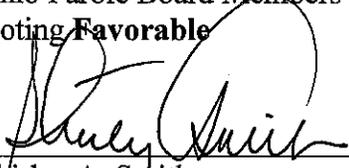
- Throughout his youth, Tibbetts was raised in neglectful, abusive, chaotic, unstable, and toxic environments from which children services afforded him little protection. The modern psychological science presented at the clemency hearing demonstrates that the unwholesome environments in which Tibbetts was raised negatively impacted his brain's neurological development, rendering a negative outcome inevitable not only for Tibbetts but also for his siblings, who into their adulthood struggled with substance abuse, incarcerations, and mental illness, which included the suicide of one of Tibbetts's brothers. From the day he was born and throughout his youth, Tibbetts's circumstances presented a recipe for a disaster.
- On many occasions, Tibbetts demonstrated an understanding of his precarious situation and reached out for help, including assistance with his mental health and substance abuse issues, but to no avail. Tibbetts's requests for assistance were routinely met with inadequate responses from the social service agencies and other professionals who should have served as his safety net.
- Tibbetts takes full responsibility for the crimes and has support from family and friends in the community who would continue to provide structure and stability to his life were his sentence commuted.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

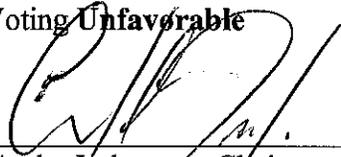
The Ohio Parole Board with twelve (12) members participating, by a vote of eleven (11) to one (1), recommends to the Honorable John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, that Executive clemency be denied in the case of Raymond Tibbetts.

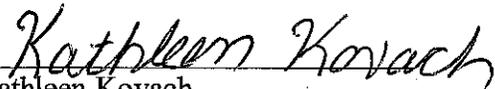
Adult Parole Authority

Ohio Parole Board Members  
Voting **Favorable**

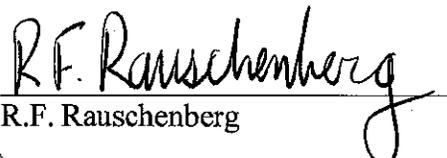
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shirley A. Smith

Ohio Parole Board Members  
Voting **Unfavorable**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andre Imbrogno, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen Kovach

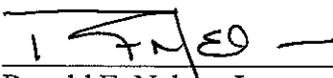
  
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Ellen Venters

  
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R.F. Rauschenberg

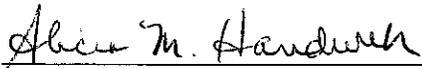
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Trayce Thalheimer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Cholar Jr.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marc Houk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald E. Nelson Jr.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael H. Jackson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alicia Handwerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy Reveal

MARK HICKS

①

THESE MURDERS HAPPENS IN  
1997.

MY PERSONAL MURDER EXPERIENCE  
STARTED 2 YEARS EARLIER IN  
1995.

IN DEC OF 95 WALTER RAGLAND  
MURDERED MICHAEL BANY.

MICHAEL'S LITTLE BROTHER MARK &  
I - WERE IN A FOSTER HOME  
TOGETHER AS KIDS.

MARK AND I ARE VERY CLOSE TO  
THIS DAY - MORE SO NOW THAT  
WE HAVE NOT ONLY FOSTER HOMES  
IN COMMENT - BUT MURDER TOO!

AFTER MICHAEL'S FUNERAL

MARK & I WERE IN A FRIENDS  
BASEMENT HAVING A FEW DRINKS  
WHILE I LISTENED TO HIM  
REMINISE ABOUT MICHAEL.

MARK HICKS

②

IN MID-SENTENCE - HE WOULD  
BREAK DOWN AND CRY LIKE A  
BABY!

I SAW A KIND OF PAIN  
THAT I HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE

I COULDN'T <sup>EVEN</sup> COME UP WITH  
A ~~WABLE~~ <sup>WABLE</sup> TO EXPLAIN WHAT  
I WAS SEEING!

