

SUBSEQUENT PAROLE CONSIDERATION HEARING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS

In the matter of the Life) CDC Number: W-13378
Term Parole Consideration)
Hearing of:)
)
LESLIE VAN HOUTEN)
_____)

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN

CORONA, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 14, 2016

8:46 A.M.

PANEL PRESENT:

ALI ZARRINNAM, Presiding Commissioner
NGA LAM, Deputy Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT:

LESLIE VAN HOUTEN, Inmate
RICH PFEIFFER, Attorney for Inmate
DONNA LEBOWITZ, Deputy District Attorney
DEBORAH TATE, Victim's Next-of-Kin Representative
LOUIS SMALDINO, Victim's Next-of-Kin
TONY LAMONTAGNE, Victim's Next-of-Kin
LETICIA TREJO, Victims Advocate
SHANNON HOGG, Assoc. Chief Deputy Commissioner, Observer
ROSIE THOMAS, Public Information Officer
AMY TAXIN, Associated Press
ADRIANA WEINGOLD, CBS News
NGUYEN HUINS, Associated Press Photographer
FERNANDO ORTEGA, Correctional Officer
CORRECTIONAL OFFICER(S), Unidentified

CORRECTIONS TO THE DECISION HAVE BEEN MADE

_____ No See Review of Hearing
_____ Yes Transcript Memorandum

Cheryl Sorensen, Transcriber, NCCR

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** We're on record.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

4 Good morning. The time is approximately 8:46 in the
5 a.m. The date is the 14th of April, 2016. We are in
6 CIW, California Institute for Women, for the Parole
7 Consideration Hearing for a Ms. Leslie Van Houten, CDC
8 number W-13378. Ms. Van Houten was received out of the
9 County of Los Angeles with a life term start date of
10 August 17th, 1978 subsequent to a conviction for Penal
11 Code Section 187 in the First Degree, two counts, as
12 well as a conspiracy 187. Ultimately she received a
13 sentence of life with a minimum eligible parole date of
14 August 17th, 1978. This signifies a subsequent hearing
15 number 19. At her last hearing in 2013, she was denied
16 parole for a period of five years. Subsequent to that
17 time, Ms. Van Houten through counsel submitted a
18 Petition to Advance, and that advancement was granted
19 advancing the hearing to today's date. We are recording
20 these hearings. For purpose of voice identification,
21 we're going to go around the room introducing ourselves
22 stating our first name, last name, spelling our last
23 name and indicating our function in this hearing room.
24 Ms. Van Houten, when it's your turn, also give us your
25 CDC number. When we get to the observers, please -- the

1 victims' next-of-kin, family members, to give their
2 relationship to the victim, if they're a representative,
3 and when we get to the media as well, which affiliated
4 media source are they from. I'm going to start with
5 myself and move to my left around the immediate table,
6 and then we'll get to the gallery and the people
7 observing this hearing. Good morning. My name is Ali
8 Zarrinnam, Z-A-R-R-I-N-N-A-M. I am a Commissioner with
9 the Board of Parole Hearings.

10 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Nga Lam, last name L-A-
11 M, Deputy Commissioner.

12 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Donna
13 Lebowitz, L-E-B, as in boy, O-W-I-T-Z, Deputy District
14 Attorney for the County of Los Angeles.

15 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Rich Pfeiffer, P-F-E-I-F-F-E-
16 R, Ms. Van Houten's attorney.

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Leslie Van Houten. My last
18 name is capital V-A-N capital H-O-U-T-E-N, W-13378.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

20 **MS. HOGG:** Shannon Hogg, H-O-G-G, Associate Chief
21 Deputy Commissioner, observing the hearing.

22 **MS. TATE:** Deborah Tate representing John
23 Smaldino family.

24 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Commissioner, I think
25 the witnesses might have to come up to the mic.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.
2 Ms. Tate, if you can come up to the microphone. It's
3 not catching in the transcript. Thank you.

4 **MS. TATE:** Deborah Tate representing John
5 DeSantis family.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
7 Ms. Tate, your last name is spelled T-A-T-E?

8 **MS. TATE:** That is correct.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you,
10 Ms. Tate.

11 **MR. SMALDINO:** Louis Smaldino, S-M-A-L-D-I-N-O,
12 oldest nephew of Leno and Rosemary.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

14 **MR. SMALDINO:** Representing the LaBianca family.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

16 **MS. TREJO:** Leticia Trejo, T-R-E-J-O, Victims
17 Advocate.

18 **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER ORTEGA:** Correctional
19 Officer Fernando Ortega, O-R-T-E-G-A.

20 **LIEUTENANT THOMAS:** Lieutenant Rosie Thomas, T-H-
21 O-M-A-S, Administrative Assistant, Public Information
22 Officer.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

24 **MS. TAXIN:** Amy Taxin, T-A-X-I-N, Associated
25 Press.

1 **MS. WEINGOLD:** Adriana Weingold, W-E-I-N-G-O-L-D,
2 CBS News.

3 **MR. HUINS:** The first name Nguyen, the last name,
4 H-U-I-N-S. I'm the AP photographer.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
6 Okay.

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I'm sorry. Do you
8 pronounce it Van Houten or Van Houten?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Van Houten.

10 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Van Houten. Okay.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

12 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** May I ask that you put
13 the mic closer to you? Thank you so much.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you. We
15 also have the grandson of the victim appearing
16 telephonically if you can state your appearance at this
17 time, please. Thank you.

18 **MR. LAMONTAGNE:** Yeah, absolutely. My name is --
19 excuse me -- Tony LaMontagne, that's L-A-M-O-N-T-A-G-N-
20 E. My grandfather, Leno LaBianca and his wife, my step-
21 grandmother -- I'm sorry -- Rosemary LaBianca.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you,
23 sir. As already identified, we have a correctional
24 officer in the room for security purposes, and that
25 identifies all parties present here at this time. A

1 couple of issues, administrative issues I need to
2 address. Foremost, we have a victim next-of-kin, the
3 grandson, Mr. LaMontagne. Mr. LaMontagne was appearing
4 telephonically so I have to give him some admonishments
5 and advisements here at this point. So Mr. LaMontagne,
6 you have the right to attend this hearing in person. Do
7 you waive your right to personally appear at this
8 hearing here today, sir?

9 **MR. LAMONTAGNE:** At this point, yes, because I'm
10 just not physically there.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
12 Your participation in this hearing via audio
13 conferencing may be cancelled, limited or terminated at
14 any time for good cause, including equipment failure.
15 Do you understand that this hearing will proceed without
16 your participation if the Panel finds good cause to do
17 so?

18 **MR. LAMONTAGNE:** Absolutely, yes.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you. As
20 a condition of your participation via audio, you must
21 agree not to record or transmit this hearing by any
22 means nor allow any unauthorized persons to hear, view,
23 record, transmit any portion of this hearing. Do you
24 agree with these terms, sir?

25 **MR. LAMONTAGNE:** Yes, I absolutely do.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you,
2 sir. Now with respect to the media being present here
3 today, they are authorized by our department to take
4 still photographs of participants who agree and consent
5 to their still photos to be taken. So to -- not to
6 disrupt this hearing process here today, we're going to
7 allow that to happen prior to the hearing commencing,
8 and at that point we're going to ask them not to take
9 any more photos. So just by the information I've
10 received here today, it's the Panel's understanding, the
11 Panel wishes not to be photographed at this hearing here
12 today. Ms. Van Houten will be photographed here today
13 because based on CDCR rules and regulations that she is
14 an inmate here today. Mr. Pfeiffer, do you consent to
15 being photographed at this hearing here today?

16 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Yes.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
18 And Ms. Lebowitz, I understand you're not consenting to
19 be photographed. Is that correct?

20 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** I do not
21 consent.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
23 Ms. Hogg, do you consent to being photographed at this
24 hearing here today?

25 **MS. HOGG:** No, I do not.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

2 Ms. Tate, do you consent?

3 **MS. TATE:** Yes.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

5 Mr. Smaldino.

6 **MR. SMALDINO:** Smaldino.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Smaldino. Do
8 you consent to being photographed at this hearing today?

9 **MR. SMALDINO:** (Inaudible).

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Do you -- I'm
11 sorry. Your first and last name again?

12 **MS. TREJO:** Leticia Trejo.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Ms. Trejo, do
14 you consent to being photographed at this hearing here
15 today?

16 **MS. TREJO:** I do not.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You do not.
18 Thank you. Officer Ortega, do you consent to being
19 photographed?

20 **CORRECTIONAL OFFICER ORTEGA:** I do.

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

22 And Lieutenant Thomas, do you consent to being
23 photographed at this hearing here today?

24 **LIEUTENANT THOMAS:** I do.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you. So

1 at this point we'll allow individuals -- I don't know
2 how the media wants to handle it -- gentlemen -- to
3 photograph the inmate and inmate attorney if you so
4 choose first. Please go ahead at this point. Thank
5 you.

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Shall we go off record?

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** No. That's
8 fine. We'll just put it on. Thank you. Sufficient?
9 Okay. And your desire is to take Ms. Tate's photo or
10 just the inmate at this point? We're good? That's it.
11 Thank you. Thank you so much. Okay. All right. So
12 that concludes the photograph session for this hearing
13 here today. Now let's get to the body of this hearing
14 here today. Ms. Van Houten, if I can ask you first to
15 raise your right hand so I can swear you in. Do you
16 solemnly swear or affirm the testimony you give at this
17 hearing is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but
18 the truth?

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I do.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you. So
21 the Panel will first address ADA, Americans with
22 Disabilities Act, and your 1073 and DEC System has been
23 reviewed by the Panel. That basically in essence
24 notifies us if there is any accommodations necessary for
25 this hearing. It looks by the file review that you

1 signed that document on 11/19/2015. It indicates that
2 you have no disabilities but for you have your own
3 glasses here today, which I presume are functioning
4 properly?

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
7 You have a 12.9 grade point level, total GPL, which is
8 the highest attainable in the institutional setting. So
9 I assume you can read and write and comprehend.

10 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes, I can.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you. Is
12 there any -- are you on any psychotropic medication
13 currently?

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No, I am not.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Any problems
16 walking here today?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** All right.
19 Let me ask Mr. Pfeiffer, who is privy to more
20 information possibly than I am, with respect to your
21 well-being ADA conditions. Mr. Pfeiffer, any ADA issues
22 that need accommodation for this instant hearing here
23 today for your client?

24 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** None. I just let her know
25 that if she gets tired or thirsty to just let everybody

1 know.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you so
3 much. And also, anybody in the gallery as well, if they
4 need a break, I would just give the officer's attention
5 or the PIO, the Lieutenant's attention to give us --
6 we'll accommodate a recess at any portion here today.
7 With respect to your client's hearing rights, those
8 documents were signed and acknowledged by your client on
9 11/19/2015. Any issues thus far with your client's
10 hearing rights?

11 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** None.

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** With respect
13 to exhibits, there was a collection of documents that
14 were presented at the ten-day file, and also you
15 provided some documents here today inclusive of relapse
16 prevention plan and other documents. Do you want to
17 elaborate what these are and if they're new, fresh
18 documents you would like to mark or are they a
19 collection of things found in the C File?

20 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Most of them are already in
21 the C File. I'm not sure that they all were. There's
22 one document which is -- it's a very long document.
23 It's a spreadsheet, and what it is is a culmination of
24 all of her hearings, some of the things she's done at
25 those hearings and a psych eval summary of the hearings

1 and the results of those hearings. And I just provided
2 that because there's been so many hearings that it's
3 easier for everybody to follow the history of what she's
4 gone through at these hearings. And basically there's
5 some -- most of the support letters, all except for the
6 three that I handed in today, I believe are in either
7 the ten-day that we got on Watchdox or the ten-day that
8 we got today.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
10 And we'll address markation of those -- the Commissioner
11 will, at the appropriate time and make the appropriate
12 ruling. Ms. Lebowitz, have you been provided these
13 documents?

14 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** I was
15 provided with them at approximately 8:25 this morning.
16 It's now nine o'clock and we started the hearing at
17 8:50. The two documents in particular, the prime
18 insight statement, which is ten pages, which is
19 particularly relevant to this proceeding today, is very
20 long and involved, and I have not had the opportunity to
21 review it. Therefore, I would object to its use and
22 admission. The --

23 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Commissioner, I
24 apologize. I want to move the --

25 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** I'm sorry.

1 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I'm going to move the
2 mic over there because --

3 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Okay.

4 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** It sounds (inaudible).

5 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Can you hear?
6 Okay. Thank you. I'll sit closer.

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Thank you.

8 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Secondly, I
9 would also object to the summary of the decision and
10 psych reports as opinion by counsel and it is not
11 appropriate for this hearing.

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Noted. Your
13 objection is noted for the record. They are both
14 overruled. Foremost the inmate has a right to present
15 documents up and including today's date, and so that
16 introduction of them is not an issue for the Panel.
17 With respect to relevance and probative value, obviously
18 the Panel is empowered with addressing and making that
19 determination of the probative value of any evidence
20 that is presented to the Panel here today. So that's
21 how we'll proceed with those and those will be taken in
22 at this point. Now markation --

23 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Can I make one clarification?

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Yes.

25 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Is the insight statement that

1 counsel was referring to came -- was in the ten-day
2 packet from the Board. It wasn't something that I
3 presented today.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Noted. Thank
5 you so much. Now Ms. Lebowitz, I understand you had
6 some documents. I don't -- you had indicated there was
7 some coroner's report, something to that effect. Why
8 don't you elaborate for us, please? Thank you.

9 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Yes. At the
10 last hearing in 2013, Mr. Sequeira, S-E-Q-U-E-I-R-A,
11 presented copies of the coroner's reports of both
12 Rosemary and Leno LaBianca to the Board in his ten-day
13 packet. In the master Watchdox file that we received, I
14 did not see those coroner's reports and I was unclear as
15 to whether or not the Board had the opportunity to
16 review them or Mr. Pfeiffer had the opportunity to see
17 it. It was requested that it be included as part of the
18 record. I brought copies with me today and I provided
19 them to you, the Commissioner and the Deputy
20 Commissioner, and I had a conversation with
21 Mr. Pfeiffer. He indicated that he has seen them
22 before. He is familiar with them and he did not need an
23 extra copy.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

25 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** If you have a copy, I'll take

1 it.

2 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Okay. I do.

3 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Because I haven't seen it in
4 a while.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay, thank
6 you.

7 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** But I have seen it.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

9 And we did receive those documents and we are going to
10 consider it given that, counsel, you've received it.
11 Previously you've seen these documents before.

12 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** I've seen them before.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Thank
14 you.

15 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** I have just
16 submitted only the coroner's report for Rosemary, not
17 Leno this time.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Thank
19 you.

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** We'll probably mark it
21 as an exhibit at the end counsel (inaudible).

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
23 Now any -- Mr. Pfeiffer, any preliminary objections?

