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Good afternoon Senator Patrick Galvin and Senator Frederick Akshar 3rd and Senator Elaine Phillips

I appreciate to have this opportunity to present our family's first hand long term experience with the NYS Parole Board and hopefully add insight into how the NYS Parole Board represents victims.

My name is Barbara Connelly, I am the mother of Kathleen, James, Patricia, Barbara and Terence , and widow of James P Connelly. To make this easier on all of us I chose to submit a timeline before and after January 1979 with the parole board as a view of the Connelly family's interaction with the NYS Board of Parole and its Appointed Commissioners .

1972- May

We moved to Long Island,

1974- April

Bought our house in Shirley

1976 - January 5th

That house burned down. Overload of electric with the Christmas tree. We lost everything: but we had all of our family safe. A teenage boy named Jimmy Murray was hit by a car and died the same night our house burned down. He had called to see if Kathleen could go out for pizza with him and his friends. It was the night before school would restart after Christmas vacation. We didn't let her go. The next day the school asked if there was anything they could do for us. They knew we lost everything, Clothing, Christmas gifts, pictures and every memento the kids made. We asked they please help the family of Jimmy Murray. We had insurance.

1974-1978

After rebuilding home and life, we lived like most other family's at the time. Dad worked, mom stayed home. Taking care of house, home and family. Even watering the the new lawn on our new home. every 30 minutes or so moving a sprinkler, every week day in the season.

My husband was General Manager of a small but well placed Electronics firm. In May 1978 he received a sizable raise which included a car and soon to include paid family vacations. Oldest child in Catholic high School. Our remaining four in public school. Life was beginning to look pretty prosperous for a family of seven. We had a pet dog and mom taught catechism every week, held 3 Christmas pageants which my class participated in and the families attended, in our home.

1978 Christmastime

I told my children to make lists and we would pick five things from each. They were to be given allowance to buy each of their siblings a separate gift. We did that every year, it was an annual outing. They decided to buy mom a Identification bracelet with their money. When they found one they liked they were told it would cost additional money to have it engraved. The most they could afford after paying for it was for ten letters, all of them had chipped in five dollars already. If they had it done, they wouldn't have enough to buy a gift for each other. Kathleen and Jimmy chose the engraving, they wouldn't buy each other a gift. The front of the bracelet was easy MOM, they all struggled for the inscription for the back I was told for two hours between the oldest of them they only could afford 7 letters. They wanted to put all 5 of their names. I can't honestly say which of them came up with it "Love, Us".

I had reread their lists on the 23rd of December, and for some unknown reason bought each of them one more thing and tagged it from 'Santa'. Kathy her long peacock feather earrings she wanted and Jimmy the Suede Head Hat, both gifts I was opposed to. But did it anyway.

I will never forget the picture of that Christmas Eve when my husband and I watched them open their gifts. Kathy and Jimmy in particular, when both looked at each other with such surprised faces, "you said you wouldn't, we weren't going to".

She was first to answer, "I didn't". Everyone looked at me, you see they had made a pact, their last. I was 'Santa', they knew, it was 'MOM' ... their mom who would never buy the hat and earrings. So you buy for me and I will buy for you , which got changed due to the engraving on the bracelet. Dad and mom didn't know about the pact. But somewhere somehow, mom bought them each a Santa gift.

The happiest Christmas ever, they have all said. Kathy said they all talked about how lucky they were, because they had friends who weren't going to have as much as they. Kathy used her gift allowance money for the younger kids gifts and put Jimmy's name on them. Jimmy had a friend Al who was going to have a baby and he had lost his job before Christmas. Jimmy used his money for them. I learned that afterwards.

1979 January

Jimmy was murdered at age 15, on January 23rd 1979 by 19 year old John Duffy he was chased and stabbed more than 22 times in his head, heart, lungs and back according to Nassau County ME report. Lastly his throat was cut three times. Left him bleeding alone in the cold night. He ran, lied, received help from family and known mob affiliates in Queens and disappeared for about 18 months.

My 35 year old husband had a heart attack at the morgue, identifying our son. He never worked again. We lost our home, our car, and our financial stability, some of us our health. Not enough to pay for a funeral.