IT TOOK ME ABOUT A DOZEN  
OF THESE MELT DOWNS TO REALIZE  
WHAT I WAS SEEING.

IT WAS = COMPLETE - UNBRIDLED -  
UNMEDIATED AGONY!!

A KIND OF AGONY I'D NEVER  
SEEN BEFORE!

IT BROKE MY HEART TO SEE  
MY FRIEND LIKE THAT!

A FULL GROWN MAN - MID-SENTENCE  
JUST BREAK DOWN AND CRY  
LIKE A BABY!

MK

(3)

SO IMAGINE MY SHOCK IN MARCH OF 97 WHEN MY LITTLE BROTHER FROM MY DADS 2ND MARRIAGE CALLED FROM PHILADELPHIA

AND WITH THAT SAME AGONIZING TONE IN HIS VOICE SAID

"THEY'RE ALL DEAD!!"

HE SAID MOM - KIMMY AND BILL (BILL WAS MY SISTER'S FIANCE')  
THEY'RE ALL DEAD!

MY EX-BROTHER-IN-LAW KEITH SCAVO BROUGHT HIS AND MY SISTER'S DAUGHTER BACK FROM A WEEKEND VISIT ONE SUNDAY

HANDED THE 3YR OLD BABY TO MY SISTER - PULL OUT 40 CAL KLOCK

PUT ONE IN BILL'S FOREHEAD

CHASED MY SISTER INTO THE HOUSE

SHOT HER 7 TIMES - ONE WENT

MAH

Nov. 13

Q

THOUGH THE BABY - AFTER  
MY SISTER WATCHED <sup>HIM</sup> SHOOT  
HER MOTHER 6 TIMES

\* EXPLAIN WHAT KIMMY WENT TO ME

SO NOW I KNOW WHAT  
MY FRIEND MARK BANY WAS FEELING

I KNOW NOW - FIRST HAND -  
WHAT COMPLETE - UNBRAIDED -  
UNMIDWINTER AGONY FEELS LIKE

OUR WHOLE FAMILY KNOW IT  
NOW - AND RAY TIBBETS HASN'T  
KILLED ANYONE YET!

SO NOW IN NOV OF 97 - MY  
PHONE RINGS AGAIN - IT'S MY  
AUNT JOAN

HER 1ST WORDS WERE - "ARE YOU SITTING  
DOWN"

THERE IT WAS AGAIN

~~INT~~

5

THAT SOUND THAT WHEN I FIRST  
HEARD IT - I COULDN'T EVEN  
LABEL IT!

COMPLETE - UNBRIDLED - UNMIDIGATED  
AGONY!

AFTER SHE TOLD MY UNCLE FREDDIE  
HAD BEEN MURDERED - I DON'T  
THINK I COULD HAVE HURT MORE  
IF TIBBETTS WOULD HAVE HIT  
ME IN THE GUT WITH THE  
BALL BAT HE USED ON SUE!

MH

6

MY STORY HAS A ~~PURPOSE~~  
PURPOSE!

① TO TRY TO EXPLAIN THE  
EXTENT OF EMOTION MY  
FAMILY HAS EXPERIENCED  
BECAUSE OF MURDER.

IT IS TRULY UNBELIEVABLE!

② TO SHOW THAT WHAT  
I HAVE TO SAY ABOUT  
RAY TIBBETTS IS NOT  
BASED SOLELY ON EMOTION  
BUT ON MY EXPERIENCE  
WITH MURDER AND MURDERS!

\* MENTION NAMES  
OF LAWYERS & WHAT  
THEY SAID GOOD  
ABOUT ~~THEY SAID~~

MAKE NOTES HERE FOR WHAT  
THEY SAY

INT

(7)

I MENTIONED BEFORE I WAS IN A FOSTER HOME.

IN FACT THERE WERE MANY FOSTER HOMES AS WELL AS INSTITUTIONS

2020

CINTI CHILDREN'S HOME

WOODMAN FARM

& THE BOB HOPE HOUSE

SO RAY TIBBETTS' CHILDHOOD IS SOMETHING I'M VERY FAMILIAR WITH AS WELL

YA SEE I CROSSED PATHS WITH A LOT OF RAY TIBBETTS'

GUYS THAT THINK THEY'RE TOUGH GUYS BUT IN REALITY THEY'RE JUST BULLIES!!!