24 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** I do. I have some motions
25 pending that I filed with the BPH, and at that time I

1 filed them, I also sent copies to the DA's Office. One
2 is to enforce Penal Code Section 3043 which defines who
3 victims' next-of-kin are, and I respectfully request
4 that Mr. Smaldino and Ms. Tate not be able to attend the
5 hearing because they do not qualify as victims' next-of-
6 kin pursuant to Penal Code Section 3043 as put out in my
7 motion.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you. I
9 reviewed your motion that was received by our Legal
10 Department earlier this week and they forwarded the same
11 to me. The Panel has reviewed and considered the motion
12 on behalf of Ms. Van Houten to enforce Penal Code
13 Section 3043 with respect to attendance and participants
14 of the victims' next-of-kin and representatives. We
15 have determined that the individuals you stated have the
16 right to appear as descendants of the victims. Ms. Tate
17 is allowed as a representative for the victims and is
18 allowed to participate as such. So your motion is
19 noted. It is overruled at this time based on meeting
20 the requirements as set forth by 3043.

21 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Can I just point out that
22 Ms. Tate is not a descendant of the victim?

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Yes. I
24 understand.

25 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Okay.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And I made my
2 motion -- the ruling that she's a representative at this
3 point and you've made your record.

4 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Okay. Thank you.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
6 Any other objections?

7 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** I had another motion.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Motion.

9 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** That was to consider the
10 definition of unreasonable risk of public safety that's
11 pursuant to Penal Code Section 1170.18. That definition
12 is to be used throughout the entire Penal Code, and I
13 respectfully request that that definition be used here
14 today at this hearing. And that definition basically
15 says to be an unreasonable risk to public safety, the
16 inmate must be likely to commit a super-strike in the
17 future.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** I read your
19 motion. It is -- and considered that, and at this
20 point, we believe that the standard that we have been
21 applying and will be applied here today is consistent
22 with current law. I understand it's pending before the
23 Supreme Court on different code sections, Prop --

24 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Prop 36.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** 36 and 47 are

1 being considered, but at this juncture, your objection
2 is overruled. It is the current law of the State of
3 California while we proceed forward here today.

4 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** I just want to make one more
5 record. And Prop -- what is pending before the Supreme
6 Court is that the application of Prop 36 is retroactive
7 application, and this is prospective application because
8 Prop 47 was passed before this hearing whereas Prop 36
9 was passed before Prop 47.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
11 Noted.

12 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Okay.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Anything else?
14 Any objections, motions?

15 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** (Inaudible).

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Any
17 objections, motions at this point?

18 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** No.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** No? Thank
20 you. So anything I missed, Commissioner?

21 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** No.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Thank
23 you. So Ms. Van Houten, the Panel has reviewed your
24 Central File. The Panel has reviewed the confidential
25 portion of your C File. If and when that becomes

1 relevant, we'll advise you further in accordance with
2 Title 15 and allow Mr. Pfeiffer to make the appropriate
3 objections. We've also considered recent documents
4 given that you've been incarcerated for an extended
5 period of time. The most recent document we do have is
6 a Comprehensive Risk Assessment prepared by Dr. Kropf,
7 K-R-O-P-F, and that's a February 2nd, 2016 Comprehensive
8 Risk Assessment which addresses dynamic changes given an
9 extended incarceration period, and ultimately
10 Dr. Kropf's opinion was that you represent a low risk of
11 violence should you be released into the community.
12 More important than the ultimate conclusion is how the
13 clinician arrived at that conclusion which would --
14 which is partly what we do here at these hearings here
15 today. It is also of note that the previous risk
16 assessments from 2010, 2007, 2006 all also place you in
17 the low risk of violence for recidivism -- of violent
18 recidivism, and even previous to that, which the
19 Commissioner may put on the record at a certain point.
20 So those are the documents we'll be considering that are
21 more recent than a 1969 mental state. The format of
22 today's hearing is the Panel will discuss with you pre-
23 and post-conviction history, everything from your
24 childhood up and including today. After we are done
25 with our inquiry and questions, we'll have opportunity

1 for clarifying questions. First clarifying questions
2 come from the District Attorney's Office, Ms. Lebowitz,
3 representing the County of Los Angeles and The People,
4 and those questions are actually meant for the Panel.
5 She wants to -- the County, the City, The People want to
6 make sure that the Panel has all available information
7 to us before we make a decision here today. So we may
8 adopt her question. We may rephrase her question or we
9 may ask her to move on to her next question, so just
10 wait for our advisement. I'm sure you've gone through
11 these before many times, so after that, Mr. Pfeiffer
12 will also have an opportunity to ask clarifying
13 questions. Given that you are his client, we gave a
14 little bit more leeway in him addressing you directly
15 with respect to clarifying questions, but it's all still
16 under the same umbrella to facilitate the Panel in
17 making a decision. Okay?

18 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Any questions?

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** All right.

22 After clarifying questions, we'll have an opportunity
23 for closing statements. I've discussed with
24 participants here, I've discussed with the Commissioner
25 here, my partner, and we determined that 20 minutes is

1 sufficient time for them to articulate a position
2 whether a nexus exists to current dangerousness or to
3 argue against when I think it's sufficient time for them
4 to articulate that position. After that, you'll have an
5 opportunity for your closing statement, should you
6 choose to give one to the Panel here today, at which
7 time and prior to us moving to deliberations, we'll have
8 an opportunity to hear from the victims' family members,
9 grandchildren, representatives, and what's referred to
10 as an impact statement. And that in essence is the last
11 word we hear at which time we'll move into
12 deliberations, and we will come out, have a decision.
13 We'll render a decision at that point whether it be a
14 grant of parole, which thereafter we'll forward to the
15 Governor or a denial of parole ranging from three years
16 to 15 years, okay. Any questions?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. No, I don't.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** First question
19 I have for you, Ms. Van Houten, is how old were you when
20 you committed this life crime?

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Nineteen.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Nineteen years
23 old. How old are you currently?

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Sixty-six.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So how long

1 have you been incarcerated?

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** About 46 years, but in '77 I
3 was able to bond out for six months and then I came back
4 in July of '78.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** So six months of that period
7 of time I was in the community.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So
9 approximately 44 years you said?

10 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Well, 46, 44.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Forty-six
12 years. Okay.

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** All right. So
15 based on how old you were, based on how you are, based
16 on the years you've served, you qualify for certain
17 regulations and decrees. First, based on your age and
18 years served, you qualify for elderly parole meaning the
19 Panel must consider your age at this time as a factor in
20 consideration of determination. The second and -- is
21 the time you -- at the time you committed this offense
22 you were 19 years old, and based on SB 261, as enacted
23 by Penal Code Section 3051 and the progeny of code
24 sections thereto, the Panel must give great weight to
25 your diminished culpability as a youth, the hallmark

1 features and any subsequent growth and maturity. So we
2 must address and adhere this hearing to that great
3 weight standard which we will do here today. Any
4 questions as to those?

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** No? Okay.
7 Currently you're in California Institute for Women. How
8 long have you been here?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I've been here my entire
10 incarceration.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And currently
12 is this the general population yard? Is this an SNY
13 yard?

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** This is the general
15 population yard.

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** General
17 section. Okay. And I note for the record that -- are
18 we okay? Thank you. If you need a recess, just let us
19 know. I mean I don't want you to -- something to
20 happen. Thank you. Okay. And prior to your
21 incarceration, I note that you were a high school
22 graduate, correct?

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes, I was.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And subsequent
25 to your incarceration looks like you've amassed

1 education from a BA degree in English lit, I believe.

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** No.

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That was after my -- do you
5 mean after --

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** After, yeah.

7 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** My incarceration. Yes.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** After your
9 incarceration, a BA in --

10 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** In the 80s.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** In the 80s and
12 then you got your master's as well.

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** In humanities,
15 I believe.

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. And
18 that was in 2013 through Dominguez Hills -- Cal State
19 Dominguez Hills.

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So my question
22 is to the end that you -- we have a full understanding
23 of each other right now, don't we? You understand me?

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. If you

1 don't understand something here today, please make sure
2 you stop me and make sure I clarify for you here today.

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay?

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** The first set
7 of questions -- I know you've gone through this before.
8 This is a de novo hearing so we consider everything
9 anew, and we'll address historical factors in nature.
10 Give me one second to pull this. Okay. In looking at
11 your childhood/adolescent development, you were born and
12 raised in Los Angeles, California, Pasadena, then
13 Monrovia, California. Is that correct?

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. I grew up in Monrovia
15 and I was born in Altadena, California, just at the
16 hospital, but I was raised in Monrovia.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You were the
18 younger of two children of your parents, correct?

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You had an
21 older brother or sister?

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I have an older brother.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Brother. And
24 where is he today?

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** He's in San Francisco.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You have
2 contact with him today?

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Currently?

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** When you were
7 seven years old your parents adopted a two-year-old boy
8 and a three-year-old girl from Korea. Is that correct?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Your
11 childhood -- for the most part in the population that
12 lifers usually come from, you had a privileged life.

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. I was raised
14 comfortably middle class.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** No domestic
16 violence in the home?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You were not
19 physically or sexually abused yourself?

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No, I was not.

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You were not
22 neglected?

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Your father
25 worked as an automobile auctioneer and your mom as a

1 homemaker.

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You described
4 your parents' relationship as mismatched.

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** At a certain
7 point and ultimately it resulted in their dissolution of
8 marriage and they divorced.

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Can you
11 expound on how your childhood was -- how it led to the
12 divorce and that aspect of it?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** You mean their mismatch?

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Their
15 mismatch.

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Okay. My mother came from a
17 more educated background and she came from a pretty
18 rigid Presbyterian background.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** My father came from the lower
21 class. They were both from Iowa. My father was an
22 alcoholic and had a high school diploma but nothing more
23 and I think they were probably, in their youth,
24 physically attracted, and as time went on and the
25 complications of life came on, the differences became

1 too much and --

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** How old were
3 you when they divorced?

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I was 14.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And when they
6 divorced, you and your siblings lived with your mother
7 in Monrovia?

8 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And your
10 father moved, I guess, to the beach with his second
11 wife.

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes, he did.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Did you have
14 contact with your father after the divorce?

15 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. Part of the reason that
16 the divorce is significant to me is that I was very
17 close to my father, and he told me he was leaving mom
18 before he told her, and when she found out there was an
19 obvious wedge between my mom and I.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Because he
21 didn't tell her?

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah. That I knew. And it
23 also put -- I blamed her for his leaving. I think that
24 kind of was maybe the birth of some anger that I began
25 to carry and a rebelliousness against her.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Why would you
2 blame her in that state of mind you were in?

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That she didn't -- he was in
4 AA and she was always trying to hide it and was ashamed
5 that he was in that. I felt she didn't support him.
6 And she felt I was closer to him so she was always
7 criticizing him, saying I was trying -- he was trying to
8 turn me into his mother, you know, just complicated
9 stuff.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So you -- I'm
11 sorry to interrupt you, but you indicated to the
12 clinicians historically in the most recent one that you
13 felt abandoned by your father.

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah. I felt he ran out. I
15 felt I should have gone with him. I was closer to him
16 and I felt that I should have been able to go with him.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So these
18 abandonment issues towards your father, then you had
19 anger issues towards your mother.

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. But is
22 this really something unusual, I mean that happens in
23 real world, real life?

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. I think --

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Did you take
3 it as unusual?

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** You mean the divorce?

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** That you --
6 the divorce, the anger issues, because it happens,
7 right? This is regular life.

8 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** (Inaudible) but in I think it
9 was like '64, I don't think there was many divorces.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

11 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Monrovia didn't have people
12 divorcing, and the label of divorce at that time in a
13 small town stigmatizes and I became part of the single
14 parent group of people, and whether socially it mattered
15 on a different level, I felt it did. And my mom was, of
16 course, very angry at dad and she had to go back to work
17 and she would say things like the only reason he picks
18 you up is because I make him, you know. She wanted us
19 to side with her. It's just complicated things that
20 happen to a young person.

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Do you believe
22 your life would have turned out differently when you
23 look back at it and the choices you made had they never
24 been divorced? When you look back -- and we all do,
25 right, in our lives?

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah. I don't know. I
2 haven't really thought that. I think --

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You never
4 thought what, about that or --

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I think it could have been
6 different the way I handled it. I don't think I handled
7 it in -- I think I handled it in a very poor way.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. So
9 prior to the divorce, prior to the separation, do you
10 believe you had a -- your outlook on life was different,
11 was more positive? Did this -- was this the cross in
12 the road or the wedge in the road that changed things
13 for you because --

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes, it did.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Before that I pretty much had
17 an idyllic existence. I was popular in the high school.
18 I was very involved in activities and this -- at that
19 time, this made me feel separated from what my life had
20 been. My mother's social life changed, and as a
21 consequence, so did our family's.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You started
23 using substances at an early age.

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes, I did.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** I believe at

1 the age of 15.

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You start
4 using marijuana, methamphetamine, LSD. Why do you think
5 you experimented so extensively in such a short period
6 of time with so many drugs?

7 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Well, I -- the first drug
8 that I tried was the marijuana, and I fell in love with
9 it right away and --

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Why?

11 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Because it took me out of me
12 and it was different and I reacted to it in a way that I
13 just wanted more. I had come --

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** It took me --
15 I'm sorry. It took me out of being me. What was me
16 that you were desirous to be taken away from?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Feeling that I was different
18 now and our home structure had changed and I was
19 beginning to hang out with other single parent children
20 and I didn't like who I was at the time.

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And how much
22 younger are you than your sister?

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** My brother.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Brother, I'm
25 sorry.

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I'm four years younger.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Four years
3 younger. How did he handle the situation?

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** He was 18 at the time and had
5 just finished school and he left the house. So he
6 didn't really have to deal with the divorce.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Looking back,
8 do you think you overreacted to this situation of your
9 parents or was it normal, -- had to be done given the
10 dynamics that you were living in?

11 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** What do you mean had to be
12 done?

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Meaning the
14 way you felt?

15 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I never really --

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Using all
17 these drugs, wanting to get away from it, feeling --

18 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** At that point I was just kind
19 of going about things. I wasn't really analyzing what I
20 was doing. I was just kind of experimenting and I
21 was -- my brother was more or less involved in the
22 beatnik community, so I was around the alternative life.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What attracted
24 you to that alternative life?

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I think that probably in

1 hindsight some of it was rebellion against my mom and my
2 dad's second wife was trying to figure out how to be a
3 stepmother to four kids that she really didn't know.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So from
5 marijuana you graduate to methamphetamine, LSD.

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah, the methamphetamine --

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Benzedrine.

8 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Came later.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Did it?

10 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** It was first the LSD.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Hallucinogens.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Yeah. What
14 attracted you to hallucinogens?

15 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** At the time, it was still a
16 legal drug, and my boyfriend was spending time with the
17 older college kids and it was a lot of looking at the
18 world through a different lens through Timothy Leary's
19 psychedelic experience and I found that attractive.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And I had read
21 in a different variety of reports that you had used LSD
22 in excess of 150 times. Is that --

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That's what the word -- I
24 took it whenever I could and early on the word -- the
25 number 300 was used and 150. I don't know the exact

1 time. I took it a lot.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So this is
3 during your high school years?

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I would take it on the
5 weekends.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Weekends,
7 so --

8 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I took advantage of the fact
9 that my mother was busy and I was living my own life
10 under her radar. And I'm not proud of that. I --

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You had
12 described that at the age of 15, you had another
13 traumatic event that happened to you or resulted in
14 becoming a traumatic event and you becoming pregnant.