1980 July

John Duffy returned and turned himself in with an attorney he was let out on bail.

1980 November

Started a support group (F.A.I.T.H.) for parents whose children had died in all kinds of ways accidents, cancer, other illnesses including suicide, in Mastic and Shirley. We met in St. Judes Church. I couldn't teach religion classes any longer. Through that group I was able to give information on how many children were ill, or died of cancer to local politicians who were investigating the water quality in our area. I had the only compiled list as the parents were members of the support group at the time.

1981 January

While out on bail Duffy attacked someone with a weapon she was hospitalized. He used a cousins name and was placed on bail I guess. He slipped through the cracks they said.

1981 April

Co Founded – first support group for homicide survivors with another family. Long Island New York Parents of Murdered Children it was the 3rd national chapter. name change in 1995 to Long Island New York Parents and Other Survivors of Murdered Victims Outreach. I had read about a family story in People magazine March 1981, wrote them a letter and the rest is history.

1981 October-November

Duffy was tried and convicted of murder, finally, in November of 1981. Herb Lyons, well known mob attorney. The second victim dropped her charges. He was imprisoned awaiting to be sentenced. He refused to show up for sentencing twice.

1982 January

Almost 3 years to the date he killed our Jimmy, he was sentenced finally to 20 to life! Even though the ADA asked for 25 to life. Judge, felt bad sentencing a young man to life in prison, he never mentioned our Jimmy. We were not allowed to speak at sentencing. Our shattered hearts were never to be repaired.

1987 February

I became a Widow with a 16 year old child to raise.

2001 September 11 postponed till **OCTOBER 11, 2011**

First parole hearing.. there were only 5 of us now as my husband died in 1987. We promised him we would fight his release, we did, all the way up to July 2018.

2016, July

A notice of decision to release * him and then an immediate rescission hearing was imposed. It was based on information discovered, which had not been given to the Parole Board in 2001 and 2007. Video tapes which were parts of our impact hearings we had submitted were overlooked.

2018 July 5

OVA telephone call NYS Court overturns NYS Parole Board 2016 Rescission Hearing Decision

2018 July, 7,8,9, 10, 11, 14,,15

When I argued with the Attorney Generals Council

2018 July 18

Letter OVA he will be released

2018 July 24th

We found out on line he was released in July either 18 thru 24th. (one of 6 violent felons released in the last 5 months).

Gentlemen I know this is cutting into the ten minutes allotted each of us. I have gone over it for days. It is almost impossible to stay focused at times. I needed to explain why I was involved with the Parole Board. I wanted you to see through a large window of our life that brought us there.

Please ask me about the 5 things I have listed here:

Ask what I would change about the NYS Parole Board. We know it better than most families, we were in front of it, 8 times from 2011 – 2015. Each time he would be denied, he filed Article 78's almost every time which were denied. he had his 2015 hearing, late, as he was still waiting for another article 78. We had 5 more hearings, every 6 months, as he was able to postpone and Parole Commissioner Shop. I attended every hearing except January 5th 2018 when the Governor closed LI roads due to the storm. My daughter Kathleen drove in the storm appeared and I did a phone interview with the same Parole Commissioner she had earlier that day. They were not prepared they mixed up names and some incidents mixed. In 16 years we had 13 parole impact hearings! He was released. We blame a PB Commissioner and the process they should have followed. I have requested Foil information in July I have not received it yet.

Please ask me about the following :

- 1) *The weight of inmate programs: ie Compas review/Tickets in file versus weight of confidential victim impact statements when considering violent offenders inmates release.*
- 2) Parole Board Commissioners Trysting/twisting verbal input specifically to minimize crime during an inmates hearing to insure a release.
- 3) The necessity to amend criminal procedure law/statute 380.50 notification to victim PRIOR to inmate release from prison. Jenna's Law
- 4) Parole Board Commissioner Check List to make sure procedure is followed. crucial to our well being when a murderer is to be heard, with each checked piece of reviewed information checked and provided to Victim survivors.
- 5) Similar to but not including HANDBOOK FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF INMATES, which I am trying to put together. Must be also provided to families.

Sympathy towards a convicted violent offenders , is re-traumatizing the victim.