AFTER MY PARENTS DIVORCED MY SUNDAY VISITS @ MY DAD WOULD INCLUDE MY UNCLE FREDDIE BECAUSE MY DAD MOVED BACK DOWNTOWN AND THAT'S WHERE UNCLE FREDDIE LIVED ~~AND~~

mtf

8

UNCLE FREDDIE CAME INTO THE  
POOL HALL MY DAD WAS LIVING  
IN AND <sup>HEARD ME</sup> ~~IN~~ TELLING MY DAD  
ABOUT HOW THE BULLETS  
WERE ALWAYS CHASING ME  
HOME

UNCLE FREDDIE SAID SOMETHING  
TO MY DAD ON HIS HANDS.

MY DAD LAUGHED A LITTLE SO DID  
UNCLE FREDDIE

HE SAID HE WANTS TO KNOW  
IF YOU CAN OUT RUN THEM  
\*FINISH THE STORY\*

THAT CONVERSATION STAYED @  
ME THROUGHOUT MY TIME IN  
FOSTER HOMES AND INSTITUTIONS  
AND @ WHEN I RAN INTO THE  
RAYMOND TIBBETTS' OF @ THE WORLD  
IT KNEW WHAT TO DO.  
IN THAT ENVIRONMENTS THERE  
ARE MANY RAY TIBBETTS'!

MA

9

RAY TIBBETTS ADDED ANOTHER  
INGREDIENT TO THE MIX = PURE EVIL

RAYMOND TIBBETT'S IS NOT ONLY  
~~ONE~~ A BULLY = HE WANTS PEOPLE TO  
KNOW ~~THAT~~ HE'S A KILLER!! ~~PHOTO!!?~~

~~EVER IF HE KILLED ONE OF~~  
~~OF PASSION~~

DURING THE SENTENCING PHASE  
OFF THE TRIAL - A PSYCHIATRIST  
AT THE JUSTICE CENTER TESTIFIED  
HE WAS AFRAID OF ~~THE~~ TIBBETTS!  
HIS JOB IS TO INTERACT WITH  
BAD PEOPLE - IT'S HIS PROFESSION!  
- AND THIS MAN WAS AFRAID -  
IN ORDER TO DO THAT YOU  
HAVE TO WORK AT IT AND  
LIKE IT!

WORST

A BAD CHILDHOOD DOESN'T CAUSE  
PEOPLE TO KILL - MANY KIDS HAVE  
BAD CHILDHOOD AND THEY DON'T  
KILL PEOPLE!

MA

10

THEY JOIN THE MILITARY - WORK  
THEIR WAY THROUGH SCHOOL - OR  
JUST GET JOBS AND WORK  
THEIR WAY UP!

KILLING THE <sup>WAY</sup> TIBBETTS KILLED  
IS JUST PURE EVIL!!

EVEN IF YOU GIVE TIBBETTS  
THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT THAT  
THE KILLING OF SUE CRAWFORD WAS  
OUT OF "PASSION" = ~~THE~~ <sup>THE</sup>  
BLOWS TO THE HEAD - OF WHICH  
ANY OF ~~THE~~ <sup>4</sup> WERE ~~ENOUGH~~ <sup>VICIOUS</sup> ENOUGH TO KILL  
HER SHOULD <sup>HAVE</sup> FULFILLED HIS <sup>PASSIONS</sup> NEEDS.

IF HE WOULD HAVE STOPPED THERE  
AND THROWN THE BLANKET ON HER  
MAYBE WE COULD BUY - IT WAS  
CRIME OF PASSION!

~~AND~~ <sup>BUT</sup> THIS IS WHERE RAYMOND  
TIBBETTS STARTS DOING WHAT  
HIS IS REALLY GOOD AT  
CONING PEOPLE!!