15 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That was 17.

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Seventeen.
17 Okay.

18 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah. It says 15, but it's
19 17.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. What
21 happened at the age of 17?

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** My boyfriend and I before my
23 senior year of school had run away from home to San
24 Francisco, but we came back. It was a harsh reality
25 having run away, and when I came back I was pregnant and

1 Bobby and I -- Bobby Mackie -- and I waited for dad to
2 come and pick us kids up that weekend and we told my
3 parents that I was pregnant and -- do you want me to
4 keep --

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Please.

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Okay. My mother reacted
7 very, very strongly. My dad always deferred to my mom
8 and I went to try to speak to her and she just basically
9 rejected me, said don't touch me.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So she was
11 disappointed that you were -- you had become pregnant.

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Disappointed, angry, had no
13 idea that I had been using drugs or having sex. I had
14 hidden everything from her. And Bobby was pretty much
15 what are you going to do about it, you know. He was
16 incapable and unable to figure it out, so over a period
17 of several months, my mother from the very beginning was
18 adamant that I would have an abortion.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** How old was
20 Bobby at the time?

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** He was the same age as I am.
22 He was 17.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** How would you
24 describe your relationship with him?

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** In hindsight, I think that I

1 was probably suffocating him and I think it was teen
2 love, that we both were looking at each other as a way
3 to fill gaps in our lives.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** But you
5 wouldn't describe it as a controlling relationship, that
6 he was controlling you in any fashion at that time -- or
7 would you?

8 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I didn't see it as that.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Because you're
10 describing it as suffocating, more like you were
11 suffocating him to a degree.

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Maybe, you know. I think
13 about it sometimes and I don't know if he was as crazy
14 about me as I was him.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** You know.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** But it wasn't
18 like you were under any sort of his control or the issue
19 of he did things -- he wanted you to do things. He was
20 protective over you, things of that nature -- at that
21 point.

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** He might have been protective
23 over me, but I don't view that relationship as him
24 towering over me.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Or forcing me to do things I
2 didn't want to do.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So some time
4 passes between you telling your mother and you get an
5 abortion, correct?

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** How much time
8 elapsed?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I don't know exactly, but --

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Approximately.

11 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I think I was probably in my
12 second trimester.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** What happened was my mother
15 had arranged through her psychologist that a woman came
16 to our home and gave me a solution. She douched me with
17 a solution that would dislodge the baby. My sister and
18 brother were asleep in the room down the hall, and I
19 began contracting and my mom told me to be quiet, that
20 she didn't want anyone to know. And ultimately after a
21 few hours, I aborted.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** At that time,
23 abortions were legal?

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** They were

1 legal?

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** They were illegal.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Illegal. Yes.

4 So at that point were you -- what was your feelings
5 towards getting an abortion or having the child?

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I wanted the child. I wanted
7 to have a life with Bobby. I wanted to start a young
8 family.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Why didn't
10 you?

11 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I didn't have what it took to
12 buck mom, and dad had offered to let Bobby and I live
13 with -- underneath them in their duplex, and mom
14 convinced me that dad just wanted me to have the baby so
15 his wife could adopt it, and every -- at every turn my
16 mom was just adamant that I have the abortion.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** In looking
18 back, would you have had that child?

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** If it were up to me?

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Yeah.

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So that
25 experience with the abortion under those circumstances,

1 how do you think that affected you?

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** It took away my personality.
3 I lost a lot of who I felt I was.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** I don't really
5 understand what that means. How does that mean -- what
6 took away your personality?

7 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I think it kind of flat-lined
8 a lot of my personality. At that point I wanted to join
9 a yoga renunciate, become -- join an ashram, which is
10 why I went to business school after I finished high
11 school because they needed secretarial skills at the
12 ashram. And --

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So what would
14 the ashram provide you at this point in your life?

15 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Pursuing a greater
16 understanding. I was preoccupied with a greater
17 understanding of life and doing it in a sober way.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** And living a life of
20 renouncing the entrapments of the world, you know. It
21 was kind of idealistic for a 17-year-old, but that's --

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So at that
23 time were you using drugs as well?

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I stopped using drugs.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You stopped.

1 Okay.

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Completely?

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** But then I started back
7 halfway through my business school. I contacted my old
8 friends and went back to the using LSD and smoking weed
9 and messing around with methamphetamines.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** After you
11 graduated from high school, you enrolled in the Sawyer.

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Sawyer.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Sawyer
14 Business School, S-A-W-Y-E-R, Business School, and I
15 guess you received a certificate in clerical work,
16 correct?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And just to
19 get the timeframe correct, how long were you not using
20 any substances?

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Probably for close to seven
22 or eight months maybe. Maybe a year almost.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. And
24 what was your mental state during that time that you
25 didn't want to use? Because you used --

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I was --

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** To get away
3 from it, to you know, hide from your issues, things of
4 that nature, but all of a sudden --

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** For a period
7 of a year, said okay I'm good with it, I don't have to
8 do any drugs.

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Well, I think that --

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Seems like --

11 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I think that I saw that they
12 were a false way to reaching the states of awareness
13 that Leary and the hippie movement were discussing at
14 the time.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** So it wasn't like I abandoned
17 all of that and suddenly wanted to work at a company or
18 something.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Why don't you
20 talk to us about that era, that time? You keep
21 referring to it as the hippie era and the, I guess,
22 freedom of expression or how would you describe that
23 time period?

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** It was --

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** For you.

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** For me it was questioning the
2 inequalities that were present in society.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Example.

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That my family had a lot, but
5 when we would drive down the freeway and I would see the
6 backs of the slums, I would ask, you know, what are
7 those and what are they doing there, and my mom would
8 say don't look, you know. Those are for people that are
9 less fortunate. And I think in the hippie movement I
10 was beginning to question that kind of imbalance. And
11 it was an alternative lifestyle that I found inviting,
12 that I felt I belonged in, and we would take LSD to try
13 to reach our inner core, you know. Sounds kind of
14 childish now, but that was what was important to me and
15 I took it seriously that it was important to question
16 violence and war and --

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** To question
18 violence and war. Okay. At the age of 19 you commit
19 your life crime, correct?

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** When did you
22 meet Charlie Manson in relationship to when you
23 committed the life crime?

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I met him in the late summer
25 of '68.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** How old were
2 you at that time?

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I had just turned 19.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. So how
5 long did you know him between the time period of you met
6 him and the time period that you committed the life
7 crime?

8 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Between ten and 12 months.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. And
10 what initially prompted you to meet or want to meet
11 Charlie Manson?

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** After I finished business
13 school, I went to Victorville and stayed with some
14 friends and one of them was heading up for San Francisco
15 and I was without direction or motivation in my life and
16 I went with her to stay with her and a guy I had known
17 from my Pasadena days.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You say
19 without direction. Where are your parents at this time,
20 your dad, your mom, your siblings?

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I left them.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I finished school and I left
24 to find my way in the world.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And what was

1 their response to --

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** They were disappointed, you
3 know. My dad offered me the world. I could have lived
4 underneath him on Strand in Manhattan Beach, which is
5 beautiful. And he was going to help me get a job at a
6 company -- I think it was called TRW. And I threw
7 everything away.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Why?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I wanted independence and I
10 wanted to find what was important to me. At that time,
11 I couldn't relate and I couldn't see what he was
12 offering. I was too involved in alternatives to what
13 the world offered, so I left.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Then what
15 happens?

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I went -- ended up in San
17 Francisco and I had no means of caring for myself, and
18 Duncan and -- I can't remember her name -- the woman I
19 went up with -- they argued all the time, and we lived
20 on --

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Was Duncan
22 your boyfriend at the time?

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** He was the husband of the

1 woman I went up with. They were having marital
2 problems.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** And she had a baby that I
5 would take care of and loved, and I'm sure I was
6 transferring a lot of what I didn't have.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** At this time
8 were you using drugs, LSD, experimenting?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Marijuana and LSD.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Marijuana,
11 LSD.

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. On a
14 daily basis or whenever it was available?

15 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Whenever it was available.
16 Weed all the time. Marijuana all the time.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Were you
18 working?

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. How
21 were you supporting -- how were you guys supporting
22 yourselves?

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I was, at that point, pretty
24 much running out of money. Duncan was working and he
25 was resenting that I was there. And I had somehow

1 managed to become a Kelly girl.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What does that
3 mean?

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That was in the 60s. If you
5 had the skills as a secretary, they would call you if
6 they needed work -- a day or two at a bank or something
7 and you would go and --

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Like temp work
9 of sorts.

10 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah, temporary work.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** All right.

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** But I never went and
13 everything happened, I think if I recall correctly,
14 rather quickly. So Dee was her name -- Dee and Duncan.
15 And they lived on Stanyan and Carl in the heart of the
16 Haight Ashbury, and she came back home one night, and
17 when she came, she brought Robert Beausoleil, Catherine
18 Share, and a woman named Gail to the house and they
19 stayed the night. And Dee wanted out of her marriage
20 and Gypsy -- Catherine Share's name was Gypsy -- and
21 Gypsy offered me the way to a commune where everybody
22 loved each other and they lived for the moment and they
23 lived in the here and now. And that to go with them,
24 all I needed to do was drop out from society and I did
25 and I went with them.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Wow. Because
2 you wanted to --

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Be part of that lifestyle of
4 a commune of people where everyone was equal. That we
5 lived for the moment. That was part of the commune
6 living of the 60s. And at the time it sounded inviting
7 and like I would be accepted and welcomed.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Did you know
9 anything about the commune -- who ran it, how many
10 people were there, where it was located, things of that
11 nature?

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Not at that day.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** And then for the next several
15 months, Gypsy --

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Which is
17 Catherine.

18 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Catherine Share.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** And Bobby and Gail and I
21 would just drive up and down the coast of California. I
22 hadn't gone to the ranch at that point.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** And we (inaudible) --

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Why hadn't you

1 gone to the ranch?

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Huh?

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Why didn't you
4 go directly to the ranch when you heard about the
5 situation?

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Because Gypsy -- I mean
7 Catherine Share had been asked by Manson to stay with
8 Bobby, and Bobby was looking for some people that had
9 belonged at the ranch or something. I'm not real clear
10 on all of that.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Because I came in while it
13 was all going on.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So you said
15 initially Dee brought over Robert, Gypsy -- Robert
16 Beausoleil. Is that Bobby?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That's a different Bobby.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** That's a
21 different Bobby. Okay.

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Bobby Mackie now is out of my
23 life.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. And
25 Catherine Share.

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. So at a
3 certain point before going into the commune, you are
4 traveling up and down the coast --

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Panhandling.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Panhandling.
7 Yourself, Robert, Catherine. Is Dee -- did Dee come
8 with you as well or no?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Dee came just for a bit but
10 went back because of her child and she didn't want to be
11 part of it.

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Still using
13 drugs?

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Then
16 what happens?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** So while we're traveling
18 around the coast, Gail and Bobby are fighting a lot
19 because Gail was his girlfriend and he had two other
20 women with him. And so she was arguing a lot, and Gypsy
21 and I would sit in the back of our pickup and she would
22 talk to me constantly about this Christ-like man that
23 had all the answers and basically spent all her hours
24 convincing me that the two of us needed to go and be
25 down at the ranch with Charles Manson.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What attracted
2 you at that time to the idea of Charles Manson?

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** It was getting stressful with
4 the constant fighting of Bobby and Gail, and I was
5 curious to see what was going on at the ranch, and she
6 was very, very convincing.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Were you using
8 constantly at that time?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. So you
11 make it down to the ranch.

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What is the
14 ranch called? I think it's called Spahn --

15 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. Spahn's Movie Ranch.

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. And you
17 arrive there.

18 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. What
20 happens?

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** At first Manson was angry at
22 Catherine for the two of us leaving Bobby because he
23 wanted us to bring Bobby back to the ranch. And I don't
24 know what Catherine said, but he agreed that we'd stay.
25 And life at first at the ranch was -- it was welcoming,

1 but he was always a strong personality. The women were
2 welcoming, but he was a strong personality. And the
3 message at the ranch was to let go of everything that we
4 had been taught by our parents. And because he had
5 spent his prison in life (sic), he wasn't like older
6 people because there was a saying at the time that you
7 never trust anyone over 30. And he was older, but
8 because he had been in prison and had had a hard life,
9 he was different.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Do you believe
11 he ended up controlling you?

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. You know, that's sort
13 of a simplified --

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Yeah.

15 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I believe he had an agenda
16 and the agenda was to strip those of us that were with
17 him of our identities and personalities and become
18 indoctrinated to what he wanted.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Why did you
20 allow that to happen?

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** It happened slowly. I didn't
22 care for who I was. I didn't feel a connection with my
23 dad, with his wife and their situation.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Well, why did
25 you feel a connection to him, a convicted felon?

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** He didn't really talk to --
2 he just said he was in jail. I didn't know what he was
3 in for at the time. I think it was the group and that I
4 began to believe that he was a Christ figure and that I
5 was destined to listen and strip myself of those things
6 that society had taught me.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What role did
8 substances play in this belief system where you adhering
9 to him being a Christ figure, this philosophy -- did it
10 play any role?

11 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** He would -- when we would
12 take the LSD, we would sit in a circle around him, and
13 then for the seven or eight hours he would talk and tell
14 us how we needed to strip ourselves and point out
15 individuals and mock them and make us pretty
16 uncomfortable, you know. I feel that at the time I got
17 there, I wanted to believe in someone, you know. I
18 certainly can look back and see that there were times I
19 could have followed my intuition that it was time to go.
20 But I didn't seem to have the ability to do that and --

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Why do you
22 think?

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I think that I was a very
24 weak personality. That I was looking for someone else
25 to have the answers. That I just wanted to resign

1 myself with going with the flow.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Do you think
3 there was a characteristic that Charles Manson sought
4 out with respect to people to follow him? Meaning there
5 was individuals in the commune, right, that were
6 regulars. I would assume you were one of those
7 individuals.

8 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And I'm also
10 assuming that there are people that came and went.

11 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Right? Maybe
13 they didn't believe in his philosophy. Maybe they said
14 okay, this is just not for me, things of that nature.
15 But those individuals that stayed, and you were one of
16 those individuals, along with other women at that time.

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Is there a
19 characteristic that you guys all shared in common at the
20 time, do you believe?

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** From hindsight?

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** In hindsight,
23 yes.

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** In hindsight, certainly.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What were

1 those characteristics?

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I think that each of us, in
3 our own way, had had something that had fractured our
4 personalities and made us seeking someone else to rely
5 on.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Sorry.

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** When you were on LSD,
8 did that make you more susceptible to suggestions?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. Yes.

10 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Do you think that's
11 where a lot of the brainwashing was happening while you
12 were on LSD?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I believe he used the LSD
14 trips to set things into our heads and to publicly
15 humiliate us and get his doctrine more in. But after
16 the LSD trips, we did it to each other, you know. No
17 one ever said you know, what happened last night seemed
18 kind of out of it. Instead we always supported what was
19 going on. So I think even communally we became our own
20 enemies as far as holding onto reality.

21 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** But was that the
22 effect, the aftereffect of the LSD or did you feel
23 that -- when you say you're off, were you completely off
24 where you were completely conscious?

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** During the LSD?

1 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** You were saying that
2 you would -- you guys would take LSD and then he would
3 lecture for seven to eight hours.

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. Yes.

5 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** But then you said the
6 next day or whenever it is, you guys would take it out
7 on each other.

8 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Well, with LSD, there's a
9 condensed amount of hallucinating, which is usually
10 about a seven or eight-hour time period. And the next
11 day or afterward, there's -- we were still -- like when
12 I was taking it in high school, I would go back to
13 school and I would have something that would level me
14 off. At the ranch, there was no leveling off. We kept
15 the language and the things that he would do on the LSD,
16 we would mock it with each other afterward to try to
17 continue. Like if I said something about my life prior
18 to the ranch, then the others would make fun of me, and
19 I would do the same with them. It was always to
20 disengage our lifestyle that was and to take on what was
21 happening at the ranch.

22 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Okay. So he was so
23 effective in indoctrinating you that you guys were
24 basically disciples among each other indoctrinating each
25 other, even while you're off LSD.

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Okay. Sorry,
3 Commissioner.

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** And there were, you know,
5 like nothing belonged to anyone. Like even if you wore
6 the same outfit more than two days in a row, someone
7 else would make sure they would have it, and so there
8 was no possession, no identity with anything in
9 particular that you would be -- that I would be able to
10 call my own so --

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** How many
12 regulars were at this commune?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I believe there were probably
14 nine or ten.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And how would
16 you support yourself? How would you find food to eat,
17 things of that nature?

18 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** At the time we could go
19 behind grocery stores and they didn't lock the bins and
20 there was the produce and packaged food that had had
21 their expiration dates. Somehow there was a man who
22 would drop off station wagons full of Van de Kamp's day
23 old food, and after a while, we would get to know the
24 produce boys at the back of the market who would put the
25 old produce in those stands on the road.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Were you in a
2 relationship -- physical relationship with Charles
3 Manson as well?

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Only a few times.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** When you say
6 only a few times --

7 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I only had sex with him a few
8 times. But everyone --

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** That kind of
10 indicates to me that others had more or you had -- I
11 mean what does -- what are you trying to get at -- only
12 a few times as opposed to --

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Well, it wasn't like a one-
14 on-one relationship.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I guess is what I'm getting
17 at. That the sex at the ranch was anyone with anyone,
18 just not really homosexual behavior. And if the women
19 were expected to have sex with the men when they wanted
20 it, and just like the clothes, you know. You couldn't
21 identify with a particular person.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** I thought I
23 read a report somewhere -- I mean there's been so many
24 of them -- that you never had sexual intercourse with
25 him because he viewed you as Bobby's girl or something

1 to that effect.

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. We did once or twice,
3 but that's true. He wanted me always to get Bobby to
4 come back. Or when Bobby stopped by that I would be
5 with Bobby.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** The initial
7 philosophy that attracted you to this lifestyle was
8 freedom, lack of violence, a different way of thinking,
9 anti-establishment, things of that nature. Somehow this
10 evolves during your stay with -- at the ranch and how
11 did it evolve from that to violent acts and violent
12 ideology?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** In the winter of '68 to '69.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Tell me
15 in proportion to how long now you've been at the ranch.

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Probably about four or five
17 months.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Away from Bobby.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Just strictly at the ranch.
22 Some of us were living up in the desert and -- that's
23 the LA area -- and he had gone down into LA, and when he
24 came back --

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** He?

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Manson. And when he came
2 back, he was much more intense and said that there was
3 going to be a revolution and he started his
4 conversations about violence at that point. Prior to
5 that, which in my reflection, there was one night where
6 he said to us baa like sheep, and every one of us did.
7 And I think that in hindsight, I think that when he
8 realized we all did that -- I don't know. I think
9 something moved inside of him. You know I feel that.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Meaning
11 that he had now total control is what you're --

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** His laugh was, you know -- I
15 remember it. And then that was a bit before this whole
16 idea of the revolution and Helter Skelter.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What was that
18 ideology? What did you understand it to be at that
19 time?

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** It progressed over a period
21 of time. It started in the winter. And he said that
22 the blacks had been suppressed and had been subjected to
23 cruelty and slavery and that it was time for the karma
24 to change and that the blacks would rise. And the
25 whites would then be in the position of the blacks.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That there would be a shift.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. And
4 then you guys were white, so --

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That we -- at that point we
6 needed to prepare. That because he was the Christ
7 figure, we would go into the cities and begin saving the
8 white children and live in a hole in the desert for
9 about 150 years and come back out. And at that point
10 the blacks would be sick of the way of the white man and
11 it -- the process would begin again -- the change of
12 karma.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That's Helter Skelter in a
15 nutshell.

16 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Commissioner. May I
17 ask -- by the time Helter Skelter -- that concept came
18 around -- were you at this point -- the brainwashing --
19 has that been complete?

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

21 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Or not quite yet?

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. It's -- I don't see a
23 way out.

24 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Okay.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** I mean if

1 somebody is going to believe that, I think there's some
2 brainwashing or something going on.

3 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I wanted to make that
4 clear.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Yeah. I mean
6 brainwashing or not, this is just ludicrous. I mean
7 you're an educated person. You'd gone to high school,
8 graduated. You go to college. Maybe even under some
9 LSD you'd maybe hallucinating you believe this, but then
10 you stop using. You come out and say okay, what hole,
11 what 150 years, what is this guy talking about.

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah. I never questioned it.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Why not?

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I had --

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You got -- I'm
16 sorry. Before that -- you got to agree this is absurd.

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Of course.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Right?

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** This is just
21 absolutely --

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** To a
24 reasonable person, it looked like what are you talking
25 about.

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** And tragically it, you know,
2 it's worse than absurd to me. Its outcome was horrible.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What do you
4 mean the outcome was horrible?

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** The murders.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Yes.

7 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** The loss of life.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Yeah. I mean
9 I'm not even there yet. I'm right now at the hole and
10 the black state being suppressed, Helter Skelter, the
11 whites coming to power, you guys jumping in a hole for
12 150 -- I mean you really believed that this was a
13 possibility?

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And how is
16 that even possible?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** The life at the ranch had
18 become a capsule, like we were isolated. Even though we
19 would go into town, we would go with someone else and
20 see it through a different lens than what it was. Like
21 the plaza, the cleanness of people, everything was like
22 an entirely different world and he would point out
23 things like the Black Panther movement was coming up and
24 he would point what he wanted us to see out.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Did you

1 believe this as true?

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes, I did.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And was that
4 based on the substances that you were using at the time?
5 Was it based on a brainwashing at that juncture?

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I think it was a combination,
7 and I think it was a combination of all of us that were
8 there not questioning -- no one questioned.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So when you
10 were not using substances, did you think this is out of
11 the ordinary, this is strange?

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** When we -- when I wasn't
13 high, I was busy doing tasks and chores, and we kept the
14 idea of what we were doing with each other -- we would
15 do these games of trying to creep up on each other so
16 everything was always preparing for this war. We were
17 getting karate lessons and trying to figure out how to
18 can food that would last for years and finding a
19 place --

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Whose idea was that?

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Manson. He conducted what we
22 did, but we did it, you know. I'm not -- I hope you're
23 not understanding that I know it's my responsibility
24 that I allowed this to happen to me.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Of course.

1 Now on page 4 of 13 of the risk assessment, in the third
2 paragraph, you tell the clinician the following. She
3 indicated, meaning you, initially drugs were the focus
4 at the ranch. She denied that there was any talk of
5 violence in the beginning, which corroborates your
6 statements here today.

7 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** She indicated
9 that circumstances at the ranch changed and becoming
10 violent and she expressed a desire to leave. She
11 indicated that despite her desire to leave, she was
12 unable to leave because Manson had taken a dominant role
13 in her life and she felt powerless. Clarify that
14 statement to me.

15 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah. There were two --

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Let me finish.

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Okay.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Because to me
19 it's indicated that you knew what was going on
20 specifically, and based on the brainwashing, you weren't
21 questioning any of this behavior and were preparing and
22 I was busy and the hole and the revolution. But this
23 statement makes it seem like you were questioning at a
24 certain point but unable to do anything about it, which
25 is a little distinction.

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. I was mostly wanting to
2 leave because I was exhausted and I wanted to go and I
3 told him that I did and he drove me up to a cliff with a
4 dune buggy and he said if you want to leave you may as
5 well jump because you'll get caught in the revolution
6 and you're going to die anyway. So it wasn't that I
7 necessarily didn't believe him. I just wanted to go. I
8 didn't know where I was going to go. It wasn't like I
9 was going to go home.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Looking back
11 why do you think you believed what he said to be true?
12 Just looking back at it today. I know you're trying
13 to -- you're telling me in a narrative fashion, but in a
14 simple way, why do you think you believed everything he
15 said?

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I believe I wanted someone to
17 have all the answers at that time. That I wanted to
18 surrender my life to someone. And I believed that he
19 was an extraordinary person. And I didn't believe I had
20 or I didn't see that I had alternatives. I felt that I
21 was obligated because of who he was as a human being.
22 Like he would, you know, Manson, son of man, you know,
23 all those connections that I felt that I owed him that
24 for who he was.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So at that

1 point, if he said anything, you would have done
2 anything.

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Pretty much. There was an
4 incident one time where Catherine Share was holding a
5 cord that was being rotated into a wench on the dune
6 buggy and he had told her to hold it and guide it and
7 walked away and didn't tell her to let go. And her
8 thumb was beginning to get caught, you know. It's
9 just -- I just use that as an example. I think any of
10 us -- well, I can't speak for everyone because I was the
11 one that went that night. I would have done anything.

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Knowing what
13 you know today, what could you have done when you were
14 at the ranch differently? If you get to go back and
15 talk to your 19-year-old self, something that may have
16 changed the last 50 years of your life, what could you
17 have said? Is there anything you could have said given
18 that you were brainwashed to that degree that would have
19 changed the circumstances that --

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** To try to wake myself up?

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Yeah.

22 Anything you could have said looking back?

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I don't -- I honestly can't
24 say that there would have been because I believed in him
25 and I don't think that a grounded mind telling me to get

1 out -- I didn't see the con artist tricks, you know. I
2 just -- I had gotten to the point where my own intuition
3 was what I criticized more than anything, so those parts
4 of my humanity that were left from my prior life were
5 things that I criticized to destroy within myself, you
6 know. I wish there were. You know I wish there were
7 something that I could have gone back and said, but I
8 was so dependent and felt such loyalty that I don't
9 think I would have listened.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So take us now
11 to the evening or the weeks or the months surrounding
12 the life crime that you believe is relevant.

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Several weeks before the
14 murders, he began to say that we were going to have to
15 be the ones to begin the revolution. And in the evening
16 sessions, he would talk about violence. He would create
17 ghoulish scenarios that if we were going to be able to
18 go in and out of the city during the wars that we would
19 have to get used to seeing violence and gruesomeness.
20 And he would talk about would we die for him and all
21 beings are one, so if we were willing to die for him,
22 would we be able to kill ourselves in another body.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Did anybody
24 question him?

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Nobody in
2 this --

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Ever?

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** People began leaving, but
6 nobody questioned. And it really wasn't until -- if I
7 recall correctly, it wasn't until it was really getting
8 down to that point that I remember Paul Watkins leaving
9 and I'm not sure when Ella left. But they didn't say
10 anything. They just weren't there the next morning.
11 Nobody said anything.

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Go
13 ahead. Continue.

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** And so the -- I'm getting
15 distracted like when we began using credit cards to get
16 nuts and things like that. That happened all the way
17 through the months ahead, so I'm mainly discussing the
18 weeks before.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Thank
20 you.

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Okay. So we were having to
22 see how much did we believe in his vision. And the
23 night before the Tate murders, Pat and I had been taking
24 care of the children in a little trailer. And in the
25 late night, Manson came and pulled Pat out to go with

1 him. And Pat Krenwinkel had been the person that in the
2 group was more or less designated to keep an eye on me,
3 really Pat and Tex.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** How come?

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I don't know why he picked
6 Pat, but when I first got to the ranch, he had told me
7 to stay close to Pat, that she was the most tuned in to
8 him. And so she was like my person that sort of kept an
9 eye me, see was I kind of going with the program, I
10 guess. And she had been with him from the beginning,
11 and so --

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Why would you
13 think that you need somebody to take -- keep an eye on
14 you? Were you questioning events or --

15 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Was it just
17 his MO?

18 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** It was just (inaudible) --

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Just like a, you know --

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Thank
22 you. Go ahead.

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Some people he didn't care if
24 they left and some he did care. So and Tex was asked
25 closer to the crime to keep an eye on me, because at

1 that point, he had had a lot of bikers coming up and I
2 was spending time with the bikers. And he was fearful
3 that I might leave with them and so that was why he told
4 Tex to keep an eye on me.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

6 Continue.

7 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Go ahead.

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Okay. So the next morning, I
10 saw Pat and she was shaken up and she said that Helter
11 Skelter had started and it seemed wrong and the people
12 were young, and at that point when I knew that Pat had
13 gone, I knew that I wanted to go and show my --

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What was Pat
15 referring to?

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** She was referring to the
17 murders of the people at the Tate house.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Did you know
19 what had happened?

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I knew that people had been
21 murdered. I didn't know exact details and I knew that
22 it had started -- that Helter Skelter had started.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Did you know
24 that the Tate murders were going to happen?

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I knew -- during that two-

1 week period, he didn't specify tonight they are going to
2 happen, but when she was called out -- because it had
3 been growing in intensity, I had assumed something was
4 going to happen.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Did you know
6 how many people were killed?

7 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** It's hard to say if I knew at
8 that time. I knew it was a lot of people and I knew
9 they were young and I knew that, you know, it was
10 gruesome and that Pat said it seemed very wrong.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So Pat told
12 you it seemed very wrong.

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** How did you
15 take that at that point?

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That who were we to question
17 what he felt needed to be done.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And did you
19 ever think what was the motive of this and we're killing
20 young people or these individuals specifically? What
21 was the plan or --

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** The plan was to have it
23 blamed on blacks so that the whites would retaliate and
24 the blacks would retaliate and there would be a
25 revolution.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So Pat tells
2 you this and then this is the -- obviously the night
3 before the murder. Then what happens?

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** So I knew that she had
5 crossed the line.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What does that
7 mean?

8 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** She had participated in the
9 crimes, that she was committed to the belief of Helter
10 Skelter, and I wanted to also show Manson that I equally
11 believed in him and the necessity for this and I wanted
12 to be selected to go the next night. So --

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So an
14 individual that's never harmed anybody, never killed
15 anybody, you were ready to kill?

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I felt that I was, yeah.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** No questions
18 asked.

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** On my part?

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Yes, on your
21 part, obviously.

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. I felt that I was
23 obligated. That it was something that needed to be done
24 for the betterment of mankind, you know. And it's
25 absurd to sit here right now and talk to you like that,

1 but that's who I was.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So what
3 happens next?