MA

(11)

RAYMOND TIBBETTS KNOWS  
THAT THE  
MANSLAUGHTER PENALTIES  
CAN BE AS LITTLE AS 5 YEARS!  
HE SPENT TOO MUCH TIME IN  
THE LEGAL SYSTEM NOT TO KNOW.

REMEMBER NOW = ~~HE~~ AFTER  
USING A BASEBALL BAT ON  
SUE'S HEAD = HE IS LOOKING  
AT A SCENE SO HORRIFIC HIS  
TRIAL ATTORNEY MR SANKS AT A  
SIDEBAR OBJECTED TO PHOTOS #76  
Pg 788

BECAUSE THE BRAINS ARE  
LAYING NEXT HER HE SAID "THAT'S  
PRETTY HORRENDOUS"  
HE SAID #77 IS THE REALLY VIOLENT ONE =  
THAT WOULD "OVERWHELM THE JURY"  
HE SAID #79 SPEAKS FOR ITSELF  
ANYBODY THAT LOOKS AT THAT IS GOING  
TO WANT VENGEANCE RIGHT THEN & THERE!

THE JUDGE DECIDED NOT TO ALLOW  
SOME OF THE PHOTOS BECAUSE OF  
"EXTREME GRUESOMENESS"

~~MT~~

(12)

THIS WHAT RAYMOND TIBBETTS  
IS SEEING LIVE AND IN PERSON!  
REAL TIME!

~~HE~~ HE KNOWS HIS <sup>SITUATION</sup> ~~DEER~~ IS WEAK  
AND WANTS TO MAKE SURE/CON  
FOR MANSLAUGHTER IS A COMPLETE  
"NO DOUBTER"!

HE KNOWS HE HAS TO MAKE  
KILLING THE ~~WITNESS~~ <sup>my uncle</sup> WITNESS <sup>LOOK</sup> ~~FEEL~~<sub>1/2</sub>  
LIKE MANSLAUGHTER TOO.

HE HAS TO KNOW WHAT IT  
TAKES TO PENETRATE A BODY  
WITH A KNIFE!

SO HE FINDS THE BUTCHER  
BLOCK FULL OF KNIVES ~~HE~~ TAKES  
A COUPLE OF THE KNIVES AND GOES  
TO WORK ON SUE'S BODY!! —

— I SAY THIS ACT SERVED A PURPOSE  
— TO FURTHER HIS CON GAME FOR  
MANSLAUGHTER & TO FIND OUT WHAT  
IS GOING TO TAKE TO KILL UNCLE  
FREDDIE!!

MS

(13)

HE KNOWS THAT KILLING  
EVEN 67 YEAR OLD 170 POUND  
EX-PRIZE FIGHTER WON'T BE AS  
EASY UNLESS HE GETS IT RIGHT  
THE FIRST COUPLE TIMES.

SO WHEN HE GOES TO MY  
UNCLE'S CHAIR HE TAKES THE  
BUTCHER BLOCK WITH HIM, JUST  
IN CASE HE HAS TO RELOAD!

AND HE DOES!! - AT LEAST  
4 TIMES - BECAUSE 4 OF THE  
KNIVES WERE STILL IN HIS BODY  
WITH THE HANDLES BROKEN OFF!  
ONE OF THE KNIVES ~~WAS~~ WENT  
THROUGH HIS STERNUM = THAT,  
TAKES PRACTICE = HE HAD IT!  
SUE HAD A STAB WOUND THROUGH  
HER STERNUM TOO!

WE KNOW HE WAS RUNNING A  
CON FOR MANSLAUGHTER BECAUSE  
WHEN OFFICERS RANDOLPH & SEAL  
WENT TO ST ELIZABETH HOSPITAL  
TO INTERVIEW TIBBETTS = TIBBETTS  
END THE INTERVIEW AFTER 2  
QUESTIONS.

MAH

(14)

WHEN THE OFFICERS TOLD HIM THEY WERE LEAVING AND NEITHER ONE OF THEM HAD SAID ANYTHING ABOUT A HOMICIDE - TIBBETTS ASKED 'WHATS THE DAMAGE - MANSLAUGHTER?'

YOU CAN'T KILL LIKE TIBBETTS DID AND NOT LIKE ~~WHAT~~ WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

MORE INDICATION HE'S A GOOD CON ARTIST

AFTER KILLING 2 PEOPLE IN THE MOST GRUESOME WAY - HE SPOKE TO SUE'S SISTER, ROBIN AMURGEY. - HE WAS ABLE TO BE COOL - CALM & COLLECTED! HE CONVINCED SUE'S SISTER THAT SHE WAS ASLEEP & ROBIN SAID HE SOUNDED "CHIPPER" AT 11:30 - WHICH IS 15 MINS BEFORE THE VIDEO FROM THE BUSINESS ~~ACROSS~~ <sup>STREET</sup> THE "SAY UNCLE FREDDIE'S" CAR TO LEAVE THE HOUSE.

THAT'S NOT EVEN THE BEST EXAMPLE ~~OF~~ OF HIS ABILITIES TO CON PEOPLE

MA

(16)

I say Raymond Tibbets liked  
killing ~~him~~ ~~by~~ - By the time  
he got around to killing Uncle  
Freddie.

When you're stabbing  
~~him~~ <sup>so</sup> someone violently - someone  
Tibbets said he liked -  
so violently you're shearing  
off the rivets on the knife  
handles - you are ~~doing~~ <sup>liking</sup> what  
you're doing!

Plus things Tibbets said  
himself lead me to believe  
he not only like it but  
wanted his name right up  
there with the Charlie Mansons  
of the world!

Jaffrey  
Dahmas

Two things he said one which  
didn't make the trial transcript  
because he said it after the  
judge <sup>had</sup> closed the proceedings.  
~~The other is~~ but I was  
there and heard it myself.

~~MAH~~ (17)

HE TOLD <sup>THE</sup> JUDGE "YOU RAN A DOG <sup>NOTHING BUT</sup> AND PONY SHOW HERE"

ON PAGE 1608 TIBBETTS REFERRED TO THE PROSECUTORS AS "SIDE SHOW BOBS"

BOTH OF THOSE SAME CHARACTERIZATIONS WERE USED BY CHARLIE MANSON IN AN INTERVIEW HE WAS ALLOWED TO GIVE AFTER HE HAD BEEN <sup>IN SPILL</sup> 25 OR 30 YEARS.

HE SAID HIS TRIAL WAS A DOG & PONY SHOW, & VICENT BUGLIOSI AND HIS TEAM WERE A BUNCH OF SIDESHOW BOBS

I HOPE AT LEAST ONE ~~OF~~ OF THE BOARD REMEMBERS THAT INTERVIEW.

I WANTED TO REFERENCE THE VIDEO ~~VIDEO~~ BUT AFTER I DOWNLOAD THE TRIAL TRANSCRIPT TO MY PHONE - OVER 1000 PGS - I'M LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A PHONE CALL ON IT.

NO WAY WAS IT LETTING ME SEARCH VIDEO!

WHA

18

BUT THE TRANSCRIPT GAVE ME  
ONE <sup>more</sup> PIECE THAT MAKES ME BELIEVE  
TIBBETTS LIKED WHAT HE DID.

THAT HE HAD EARNED HIS  
SPOT OF RECOGNITION AMONG  
THE CHARLIE MANSON'S & JEFFREY  
DIAMMERS.

ON Pg 929 OF THE TRANSCRIPT

SALLY SMITH <sup>WAS AT</sup> TESTIFIED RAYMOND  
TIBBETTS GAVE HER HIS NAME  
AS RAYMOND HARVEY!!

HARVEY AS IN "DONALD HARVEY"

~~THE MOST NOTORIOUS~~  
THE MOST NOTORIOUS KILLER  
TO COME OUT OF BUTTER COUNTY  
WHERE TIBBETTS SPENT SOME TIME!