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** So he stops me on the
5 boardwalk and he says are you crazy enough to believe in
6 me and I said yes. And he said go get a change of
7 clothes and get in the car. And so I did. And there
8 were six or seven of us in the car. And we drove around
9 LA for a few hours, him trying to decide where we were
10 going to go, and ultimately we ended up at the door of
11 the LaBianca home. He and Tex went into the house and
12 the rest of us stayed in the car. After a while, he
13 came back --

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** After a while?
15 Five minutes, ten minutes?

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** It's hard for me to tell, but
17 probably within a 15-minute range. And called Pat and I
18 to get out of the car.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Did you have
20 weapons at that point?

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. I believe Tex Watson did
22 and he was in the house and --

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Was there a
24 plan how the killing was going to occur?

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I'm sorry. I'm sorry. It

1 might have been -- no. It was Manson that came and got
2 us. Yeah.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Was
4 there a plan how the murders were going to occur?

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** He said that he didn't want
6 them to be as gruesome. He didn't want it to be as
7 frightening for them. That they believed that it was a
8 robbery and to go in and do what Tex said. So we went
9 into the house, and Mr. and Mrs. LaBianca were sitting
10 on the sofa and --

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** When you
12 walked in, that's what you saw?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So they were
15 already detained and --

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. And they were
17 frightened, and he told Pat and I to go into the kitchen
18 and get knives, and we took Mrs. LaBianca into the
19 bedroom and put a pillowcase over her head. And she had
20 been pleading, you know, take whatever you want, and we
21 took her into the bedroom. I wrapped the lamp cord
22 around her head to hold the pillowcase on her head. I
23 went to hold her down.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What noises do
25 you hear around you now?

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** At that point, not much, and
2 then when I went to hold her down, we could hear
3 Mr. LaBianca dying. And she jetted forward and started
4 calling his name saying what are you doing. And I tried
5 to hold her down more, and Pat went to stab her on the
6 collarbone and the knife bent. And I ran to the door
7 and I told Tex we can't kill her, it's not working, or
8 something to that effect. Tex came into the bedroom.
9 At that moment, I stared off into a den and then Tex
10 turned me around, handed me a knife and said do
11 something. And I stabbed Mrs. LaBianca in the lower
12 torso with the knife he gave me.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You said you
14 stared off to the den. What do you mean by that?

15 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I was standing in a doorway
16 and like kitty-corner from the bedroom was a den.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Why
18 were you standing there?

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I was overwhelmed with what
20 was happening. I --

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Overwhelmed
22 how?

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I believe that thinking about
24 being able to be a part of that much violence and then
25 actually having the gumption or whatever it is to see it

1 through. I feel that I know that I was having a hard
2 time holding onto what was happening at that moment.
3 I'm not saying that I suddenly felt it was wrong. I
4 became more critical of myself that I wasn't as able to
5 participate as Tex and Pat.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Had you seen
7 the stabbings yet -- any of them?

8 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. Not at that point. I
9 was just staring into the den.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Then how did
11 you know stabbings were occurring? Did you hear?

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah, I --

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What did you
14 hear?

15 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** The sounds of death, guttural
16 sounds, struggles. Then he turned me around and said do
17 something, and that's when I stabbed Mrs. LaBianca in
18 the lower torso.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** How many times
20 did you stab her?

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** At the time, I couldn't have
22 told you. Coroner's reports say between 14 and 16
23 times.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Why did you
25 stab her?

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Because Tex told me to and I
2 knew I needed to do something. And during the LSD
3 trips, Manson had talked about us doing horrible things
4 to the bodies and I knew I wasn't capable, so I stabbed
5 her multiple times rather than mutilate her any further
6 than had been told us.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So now you
8 see --

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** So then I began wiping
10 fingerprints in the bedroom.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Let me ask you
12 this. You would have done anything at this point,
13 right? If there were babies in the home, would you have
14 killed babies, newborns, toddlers?

15 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I've been asked that a lot,
16 and to honestly answer that question, I don't know. I
17 think I would have if he'd have said.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And that's
19 more to ask obviously the degree of alliance that you
20 had with Manson -- the brainwashing -- more than --
21 people want to know or I want to know how deep you -- it
22 was. So you would have done -- would you have killed
23 yourself?

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** To answer that honestly,
25 yeah. Yeah. I feel in a sense I certainly surrendered

1 myself completely, morally, ethically. I sold
2 everything out.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And what was
4 that moment in the den about?

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I was just staring there. I
6 think I was just trying to get a bearing. I wasn't
7 really conscious. I just stared. I think I was trying
8 to get a bearing. It was a horrible thing that happened
9 and I think I was trying to --

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Do you believe
11 that Ms. LaBianca was dead at the time you were stabbing
12 her?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I believed it at the time.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Why did you
15 believe it at the time?

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Because she wasn't moving.
17 It seems that way.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Would it have
19 made a difference in your behavior?

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I don't think so. You know I
21 don't let myself off the hook, you know. I don't find
22 parts in any of this that makes me feel the slightest
23 bit good about myself in looking back at what I did.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** When people
25 say the name Manson, what do you think people think

1 about?

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I think that surrounding that
3 name now is a myth of a person that had great ability to
4 get other people to do what he wanted and that he
5 represents a very ghoulish part of Americana now.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Do you think
7 that name invokes fear in people?

8 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. Although I'm not so
9 sure if it's the kind of fear that was in the 70s and
10 80s. I think he's almost a caricature of horror now,
11 you know. I think that -- I'm not -- I think that the
12 fear was that people's homes were no longer safe. That
13 there was no rhyme or reason why they were selected, and
14 that meant everyone was vulnerable. But society has
15 scared itself a lot.

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** True.

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Through the movies and stuff,
18 so I'm not sure it has the same impact as the 70s and
19 80s. I think he's more of a cartoon now, to tell you
20 the truth, as a human being.

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** But you do
22 agree that the perception of Manson in the general
23 population evokes fear to a certain degree?

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Evil.

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** To a certain
3 degree.

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. And I understand that I
5 helped contribute to that.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** After you
7 wiped down the fingerprints, what did you do? Where did
8 you go?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Tex came in and told me he
10 wanted my change of clothes and to change my clothes.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Were you still
12 in the house?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. Still in the bedroom.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.
15 Visually you see blood everywhere, blood on your hands,
16 blood --

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I didn't have blood on me.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You did not?

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** And I told him I didn't need
22 to change my clothes, and he, at that point, said that
23 Manson wanted us to change our clothes, so I had to
24 change my clothes and to get Mrs. LaBianca's clothes.
25 And I did.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Were you in a
2 state of disarray at this point?

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Were you?

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** There's
7 reports that say you went into the fridge and got
8 chocolate milk.

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** On the way out through the
10 kitchen I think -- I don't know which one of us did, but
11 we took chocolate milk and cheese out of the house. I
12 believe it was Tex that did it. He also took a shower.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So that leads
14 to my question of disarray. Seems like it was -- the
15 way you were at it, you guys were just machines doing
16 what you did, afterwards getting some -- taking a
17 shower, very calmly getting some chocolate milk,
18 changing clothes and leaving.

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Is that how it
21 was or was it more in a state of --

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I was pretty much following
23 Tex's lead, but he was certainly comfortable with what
24 he was doing, and I was making sure that I did what he
25 wanted me to do.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Commissioner,
2 questions.

3 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Before he sent you out
4 on this murder, did he -- besides indoctrinating you,
5 did he test your resolve? Does that make any sense?

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Did he test --

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Your resolve in going
8 through with this? Did he put you through any tests?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** He would see how far each of
10 us were into him on a daily basis. He --

11 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** How did he go about
12 doing that?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** He like would bump into us on
14 the boardwalk or something like that and would begin
15 making faces and seeing how well would we keep up with
16 his faces and spend time and see what we were doing, and
17 there were some women that I think he checked how we
18 were doing. I'm sure he talked to Pat about things
19 regarding me, and Catherine Share certainly was involved
20 in who I was and how I was doing. So I think he had a
21 network of ways of watching how far were each of us with
22 him.

23 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** So during that entire
24 time, you were not aware at all that you were slowly
25 being brainwashed?

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I thought I was becoming a
2 better person, a more in-tune person. I didn't think of
3 it in terms of brainwashing. It was right there, you
4 know, be one, be one with him, surrender yourself, give
5 up all of the teachings of really the three main
6 institutions that help people become part of a
7 community.

8 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Well, that's very far-
9 fetched from that to violence. So why didn't the
10 violence wake you up? The concept of killing, what did
11 he -- maybe I should start by asking you what did he
12 teach you about death and killing?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That we were all one. That
14 bodies are shells. That our spirits live forever. That
15 there is no death.

16 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** So when you kill, what
17 does that mean?

18 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That the shell isn't there.

19 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** So that helps you to
20 make it easier? Does that make it easier for you to
21 kill when he taught you that? That when you kill, a
22 shell isn't there?

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I don't know if it made it
24 easier, but that was the philosophy. That you -- that
25 we were killing ourselves. That -- and you know, with

1 all honesty, once in the house, it was certainly clear
2 that that was not -- all of the preparation was not
3 reality at all. In the house it was very clear to me
4 that it was two individuals who had lives and wanted to
5 live.

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** It's my understanding
7 that the control continued even when you were at CIW
8 after the first trial. Is that correct?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Pretty much. And it took me
10 three years after being here. And the warden at the
11 time made a real effort with my mother to do things to
12 bring me back to my family of origin and begin the
13 process of re-indoctrinating myself to what the norms of
14 society are.

15 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** What was the plan?
16 What did he do?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** One of the things the warden
18 did was she and my mother brought -- she allowed my
19 mother to bring in a box of photos of our family
20 throughout the time and fix photo albums, and so I would
21 begin separating the photos to go into everyone in our
22 family's photo album with the idea of just reminding me
23 of what my life was like before.

24 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** What else?

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** The warden at the time

1 brought in some doctoral students from Santa Cruz.

2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Was that --

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** They talked to us about
4 feminism and all of that.

5 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Was that Nancy Stoller?

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** One of your support
8 letters?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. And we were very
10 limited on who we had access to when we were back in the
11 isolated unit. And so family came and there was also a
12 lot of time spent talking with the correctional officers
13 and --

14 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** What about education?
15 What kind of education were you offered to bring you
16 back to the person you were?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Some of the education was
18 English classes and all of that, but the Santa Cruz
19 people, they were feminists, and in the early 70s was
20 really sort of when the feminist movement was beginning
21 to take hold. And they would come and talk about
22 independence, and remember, there was a lot of
23 discussion about means and ends, you know, and the
24 importance of understanding that, and just -- I think
25 the classes were challenging the mindset. And then a

1 family member knew of a man who was doing time in New
2 York and they approved my writing him, and he would
3 begin to tell me games people play to sway other people
4 to try to let me see that I was, you know, taken for a
5 ride. That there was nothing spectacular about Manson.

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** How many years did it
7 take for you to break free of the -- of Manson's control
8 mentally?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I think by the third year I
10 was doing well. Because during the trial we saw him
11 every day, and he kept kind of running the show with how
12 terribly we disrespected the judicial system and --

13 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I'm sorry. What do you
14 mean?

15 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** We used to stand up in court
16 and yell at the judge and get thrown out of the
17 courtroom and --

18 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Did you do that at his
19 direction or you just --

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** He would pretty much tell us
21 the agenda for the day.

22 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** You're telling me he
23 had communication with you the whole time during the
24 trial?

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

1 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** How?

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** He sat at one corner of an L
3 and the -- my codefendants and I sat, you know, in front
4 of or behind our attorneys, and so he would signal us
5 and tell us things and the attorneys would pass messages
6 and we would have group meetings in a little side room.
7 We would have discussions and he would tell us things
8 then. And you know, that was that.

9 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Was there a moment, a
10 pivotal moment where you knew that he no longer had a
11 grasp or a hold on you?

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. As I remember it, they
13 had turned the isolated unit I was in into a unit for
14 people who were Manson affiliated, and the two of the
15 women that had been out in the community came on a
16 robbery of a weapons store and the prison put them in
17 with my codefendants and me. And when they came in,
18 they were talking the old Manson jargon and that Manson
19 had lost us in a card game and we now belonged to some
20 other guy whose name I don't remember. And I remember
21 myself -- looked across from Krenwinkel and I remember
22 that I looked over at her and I said I've changed. But
23 it was really at that point that I realized that I had
24 completely removed myself from the language and saw it
25 as offensive and that I was on my own. And at that --

1 about that time I never forgot what happened in the
2 home. It's not like I was going through something where
3 I've lost it. But I also believe I was numb to what had
4 happened, and so it was around that time period that I
5 also began to realize the magnitude of what had happened
6 and that I was going to have to find a way to live with
7 what I had become and who I would be as I lived with it.
8 The guilt really started coming then.

9 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** What have you done
10 since your incarceration to ensure that you will never
11 find yourself in this position again?

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I've --

13 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I mean granted, you're
14 66 years old. We're very well aware of that and I think
15 that certainly helps you, but what else have you done
16 other than aging to ensure that there won't be a repeat?

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Commissioner,
18 before we answer that question, can we take a quick
19 break?

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Sure.

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
22 The time is approximately 10:47. We're going to take a
23 five, ten-minute comfort break. Thank you.

24 (Off the record.)

25 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Back on record.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
2 The time is approximately 11 o'clock. All parties
3 previously identified are present. When we were
4 going -- when we did go off record and clearing the
5 room, it was brought to our attention through Mr. John
6 LaMontagne that this hearing was too stressful for him
7 so he would no longer participate through audio
8 communications, so he has now disconnected with us and
9 we are going to move forward. We may try at the time of
10 impact statements to give him a call to see if he wants
11 to. I'm not sure. I was a little confused if he
12 desired at that point, but just to the side of caution,
13 we may make that communication and avail him to that. I
14 don't believe there will be any objections to that.
15 Okay. So Commissioner, I think it was your area.

16 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Thank you.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

18 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I think we left with
19 the question -- left off with the question of what --
20 and by the way, I apologize if when I say aging it came
21 off disrespectful and it was not meant to be
22 disrespectful. I was more interested in what have you
23 done in here to address the issues that we do not see a
24 repeat again in the future.

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Do you want me to start at

1 the beginning?

2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Sure.

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Okay. Early in my
4 incarceration, my mother took the position that you're
5 not here by happenstance, or you know, you did something
6 and you're going to be paying for it and so don't lose
7 sight of that, which I was very thankful for, because
8 it -- when you're the incarcerated one, there's a way of
9 transferring the attention onto what's happening to me
10 and not what I did. And I appreciated that and I think
11 that that was important in decisions I made in how to
12 live with myself as I sobered up and landed and knew
13 that my life would be dealing with the murders of two
14 innocent people. In the beginning, there was a lot of
15 psychiatric intervention -- the women coming in from the
16 Santa Cruz Prison Project, and there was great emphasis
17 that I needed to earn all the privileges that I had.
18 That they -- the prison system wasn't just going to hand
19 me certain housing benefits and that I would be
20 monitored and watched.

21 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** What was the importance
22 of that lesson?

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That I needed to be conscious
24 of things that I was doing and to begin thinking about
25 consequences of actions and --

1 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Which was the opposite.

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Becoming responsible. Yeah.

3 Which was the opposite of where I had been.

4 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** So they were going to
5 reprogram you.

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** From the reprogramming.

8 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes, yes. And all of the --
9 this was done without medication. I was concerned that
10 when the heavy reality of the murders and a real
11 consciousness of them hit me that I didn't know what
12 would happen, because by then my guilt and my shame were
13 escalating, and so the psychiatrist at the time --
14 because I was in an isolated area, a psychiatrist came
15 and monitored, you know, assured me that I didn't need
16 medication and that I would be fine. Then I began being
17 able to take college courses. Over years I was moved to
18 the psychiatric treatment center because I had been in
19 isolation for five years. They felt that that would be
20 the best transition into going into the general housing.
21 And I began to work using the secretarial skills and I
22 feel that that was beginning to give me a foundation of
23 stability in the prison environment. For I think
24 probably all the way through the 80s, group therapy and
25 one-on-one counseling were part of the life prisoner

1 packet or recommendation, so I was able to be in
2 different therapy groups and I participated in that.
3 And the levels of understanding of who I was and how I
4 managed to surrender myself so willingly was at the root
5 of the therapy. And as the years go by, the dimension
6 and the level of awareness of what was going on became
7 more evident to me, you know.

8 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** What became more
9 evident to -- relevant -- I mean --

10 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That I have had a weakness in
11 being preoccupied with pleasing people and making sure
12 that they're happy -- excuse me. That I've had a
13 tendency to be a rescuer. That underneath my ability to
14 be easygoing, I was very self-critical.

15 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Where is all that
16 coming from?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** The pleasing?

18 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Yes.

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Well, when I was growing up,
20 I didn't have a set of -- you know I -- what I want to
21 say is I'll tell you where I see that it came from, but
22 I'm not blaming this on what happened to me, you know.
23 How I ended up, who I was that was part of the Manson
24 group and the murders -- I'm not --

25 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I don't think we're --

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Okay, okay.

2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Accusing you of that.

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Okay.

4 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I just want to
5 understand --

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** You want my awareness.

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I want a sense -- yes.

8 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Of who I am and how things
9 started.

10 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** And how you resolved
11 it.

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Okay. So when I was growing
13 up, I didn't have restrictions. My mom would say I know
14 you'll never let me down so I don't need to have a
15 curfew. And that inability for me to measure out put a
16 need for me to always be sure that I pleased her,
17 because if I didn't I would hurt her, and I didn't want
18 to hurt her. And the whole idea of resisting
19 confrontation, which has been something else I think
20 that has been a real damaging speck in my personality is
21 I felt that if I had a confrontation with someone that
22 they would leave me forever. You know I didn't have a
23 sense of independence. I always felt dependent on other
24 people. What I've done to address all of the character
25 flaws that made me want to be with Manson and wanted to

1 give up who I was I've addressed through the therapy,
2 becoming aware of -- the click word right now is
3 triggers, but I can read myself and see what's going on
4 and why something is happening and --

5 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** How do you stop the
6 need to please?

7 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** When I feel that I'm thinking
8 too much about a situation that made me uncomfortable,
9 when I should have been able to let it go shortly after
10 it happened, I see that as holding onto something, that
11 I'm making it bigger than it should have been and not
12 resolving it right then and there. That to please
13 people is to assume that I know what they want, and by
14 assuming and acting on it, I'm taking on that behavior
15 myself instead of having conversations.

16 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Do you still have a
17 need to please people?

18 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. Not -- I think that
19 there's little leftovers, but not enough that it
20 controls my personality at all.

21 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** And how have you
22 resolved your tendency -- and I believe over the years
23 some of the doctors, they couldn't come up -- they said
24 you didn't warrant an Axis I diagnosis, but a couple of
25 them came up with dependent personality.

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** And that sounds like
3 everything you've testified to today supports that. How
4 have you resolved that?

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Well, I don't look to others
6 for answers. I probably look to others for
7 conversation. I don't feel that someone else can
8 correct or fix my problems in life. That I need to do
9 that. I've deliberately put myself in positions that I
10 need to be focused and a problem-solver and put my ideas
11 forward. I think that my job has helped me become very
12 independent, and I'm currently on the Women's Advisory
13 Council Executive Body, which means that there are
14 always people who are displeased with me, and I'm
15 comfortable with that because I know I'm standing on
16 what I need to. And I'm not shy of having discussions
17 and I'm comfortable when there are disagreements if I
18 know that I'm comfortable with my position.

19 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** How have you resolved
20 the self-critical part?

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I've worked so hard at trying
22 to just become comfortable with who I am that I'm not
23 looking for perfection.

24 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Well, and that's my
25 next question. Do you like who you are as you sit here

1 today?

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes, I do.

3 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Why?

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I've worked very, very hard
5 to -- there are some days that it's harder when I think
6 of all of the damage that I did as a young woman. That
7 I see that as just part of living my life, that those
8 days come and they're hard, but for the most part, I
9 like how I've managed to turn my life into an amends. I
10 feel good about my morals and my ethics. I have a good
11 set of friends, those incarcerated and outside. I love
12 helping younger women learn how to become independent
13 women. I get a great deal of satisfaction out of that.

14 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** How do you live with
15 yourself knowing that you took part in such a gruesome
16 murder?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I realize that the way that I
18 could live with myself was to do as much good as I can
19 in the environment that I'm in, and when I help a young
20 woman find her way and she doesn't recidivate because I
21 shared my life, that helps.

22 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I'd like to go back, if
23 I may, about the abortion, because that seems to have
24 been a very pivotal point in your life.

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

1 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Why was that so
2 devastating to you? Was it at a religious level? Can
3 you unravel that?

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I wanted a baby. I wanted to
5 have the baby. I felt very connected to the baby and I
6 was devastated that mom was so firm. And I was quite
7 critical of myself that I didn't stand up to her. I was
8 critical of myself -- not quite as critical of myself
9 but almost as critical of myself over that as not
10 standing up to Manson, you know, not acting on it.

11 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** So you blame yourself
12 for the killing of the fetus?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah. That I somehow, even
14 though in the 60s there weren't a lot of options for
15 young women who were pregnant, there wasn't conversation
16 about it, you know. There was adoption. There was
17 abortion or marriage, you know. Those were the --

18 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** When was the very last
19 time you had any communications with Manson?

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I believe I was called out to
21 court for one of his trials and I didn't testify and
22 that was that. And then over the years, now and then
23 he'll send something in through the mail.

24 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** When is the last time
25 you received any communications from him?

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I received something in the
2 mail through him which I think came from someone else
3 writing it for him.

4 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** What year?

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Shortly after my last Board
6 hearing.

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Wow. So he's still
8 trying to communicate with you to this day?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Every now and then. Not
10 often. I've only, over the 40-year period, I've
11 probably only received three missives and I turned them
12 over to the institutional investigator's office.

13 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Did you read what was
14 in the letter?

15 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah. Yeah.

16 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** What did he want?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Accusing me for not standing
18 loyal, making up stuff, you know, not -- it's all geared
19 toward him getting out of prison and being critical of
20 me and I've turned into the very thing that he tried to
21 save me from, you know.

22 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** How does that make you
23 feel? What does that do to you when you receive a
24 letter from him like that?

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** First of all, I wonder why

1 the authorities didn't catch it, you know, and then I
2 feel uncomfortable that he remembers me and --

3 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Do the old memories
4 come back?

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I'm more thankful that
6 they -- his words don't mean anything to me anymore.
7 But it kind of validates who he was in my life when he
8 does that.

9 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** What do you think of
10 him today?

11 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I probably -- I had an early
12 group -- I mean this was a one-on-one with a Dr. Ponath.
13 I think it was in the 90s. She really worked with me to
14 help me understand that he's just an abusive man, not
15 greater or lesser than any of the other people that
16 choose to be abusive.

17 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Do you believe that?

18 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah. Yeah. I was able to
19 just turn him into a guy that had the skills to
20 manipulate young people, and while I surrendered myself,
21 I just think that I've tried to negate him, you know.
22 I've tried to remove him from who I am. And years ago I
23 felt fragmented. I would always tell someone well, this
24 was before I knew Manson. Well, this is during Manson
25 and this was after. And so I asked if I could have

1 therapy that I give myself back to me and not define my
2 life by the fragments of him. And I questioned
3 sometimes why he's able to have some of the privileges
4 that he has, and I find him extremely offensive, that he
5 still mimics and mocks so much pain, and I think it's
6 offensive that he can still get recognition.

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** What do you mean when
8 you say he still mocks so much pain?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** The bits that I see of him,
10 he makes fun of the murders. He makes fun of the pain.
11 He makes fun of the family. He makes fun of, you know,
12 all of the people that have suffered, and you know, I
13 don't think much of him.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You talk about
15 the recognition of Charles Manson, but you yourself have
16 engaged in recognition tools as well.

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes, I --

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Is that
19 correct?

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. In the -- around '94 I
21 gave two or three interviews, and part of that was
22 because at that time, he was becoming popular with teens
23 that were wearing T-shirts with his face, and Guns N'
24 Roses, which was a rock band, were singing a song of
25 his, and I decided that I was going to try and say as

1 much as I could, as I did today, to try to get people to
2 be able to see who he was.

3 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** When is the last time
4 you had any communication with Pat?

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I see her -- she lives in the
6 same prison that I do.

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Right.

8 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** So I see her now and then on
9 the sidewalks, and sometimes we're in the same groups
10 together.

11 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Do you guys still talk
12 about the past anymore?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. No.

14 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Are you still in
15 contact with any other of the Manson family?

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. No.

17 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** You've been denied
18 parole 19 times.

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** And yet when I read the
21 clinician's report, you say that you're mostly
22 optimistic.

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

24 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** How? Where are you
25 getting the strength to move on after being denied 19

1 times?

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** It became pretty clear to me
3 that the crime might well override my ever gaining
4 release from prison, and I have a solid support network
5 of friends, and I realize that I had a -- I needed to
6 figure out how to create a life for myself that has
7 value and it's not second-best. And within the confines
8 and restrictions of a prison environment to know that I
9 have been able to create a life that if this is the end
10 of the road for me, I can at the end know that I lived a
11 life as good as I could for what I had done. And so
12 I've been able to get great satisfaction in what I do
13 today and in the programs I'm involved in and being able
14 to help women obtain advance, you know, associate of
15 arts degrees, from their high school or GED, gives me
16 great value. I'm treated well by the community in here,
17 despite who I am, and I've been able to make a life for
18 myself that is rewarding. I mean it's frustrating, too,
19 you know, but I'm sure --

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** How have you --

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Bumper to bumper traffic is
22 like when we're locked up and I can't do something. I
23 deal with those things.

24 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** How do you deal with
25 the disappointment of a denial each time?

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I go back and over a period
2 of time I -- I'm sorry. I get emotional. I evaluate
3 what's the true meaning of life, what creates happiness.
4 My family are resigned to whatever the State and the
5 system do and decide. They are with me in this and they
6 love me and we have a beautiful relationship and I --

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Some people
8 would argue that you had a death sentence.

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes, I did.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And that death
11 sentence should have been carried out.

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And by virtue
14 of you not being put to death, that in a way is your
15 gift or your release.

16 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** I don't normally interrupt,
17 but I want to interrupt here and is -- her death
18 sentence was overturned by the courts.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** I understand.

20 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Okay.

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** I totally
22 understand. I know it wasn't her.

23 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** She never had a death
24 sentence that stood like the others did.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** I understand.

1 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Yeah.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And how did
3 you feel initially about your death sentence?

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** In the beginning it was what
5 had been predicted by Manson. It was with the
6 abolishment of the death sentence that I began to
7 wonder. He had said --

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Wonder about
9 what?

10 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** The revolution and all of
11 that, you know, because they abolished the death
12 sentence rather quickly after I came here, within a
13 year, year and a half. And with that -- I agree with
14 you that with that I understood that I had a huge
15 responsibility and a new life to decide who I was going
16 to be. And even though I was a young person and I've
17 made mistakes along the way, I determined that I needed
18 to be someone that never deliberately did harm to
19 another human being, even with words. I understood that
20 I had a strong obligation to become as forthright of a
21 person as I could.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** The
23 Commissioner has asked you in different facets how your
24 age played a role. She asked you about how you've
25 changed, the maturity throughout the years and things of

1 that nature. I want to ask you about how your age
2 played a role at the time of your life crime. Do you
3 believe it played a role in any facet?

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I believe if I'd have had
5 more life experience, I probably wouldn't have been so
6 willing to surrender to Manson.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** I asked you
8 initially if you were to go back to talk to yourself in
9 the commune, there was no changing the path of where
10 you -- what you were going to engage in and to change
11 your behavior. At what point in your life would there
12 have been an opportunity for you to talk to yourself and
13 change the path?

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I would have hoped that I
15 could have talked to myself when I finished business
16 school and my dad offered me the best thing a kid my age
17 could ever be offered. I would have hoped that I could
18 have broken through to myself then.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Commissioner.

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I think I read
21 somewhere in the file that you actually were able to
22 make bail for your third murder trial.

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Third trial, yeah.

24 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Third trial, right.
25 But you had decided to bail after Christmas because you

1 felt that's the least you owe the LaBianca family. Is
2 that correct?

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

4 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Was that at the
5 suggestion of someone else or that was your --

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. That was mine.

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** What year was that,
8 '78?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

10 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** And at that point you
11 were -- what year were you completely free of Manson, in
12 your mind?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** It's hard to pick an exact
14 year, but '73, '74, around in there.

15 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** So by '78, would it be
16 fair to say you were free of -- of a pretty clear mind?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

18 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** All right. When did
19 you feel remorse for what you'd done?

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I think that the remorse
21 started when Catherine Share and Mary Brunner came into
22 the housing unit and I realized that I had moved away
23 from them and --

24 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Is that when you --

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** It was a slow process. I

1 think that might have been around '73 or '74. I'm not
2 clear on it exactly.

3 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I believe that's the
4 same period when you were slowly coming out of it,
5 right?

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Okay. So you didn't
8 feel any remorse the first few years.

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I don't think independent
10 remorse. I felt badly that it had to happen, but I
11 still believed it had to happen. Do you understand what
12 I'm --

13 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Yes.

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Okay.

15 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** So when did you have
16 true remorse?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** When I was able to understand
18 that it was senseless. That it was a loss of innocent
19 lives for no purpose.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What crimes do
21 you think you were responsible for?

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I feel that I'm responsible
23 for -- I robbed my dad before the murder. I robbed my
24 dad's house. I feel that I am responsible for not ever
25 speaking up or saying anything, so basically I feel

1 responsible morally for the entire crime, the first,
2 second -- I feel responsible for all of it. Even if
3 legally I'm not charged, I never said no. When Pat told
4 me what happened, I did not go to the Malibu Police
5 Department. I made no effort. I made no effort, so
6 certainly morally I'm bound to that.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So although
8 counsel makes a legal argument about victims' next-of-
9 kin being present at your hearing here today, you still
10 know that the -- nonetheless believe that these
11 individuals were all victims of your crime.

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes, I do.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Morally.

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Anything else,
16 Commissioner?

17 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Could any of this
18 happen without the introduction of drugs into your life?

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** And I want to talk
21 about sobriety.