THESE ARE NOT REFERENCES OF  
COINCIDENCES

HE WANTS TO BE THE  
BIGGEST ~~BABY~~  
BULLY THERE EVER WAS!!!

MH

(19)

HE EARN THAT SPOT BY KILLING  
LIKE THE MANSON FAMILY

LYING CONING & CONIVING LIKE  
JEFFREY DAHMER

AND ELEVATING HIMSELF TO A  
KILLERS PLATO WITH DONALD HARVEY

TIBBETTS EARN HIS "LONG  
WALK" - GIVE IT TO HIM

ANYONE WITH THAT MUCH IN  
COMMON WITH THOSE 3 DESERVES  
TO TAKE THAT LONG WALK TO  
THE DEATH CHAMBER.

THE LAW ALLOWS FOR IT -  
NOW ITS TIME FOR THE  
LAW TO REMOVE SOME OF MY  
FAMILY'S AGONY

A MAN THAT KILLS LIKE MANSON  
CONS LIKE DAHMER AND THINKS  
HE'S HARVEY - HAS NO REDEMING  
VALUE. THIS MAN IS PURE EVIL!

MARK HICKS

20

My Family HAS BEEN WAITING  
20 YEARS FOR TIBBETS TO PAY  
FOR THESE HORRIBLE CRIMES.

IN THOSE 20 YEARS I CAN'T  
POSSIBLY COUNT HOW MANY TIMES  
THAT UNBRIDLED AGONY HAS ~~UNDE~~  
VISITED MY FAMILY!

SEEMS LIKE EVERY TIME LATELY  
I SEE MY AUNT JOAN - SHE'S  
CRYING - ABOUT UNCLE FREDDIE!

SENDING A UNANIMOUS BOARD  
RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR  
TO CARRY OUT THE SENTENCE IS  
GOING TO GO A LONG WAY

TO HELPING MY FAMILIES AGONY  
DISAPPEAR

PLEASE - PLEASE DO THAT FOR  
US!

THANK YOU

## Death Penalty...Death Row...

Neither word really mattered to me before, until, my beloved Aunt Suebug was murdered. November 5, 1997 my Aunt, along with family friend Fred Hicks who she took care of, was murdered by her husband Raymond Tibbetts. One year later Ray was sentenced to "life in prison without parole" for my Aunts murder and the "death penalty" for Fred's murder. Although I never will understand why it all was not considered aggravated. Ray began his sentence on death row in late 1998.

Fast forward to 2017 and he is still here. I don't feel like I will get closure once he is gone. Nor do I feel like justice will be served once he is gone. He will just be gone, the man that murdered my treasured Aunt. He robbed me and my family, and his own for that matter. Nothing will change that. With all the new laws and regulations regarding the lethal injection cocktail it is hard to say when he will be gone. He has already had 19 more years than Suebug or Fred had. He has also had many more appeals than they had. She had one, which was her broken arm that tried to shield the bat from her skull.

Someday, he will be gone and I will smile about it. But, I will also have the knowledge that Suebug nor Fred will return once he is gone.

*Stephan Crawford Shae*

1-17-2017

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT GOD SAID, "AN EYE FOR AN EYE, HAND FOR AN HAND,  
AND A FOOT FOR A FOOT."

I BELIEVE, RAYMOND TIBBETTS SHOULD PAY WITH HIS LIFE FOR THESE CRIMES!

JOAN HICKS-LANDWEHR  
SISTER OF FRED HICKS

*I'd like to mention my niece, Freddie's daughter.*

*She was his only child she just passed away, with heart attack. "60 yrs"  
she was 19 years and now she's gone, hopefully she still knows  
that, the law is still following thru —*

Passed 11/06/96  
07

Aug 1997

WE WERE TO GO TO LUNCH, AND I FOUND HIM DEAD.  
MY BROTHER AND I WERE VERY CLOSE, HAVE BEEN AS LONG AS I CAN  
REMEMBER.

IT WAS A SENSELESS CRIME!

AT FIRST IT DESTROYED MY LIFE, I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW ANYONE  
COULD HURT THIS SICK OLD MAN. I STILL CAN'T! ALL I COULD THINK OF IS  
REVENGE. I HATED THE WAY THIS CRIME MADE ME FEEL. MY CHILDREN AND  
MY NIECE DEBBIE, FREDDIE'S DAUGHTER, ALL HAVE SUCH HATE IN THEM NOW.  
THE BITTERNESS IS UNBELIEVABLE.

THANK GOD, I HAD BEEN GOING TO CHURCH, AND COUNSELING WITH **VICTIMS  
OF CRIME**. IT HAS BEEN A LIFE SAVER FOR ME. I COULDN'T EAT, SLEEP, AND  
HAVE CONTINUED FLASHBACKS OF SEEING FREDDIE IN HIS CHAIR AND THE  
BLOOD. HE DIDN'T DESERVE THAT.

FREDDIE WAS A GOOD AND KIND PERSON, YOU'LL NEVER MEET ANYONE WHO  
WOULDN'T HAVE NICE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT HIM.

I CAN REMEMBER WHEN I WAS 4 YEARS OLD AND FREDDIE WAS 9 YEARS OLD HE  
WOULD TAKE ME TO THE ZOO AND CONEY ISLAND, EVEN IF HE DID SNEAK US IN.  
WE NEVER GOT IN TROUBLE. FREDDIE WAS A WANT-A-BE BOXER, HE DID FIGHT  
IN THE "GOLDEN GLOVES." HE LIKE TO SING AND WAS VERY GOOD AT IT, EVEN  
THOUGH HE WAS HEARING IMPAIRED. HE WAS A GREAT JIGGER-BUG DANCER  
AND I LOVED DANCING WITH HIM EVERY CHANCE I GOT, WHICH WASN'T OFTEN.

AFTER ALL HE WAS FIVE YEARS OLDER AND WOULDN'T LET ME GO IN THE BARS.  
HE ALWAYS WANTED TO PROTECT ME FROM THAT.

FREDDIE WAS A FUN LOVING UNCLE TO MY CHILDREN, THIS ORDEAL HAS ALL OF  
THEM DEVASTATED.

I TOOK A BIRTHDAY CAKE TO HIS FAVORITE PLACE "PHOLARS CAFE", HIS PLACE  
OF OVER 40 YRS. I WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE HIS CAKE AS THEY HAVE  
DONE IN YEARS PAST.

I WILL MISS OUR VISITS, CALLS, AND MOST OF ALL HIS "HUGS".

FREDDIE WILL BE MISSED BY HIS THREE SISTERS AND BROTHER, DAUGHTER  
DEBBIE, MANY NIECE'S, NEPHEW'S AND GRANDCHILDREN.

I LIKE THINK "SUE BUG" IS STILL CARING FOR HIM IN A BETTER AND SAFER PLACE  
FOR THEM.

October 8, 2001

*Ms. Margarette T. Ghee, Chair  
Ohio Parole Board  
Ohio Department of Correction  
1050 Freeway Dr. North  
Columbus, Ohio 43229*

*Re: Raymond Tibbets A363-178  
Mansfield Correctional Institution*

*Dear Ms. Ghee:*

*This is still very hard for me. I've lost my last brother in 1999. One of the last things he said to me is "Why?" Freddie didn't deserve "that kind of an end."*

*Yes, I am a victim of this brutal crime. I found my brother stabbed to death. But there are many more victims.*

*This man, "Tibbets" did this to all of us. He killed something in each one of us. Tibbets is now 44 years old. He has spent more than half of his life behind bars. Tibbets has no regard for anyone, not even himself. He has committed two mortal sins. Tibbets has had a fair trial and found guilty of both murders. His sentence is death!!*

*We need to carry out that sentence. So we, who loved "Freddie and Sue Bug" can find some closure and peace, and who knows, Tibbets may, too.*

*Enclosed are photos of the crime scene and autopsy reports. I would like you to utilize this information also.*

*Thank you.*

*Sincerely,*

*Joan Hicks-Landwehr*