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

23 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Or do you want to
24 finish the --

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** No. Please go

1 ahead.

2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I mean I must be honest
3 with you. I spent an inordinate amount of time on your
4 case and reading these past transcripts. It seems to me
5 that over the years, the Panel -- the past Panels have
6 pretty much taken -- I guess because you've been
7 facilitating AA/NA and all that -- that it's kind of a
8 given that you kind of have your sobriety issue under
9 control. But I'd like to revisit that. What is your
10 sobriety date?

11 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** 1976.

12 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** So you were using while
13 you were in here at CIW?

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

15 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** What did you do?

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Marijuana briefly.

17 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** What about harder stuff
18 like LSD, meth?

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. I had one LSD trip when
20 I was on death row.

21 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** What year was that?

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Early 70s.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** How did that
24 go?

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I spent the trip trying to --

1 it didn't go well. I won't tell you. It adds to the
2 madness. Unless you want to know.

3 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Actually I do want to
4 know.

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Okay.

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** What do you mean?

7 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I spent the trip trying to
8 break down my molecules so that I could exit the
9 building, and I didn't take any more after that.

10 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** How did you stop using
11 drugs with -- I mean coming from somebody who has used
12 everything, how did you stop?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** At some point it occurred to
14 me that to continue to use drugs when they played a part
15 in the crime is very disrespectful of the memory and
16 it's irresponsible of me.

17 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** How did you come to
18 that?

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Therapy groups and me. I was
20 always -- once I found out that Frank Struthers -- who
21 is the son of Mrs. LaBianca -- found his stepfather, it
22 impacted me. I knew it at the trials, but it impacted
23 me more later on. That was one of the key realities
24 that I reflected on and had a lot to do with decisions
25 that I made in the second trial. Susan Struthers was

1 the one that came into the courtroom and identified the
2 photos, and I felt moral obligations to them throughout
3 my time, which is why I didn't want to bail when they
4 didn't have their mother and stepfather.

5 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** But none of that
6 stopped you from using drugs for the next six years.

7 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I had already stopped.

8 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I'm sorry. That's
9 right. That was back in '78.

10 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

11 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Sorry.

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** But you know to go to the
13 AA/NA, I have chosen to believe in the genetic
14 connection, that my dad was an alcoholic, and you know,
15 while I didn't become an alcoholic, the addiction
16 thought process is something that I pay very close
17 attention to. And I try to live my life as much as I
18 can by the 12 steps. I think it's life-saving, and even
19 if people aren't addicts that the 12-step program is a
20 really good way to live your life.

21 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** How come I don't see
22 chronos of you continuing to AA and NA?

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** AA and NA are at night, and
24 so I spoke with the chaplain, the Catholic chaplain, to
25 see if we could have a daytime small kind of home group

1 and the women that worked at night that were part of
2 that group decided that we would make it -- instead of
3 an AA or NA group, it would become Emotions Anonymous,
4 EA, which falls under the umbrella of AA. They're
5 sanctioned.

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** So that's your --

7 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** My home group and --

8 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Yeah. So you are still
9 working on your 12 steps.

10 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. I feel like I will
11 always do that, and I have a sponsor in the community
12 that, you know, it's a little awkward, but I have
13 someone there so --

14 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Who is it? Who is your
15 sponsor?

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Her name is Kim.

17 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Yeah. I read so many
18 letters, I don't -- did she submit a letter?

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** She submits a letter through
20 the lawyer because of the anonymity.

21 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** And how long has she
22 been your sponsor?

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** About two years.

24 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** And how did you get a
25 hold of her?

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Through a friend.

2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I see.

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I'm not -- you know she
4 probably won't remain my sponsor forever from how it
5 works.

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** In the 46 years you've
7 been incarcerated, how many of those years did you spend
8 on AA/NA concepts on working on your sobriety?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Until 1986 I was on close
10 custody and I couldn't go out in the evening, and the
11 Board made AA/NA part of a requirement for my next
12 hearing. And so since the mid-80s I've been part of the
13 AA/NA program.

14 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** So 30 years?

15 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

16 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Can you give us an
17 example of how you work your steps every day?

18 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Now I mainly focus on ten and
19 11 and 12.

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Okay.

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** And I also pay attention to
22 six and seven. I pay a lot of attention to the
23 shortcomings because I don't ever want them to get out
24 of control.

25 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** What is six and what is

1 seven?

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Six is when you become
3 conscious of your shortcomings and become willing to
4 have them removed. And seven is asking your higher
5 power to remove them.

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** How many times have you
7 gone through the 12 steps in the last -- I mean if
8 there's too many, there's too many, but do you remember?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

10 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** So you've gone through
11 it (inaudible).

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Even in the home group, we
13 just continuously review steps.

14 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** And you do all the
15 written exercises?

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** The step four and eight.

17 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Correct.

18 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. I've done those.

19 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** So in step four, who is
20 on that list?

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Of the personal inventory?

22 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** The people that you've
23 harmed.

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I think that's eight.

25 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I apologize.

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No, that's all right.

2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I was just testing you.

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That's okay. That's okay.

4 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Who is on that list?

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Certainly the family members
6 of my victims, the friends that cared about Mr. and
7 Mrs. LaBianca. On the list are my own family and what
8 they went through as a result of my behaviors.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Let me ask you
10 this. Besides the list being present, how do you show
11 amends? How do you show remorse? How do you show
12 empathy?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I feel that I do it as best I
14 can with every decision I make every day on who I am.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And how does
16 that play -- how does that work? What do you mean,
17 every decision I make? So you make a decision. You say
18 oh, I want to make -- I want to show remorse or how does
19 that --

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. I think I try to live my
21 life as an act of contrition, you know. If I see
22 someone and they seem troubled, I ask them do you want
23 to talk or do you want to be left alone or how you doing
24 today. In my living community I --

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** I've seen

1 you've done a lot of work in not only participating per
2 se in groups, but leading, facilitating different groups
3 through your time. What benefit does -- has
4 facilitating, leading groups, tutoring, mentoring -- how
5 does that work in your life?

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Well, I've been at this, you
7 know, the therapy and everything, for years. So to
8 become a facilitator is only to pass on what I have
9 gained through my own therapies.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Yeah. But
11 I've seen a lot of people that have been incarcerated
12 for 20, 25, 30 years never become facilitators.

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I get great satisfaction out
14 of being able to take all the lessons that I've learned
15 and hopefully introduce questions to other women that
16 might open doors for them.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What do you
18 learn from facilitating for say yourself -- anything?

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** How unremarkable, how common
20 the downfalls of people are. How fragile we all are.
21 And how much empathy I'm able to have and understanding
22 who the people are. I get, I think, probably more out
23 of facilitating than the people that are going through
24 the program.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** When you

1 started your prison term, you were still under the
2 control of Manson. At a certain point you realized or
3 you came out of that way of thinking. And did the
4 progression happen for you that you started initially
5 blaming Manson for all your troubles, your history?

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Sure.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** That happens.
8 I think it's, to a certain degree, human nature.

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Part of being overwhelmed
10 with what I was facing, that's where I think when I
11 mentioned my mom being a real guiding light in what I
12 was going to do with my life, you know. She never fed
13 into my being able to find an excuse for what I did.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Would these
15 crimes have happened without Charles Manson being in
16 your life?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** You mean -- I don't quite
18 understand. If --

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You said drugs
20 played a role. You wouldn't have committed these crimes
21 but for the drugs.

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. No. I wouldn't have
23 committed them.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** When did you
25 start taking responsibility that you were in fact

1 responsible for these crimes?

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I think around that whole
3 same time period, probably the mid-70s. Not as much as
4 I do today, you know. Life is in layers, and each time
5 I go back, it's a little deeper.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
7 Anything else? While you ponder I'm going to go -- I'll
8 put on the record the risk assessments in a variety of
9 areas just for the record to be clear. The risk
10 assessment by Dr. Kropf was prepared on February 2nd,
11 2016 and we addressed a lot of the issues, child and
12 adolescent development, adult development. We talked
13 about your criminal history, the life crime, prior risk
14 assessments, substance abuse. The clinician makes the
15 assessments that it seems that substances did not --
16 this is on page 7 of 13, the third paragraph, second
17 sentence. It seems that substances did not play a
18 significant role in her commission of her life term
19 offense. It appears that her involvement in a cult
20 played a more significant role in her commission of the
21 offenses. The last paragraph in that section the
22 clinician notes in this examiner's opinion that Ms. Van
23 Houten meets the criteria for other hallucinogen use
24 disorder severe, cannabis use disorder severe,
25 stimulant-related disorder moderate. On page 8 of 13

1 under analysis of historical factors, second -- last
2 paragraph in that -- on that page, on page 8 of 13, she
3 has exhibited prosocial behaviors throughout most of her
4 imprisonment. Substance abuse and negative peer
5 associations seem less relevant risk factors today than
6 they represented at the time of imprisonment. Clinician
7 opines in the next paragraph on page 9 of 13 that her
8 PCL-R score is far below the means of North American
9 female inmates and well below the cutoff or threshold
10 commonly used to identify dissocial and psychopathic
11 personality. On page 10 of 13 the last paragraph.
12 Ms. Van Houten seems to recognize the impact of her
13 crimes on her victims, her victims' families and the
14 community. She understands the factors contributing to
15 her involvement in the cult and her commission of her
16 life term offenses. She cited factors, including
17 dysfunctional relationships with her mother, her feeling
18 of abandonment by her father, her feeling of alienation,
19 the trauma of her abortion, her modest coping skills,
20 her substance abuse, and her drug addiction. On the
21 first paragraph on the next page -- page 11 of 13 -- the
22 clinician opines she evidenced understanding of how her
23 propensities toward addiction and dependence on others
24 led to -- her to gravitate to the cult. She cited the
25 trauma of her abortion, the shutting down of her

1 personality, and the drug use as contributing to her
2 willingness to kill and to be a good soldier. The
3 clinician noted youthful factors in her final analysis
4 as well as elderly parole in ultimately concluding that
5 she represents a low risk of violence in this
6 clinician's opinion. Commissioner.

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Should I go through the
8 post-conviction now? Okay. I'm going to -- at this
9 point we went through most of your post-conviction
10 factors, ma'am. I see that your last hearing was on
11 June 5th, 2013. I'm only going to go over what you've
12 been doing since the last hearing, okay. Looks like you
13 had a five-year denial and then we advanced the hearing.
14 Placement score is still at a mandatory minimum of 19.
15 Custody level Medium-A and you still work as a tutor,
16 correct?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

18 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** You've been doing that
19 for what, 11 years?

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Ten years.

21 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Ten years. Okay. And
22 your institutional behavior is excellent. There's never
23 been any problems other than in 1981 for talking. And
24 you've upgraded educationally. You got a BA. I thought
25 you also had a BA not just in English lit, but wasn't

1 there a psychology?

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. That was the minor.

3 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Okay. Because I
4 thought I saw that.

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** And then your MA in
7 humanities. You got that recently. I have to -- was
8 going to ask you because you did your thesis on -- was
9 it sustainable rehabilitation?

10 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

11 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Can you tell me more
12 about that?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I took the full virtues of
14 Socrates and I put compilations of women in the prison
15 and I overlaid Plato's Socratic dialogues and took the
16 position that until someone has advanced in their morals
17 and ethics that rehabilitation is often temporary. That
18 someone has to truly understand why the behavior is
19 erroneous and living in the community so the -- that was
20 basically my thesis.

21 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Very nice. And I see
22 some of the professors sent in support letters citing
23 your work.

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

25 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** All right. Vocations.

1 So as far as vocations, I saw two, and that is data
2 processing back in the 80s, was it?

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

4 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** And but basically at
5 this point your skill is in tutoring and teaching.

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Okay. No other
8 vocations that I saw, correct?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

10 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Okay. And work -- so
11 is -- give me an idea of what a week is like for you
12 here. What is your schedule here?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I work between 12 and 7:30 at
14 night.

15 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Tutoring?

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Well, kind of preparing for
17 the Chaffey program. They just received a large grant
18 and they're trying to expand their program so a more
19 diverse population can get certificates.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What's the
21 Chaffey program? I know you've been engaged in that
22 program.

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Chaffey College is a local
24 community college and they have a relationship with this
25 prison. And for the last ten years they've been

1 offering AA degrees in different subjects. They started
2 with liberal arts, and now it's been business
3 entrepreneurship. And the women take 12 units a
4 semester and it's a 2-1/2 year commitment program and so
5 we have someone from the Chaffey College that supervises
6 us and then we have someone from the education
7 department that supervises us. And we act sometimes as
8 teaching assistants and at the same time tutors. So we
9 make sure that the program works well in here
10 maintaining the standards of the community college.

11 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** And that's full time
12 Monday through Friday?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

14 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** And what are you
15 teaching or tutoring?

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Right now I'm -- because of
17 the change in the program, I'm not doing as much in
18 class work and I'm tutoring in intercultural
19 communications and the basic beginning guidance class.
20 And I've also -- recently UCLA has -- is doing a pilot
21 program called Merits of Change and I was fortunate to
22 be selected as the teaching assistant for that class.

23 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Okay. So I mean you
24 gave me a list of all the self-help that you've done
25 since the last hearing, and I've cross-referenced it

1 against the -- your record. When do you have time to do
2 all these other things that you've done? Emotions
3 Anonymous, Business Smarts, Ethics, Compassion,
4 Cooperation, Jewish Ethics. Where do you find time to
5 do that?

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Those were in the mornings
7 and early afternoon, and then the -- some of them are on
8 weekends. And I have permission to have one night off
9 to do the Victim Offender Education Program. I --

10 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** You've been doing that
11 for how long? You facilitate it, right?

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I just started the
13 facilitator. The original group that I went through was
14 about 22 months of every Thursday night, and now they
15 select someone to become the facilitator and work with
16 the outside facilitators, so I've been doing that for
17 maybe four or five months.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** I saw within
19 the chronos recently in 2014 and '15 this program called
20 Actors' Gang Prison Project.

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And it was
23 signed by the artistic director, Tim Robbins.

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What is that?

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** The Actors' Gang was started
2 at UCLA, I guess, many, many years ago, and they use a
3 series of exercises that they do out there. And a woman
4 named Sabra Williams joined the group and said what are
5 you doing regarding prison. And it doesn't have to do
6 with acting. That is simply the people that are
7 sponsoring the program. What they do is in the program
8 there are different exercises that promote community
9 awareness and being part of a group and working well
10 within a group, and then they work off the idea of four
11 basic emotions, which are sadness, happiness, anger and
12 fear. And they use these thought characters from the
13 1500s and a participant will pick one of those
14 characters, and then through the character express those
15 emotions, and what it's designed to do is help people
16 become more aware of what's going on inside of
17 themselves because it's more comfortable to do it
18 through a fictitious character than from yourself.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Thank
20 you.

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** So that's basically what it
22 is.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

24 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** What do you get out of
25 the Victim Offender Education Group?

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** With all of the therapy that
2 I've done and everything, I think the design of the
3 Victim Offender program really hits head-on what I did
4 and understanding why I did it but know that doesn't
5 justify it. It's learning -- I'm learning to live with
6 what I did in a way that is not harmful in the future.
7 It is an organized way of looking at some of the things
8 we talked about today regarding growing up and the
9 effects it had to help understand the things that were
10 going on inside of me. And then the second half of the
11 program talks about the victims and the responsibility
12 that I have toward the victims and understanding that my
13 behavior has affected all of those lives and I have a
14 responsibility to live the best way that I can. And the
15 exercise had a lot to do with the depth of the sorrow
16 and suffering, how it doesn't end.

17 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** But since the last
18 hearing, you've engaged in one-on-one counseling. I
19 think part of it was to respond to the last Panel's
20 concerns, correct?

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

22 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** You've been doing it
23 since August of 2014. What have you learned from the
24 one-on-one counseling?

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I just got more understanding

1 of my relationship with my parents. The last Panel felt
2 that I hadn't made connections to the depths of what
3 their divorce meant and so I looked deeper into that and
4 also the abortion, you know. The last Panel felt I
5 didn't have a sense of why and how one thing led to
6 another, so I had ten weeks of two-hour sessions to gain
7 more insight into that.

8 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Well, it says here that
9 Van Houten has dealt specifically with issues dealing
10 with the lack of boundaries and the need for acceptance.
11 What did you learn about your life with boundaries?

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That I didn't have any. That
13 I felt an overwhelming need to make sure other people
14 were okay, even if it was at my expense. I didn't
15 really have a sieve of discernment, and part of that was
16 connected, you know, to some of my upbringing.

17 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Okay. Then you also
18 took Zen meditation and Buddhism. So how many courses
19 are you facilitating now?

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Right now I facilitate the
21 Victim Offender.

22 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Okay.

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I'm being trained to
24 facilitate the Prison Project.

25 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Okay.

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I am on the Executive Body of
2 the Women's Advisory Council. I have my tutoring, and
3 once a week I have Emotions Anonymous. So I think
4 that's about it.

5 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** That's a handful. All
6 right. And you have so many laudatory chronos that I --
7 it's in the file. I'm not even going to go through it
8 at this point. As far as parole plans, you have a lot
9 of support letters from a lot of childhood friends,
10 right?

11 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Uh-huh.

12 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Susan Talbot, Elizabeth
13 Gray, Linda Grippi and etcetera, and they're all
14 offering their home basically to you and said that
15 you're welcome there and they'll help you with
16 transportation, with money, with whatever it is that you
17 need. And you also have a letter from Rosie Rose
18 transitional home. Is that -- I think that's the only
19 transitional home that you applied to. Is that right?

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. I used to -- last
21 hearing I had Crossroads, but the Board determined that
22 wasn't a good idea.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Is it Roxie
24 Rose or Rosie Rose?

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Roxie.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Roxie. Okay.

2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Sorry. I wrote Roxie
3 and I said Rosie. Go ahead. I'm sorry.

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** So do you want me to talk
5 about the transition home?

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** No. Let's
7 talk about what your plan is when you get out.

8 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** If and when
10 you're granted parole, if and when you're released from
11 parole, what is your parole plans? What do you envision
12 doing? Where do you envision living in the next six
13 months to a year?

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I would live at Roxie Rose.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** And there are a number of
17 reasons that I would like to do that. One is that the
18 woman that runs the program was a lieutenant here and I
19 have a relationship with her where she knows me. And
20 she runs a transitional living, and in her letter she
21 said that she would hire me to help with some of the
22 women that are there, and I think that would be a good
23 thing for me as I begin to figure out how I'll live my
24 life.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Ideally, how

1 long do you plan to live there?

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** She offered me up to the
3 three years. Ideally I would stay as long as the agent
4 felt that I needed to and I felt comfortable. So if
5 it's the full three years, I'd be good with that.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And then what?

7 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** At that point I would -- it's
8 hard for me to say sitting here today since I know so
9 little of the world out there, but I'm sure that by then
10 I would have found a way to care for myself and probably
11 live in a home with a friend so that I never was
12 overwhelmed with expenses.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What do you
14 envision the biggest issue would be upon release for
15 you, trigger, consternation -- the biggest issue for you
16 on -- in a free society?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Fitting in, you know. Last
18 time I said having anonymity and I was pointed out all
19 the things I've done to counteract that, and I have to
20 look at that and acknowledge it, but I would like to
21 live a life that's quiet and close to the people that
22 love me.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** We know from
24 the record there are thousands and thousands of
25 opposition signatures that have been provided, not from

1 only this city, not from this state, from countries all
2 over the world. How do you feel about that? How does
3 that play a role -- these many people some way or the
4 other you've impacted?

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I feel very badly that I
6 created that much fear in their lives that they would
7 want me to remain incarcerated forever.

8 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** As far as work, I mean
9 I have a letter here from Professor Nancy Stoller at UC
10 Santa Cruz that says that she was -- we offer you a job
11 as a research assistant. Is that one of the plans or do
12 you have other offers than that?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** That's one of the offers.
14 The one that I would like to pursue the most is to see
15 what I could do within the Chaffey community.

16 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I see. And I apologize
17 but did they send a letter? Did they offer you a job?

18 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** They haven't directly offered
19 but said that they would help me.

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Good, yeah, okay.

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** And that I have the skills.

22 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** I see. I thought that
23 I missed it.

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** And I have the skills to be
25 able to be employed.

1 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** She's talking about the
2 recent letter, yes.

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I enjoy research, and you
4 know, at this point, whatever I'm able to do and get
5 with the skills that I have I would love, so --

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you. I
7 think your education and parole plans and support are by
8 any standard of Title 15 -- you demonstrate viability at
9 least.

10 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Anything else about
11 your parole plans or your programming? Anything I've
12 missed? Anything you wish to highlight further?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Just that should the day
14 come, I have a tremendous support network that will make
15 sure that I do all that is expected of me and --

16 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** And we do see that,
17 so --

18 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Okay.

19 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Okay. Nothing more,
20 Commissioner.

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
22 We're going to take another recess. The time is
23 approximately --

24 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** I do have one thing. This
25 might be a really good time to really quickly -- there's

1 a mistake -- a typo on page 7 of the psych report and on
2 the substance abuse and history, the last sentence of
3 that paragraph it says that --

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Sorry. Let me
5 get there first.

6 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Okay.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What page
8 again?

9 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Page 7.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Page 7. Okay.
11 What paragraph?

12 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** The first paragraph, the last
13 sentence. It said that Ms. Van Houten had used
14 substances in the community prior to her resentencing
15 and --

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

17 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** It's documented in the
18 Probation Officer's Report on item (h) that she was --
19 while she was out on bail she was clean and sober and I
20 think it's just a typo from when --

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. So you
22 never indicated that to the clinician?

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Thank
25 you. That's it.

1 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Okay.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
3 The time is 12:15. We're going to recess for a break.
4 Thank you.

5 (Off the record.)

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** All right. We're back
7 on record.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
9 The time is approximately 12:35. All parties previously
10 identified are present. So we covered all areas. I
11 think we're ready for clarifying questions at this time.

12 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Thank you.
13 Would the Panel ask --

14 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** (Inaudible).

15 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** I'm sorry.
16 Thank you. I didn't want to cough into the microphone.

17 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** That's okay.

18 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Would the
19 Panel please ask the inmate if she feels that the
20 evaluation from the MFT Alyson Hurlbutt is an
21 independent unbiased opinion.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** MFT.

23 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** MFT, marriage
24 and family therapist.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And the one

1 she submitted to the Board?

2 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Correct.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And what is
4 the question?

5 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** If she
6 believes that it is an independent, unbiased evaluation
7 or opinion.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Next question.
9 Thank you.

10 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Could the
11 Panel please ask the inmate how long she has been a
12 friend of Alyson Hurlbutt.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. So she
14 submitted this letter and this document, and so this
15 individual is -- let's get to where this is going
16 before -- so I know exactly where the question is
17 leading.

18 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Okay.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** I mean I can't
20 ask questions that I don't know what I'm asking about.

21 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Thank you.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You
23 understand?

24 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Yeah.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

1 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** The inmate
2 told the Panel at the last hearing that Alyson Hurlbutt
3 had been her friend of ten years back in 2013. Now it
4 appears she has been a friend for approximately 13
5 years. It is also -- Alyson Hurlbutt has also submitted
6 letters in support of this inmate for previous Board
7 hearings.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. So you
9 want to explore that area?

10 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Yes.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Alyson
12 Hurlbutt. Who is she?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** She's a woman I met though a
14 man named Chris Chesser who has been my friend for about
15 30 years, and when the Panel said that --

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Who is she?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** She's a friend.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** She's a
19 friend.

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** And she has --

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** How long have
22 you known her?

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I have visited her about
24 three times before we did the session, and I've known
25 her --

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Hold on a
2 second. Hold on.

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** As a secondary friend for
4 about ten years.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So you've
6 known her a total of ten years. I'm trying to
7 understand.

8 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. Yes.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Ten years.

10 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Roughly.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And how did
12 you communicate in these ten years with her?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** She visited a few times and
14 we wrote each other a few times.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. And I
16 saw that she submitted a document on your behalf after
17 having some professional contact with you?

18 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** What I did was when the Board
19 said that I needed further insight into the divorce and
20 the abortion, I knew that Alyson was now a family
21 therapist and I asked her if she would come and work
22 with me to gain insight and not really recommend --

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** If I was healed or not, but
25 to help me.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So in her
2 professional capacity.

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. And do
5 you believe that she provided -- or therapy to you was
6 unbiased based on the relationship you had previously?
7 How do you -- how is your assessment of that because
8 she's a family therapist, you've known each other for
9 some ten, 12 years. The question is -- and she's
10 offering some sort of documented support of you in a
11 professional manner, right?

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah. I felt that we had
13 good therapy groups. That she was professional and she
14 wasn't recommending parole or not. She was stating what
15 our discussions had been and --

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I was able -- I don't qualify
18 for therapy inside of the prison and so I did what I
19 could to address the Board's needs.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Noted. And
21 the Panel now recognizes that they had a friendship
22 prior to this conversation. Thank you.

23 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Thank you.
24 Could the Panel ask the inmate what she learned from
25 Emotions Anonymous between 2013 and 2016 that she did

1 not learn between 2009 and 2013?

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** So you've
3 taken Emotional Analysis for a long time -- Anonymous --
4 Analysis -- Anonymous?

5 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Anonymous.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Anonymous.
7 Okay. Emotional Anonymous for extended period of time
8 and you took in the late 2000s and then again recently
9 in mid-2010s. How has your growth in that program
10 evolved?

11 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** The Emotions Anonymous is a
12 home group.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** What does that
14 mean?

15 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** A small group of women that
16 meet that work at night and we meet and we have our 12-
17 step discussions. It's not really continuous. We
18 review the 12 steps. If there's something going on in
19 someone's life they discuss it and we look at it. And
20 the premise of Emotions Anonymous is basically that
21 there are some things in life that have no solutions,
22 and as a 12-step home group, it's more of a discussion
23 group where we use the 12 steps to look at life's
24 problems.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. What do

1 you learn from it -- life's problems? Do you -- is it
2 basically based on other people's experiences that you
3 talk about or is it based on some sort of book?

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** We use the 12-step book.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** As a guiding, you know, as
7 the guide.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** As a template.
9 Okay.

10 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Like AA 12 steps, NA 12
11 steps. It's the same premise that --

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Is it run by
13 inmates?

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Is that
16 what home schooling means is that it's run by inmates?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** It's home -- yeah, a home --
18 I don't -- not home schooling. Now I can't -- home
19 group.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Home group.
21 Okay.

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** All right.

24 And that group has helped you how?

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** It keeps me in touch with the

1 12 steps, what we were talking about earlier with
2 addiction.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you. I
4 remember you talked about steps ten, 11 and 12 and then
5 four, five and eight. Thank you. Next question please.

6 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Could the
7 Panel ask the inmate if Mrs. Van Houten (sic) was
8 already dead when you stabbed her, why do you think Tex
9 Watson handed you the knife and told you to do
10 something?

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Mrs. Van
12 Houten was dead?

13 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** I'm sorry.
14 Ms. LaBianca.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. You
16 testified here today that Tex handed you the knife and
17 told you to do something, and I believe you testified
18 that -- why don't you tell us. Why did you stab her if
19 you believed that she was dead?

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Because he told me to and I
21 knew that Manson wanted all of us to do something.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** To participate
23 you mean?

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yep.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Thank

1 you.

2 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Could the
3 Panel please ask who was Michael Vines? When did your
4 correspondence begin? Under what circumstances and how
5 did it last -- how long did it last?

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Who is
7 Mr. Hines?

8 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Vines.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Vines.

10 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Michael Vines. I started
11 writing him.

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Who is he?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** He was a man doing a life
14 sentence in Huntsville, Texas.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Is that the
16 gentleman you were dating for a while?

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** No. Okay. Go
19 ahead.

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** And we had a writing
21 correspondence and we wrote off and on for about 16
22 years. And he ended up in I think Illinois and he hung
23 himself.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Thank
25 you.

1 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** What was the
2 nature of your correspondence? My offer of proof is
3 that this person was a -- he was a sentenced life
4 prisoner for two murders of two women in two separate
5 states. This was after Ms. Van Houten indicated that
6 she had cut off ties from all men who were bad
7 influences on her life after she had divorced herself
8 from Bill Sywin, who was also an ex-con.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Thank
10 you. Mr. Vines, when did you meet him?

11 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I wrote him. We were both
12 editors of our prison papers. I think probably in the
13 early 80s maybe.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. And the
15 nature of your communication was what?

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Friends, prison romance,
17 something to do with the opposite sex.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And he was
19 also a lifer?

20 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I wasn't clear on his
23 charges. He didn't talk about them now.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** How did you
25 initially come in contact with him?

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I wrote him because he was
2 editor of the Huntsville paper and I was editor of the
3 CIW paper.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** How long did
5 your communications last for?

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Off and on for 16 years.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** And are you
8 still in contact with him?

9 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. He hung himself.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** He hung
11 himself. I'm sorry. What was the nature of your
12 relationship?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Prison correspondence.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

15 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Could the
16 Board ask if the inmate feels responsible for her
17 crimes, why did she file a habeas corpus petition to
18 gain exculpatory evidence regarding statements by Tex
19 Watson in 1971 -- not meaning -- not that the habeas was
20 filed in 1971, but Tex Watson's statements from 1971?

21 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** I'm responsible for that.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Thank
23 you. Next question. It's a legal issue. Thank you.

24 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** May I have a
25 moment please?

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Please. Thank
2 you.

3 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Why does the
4 inmate feel that she needs to live at Roxie Rose for
5 three years?

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Is there --
7 you indicated to us that your parole plans are Roxie
8 Rose and three years -- you were granted for a three-
9 year period of time or your whole period of time on
10 parole to live there. Do you believe you're going to
11 live there for three years or how-- what is your
12 perception? I think we discussed this briefly, but I
13 don't -- I also had that thought in my mind. That's a
14 pretty long time to live somewhere.

15 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Well, I wouldn't intend to,
16 but I don't know what is ahead, you know. I would
17 imagine that probably within a one-year period of time
18 or -- I haven't been there in 46 years.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Been there
20 meaning been out?

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** In the community.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay.

23 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Other than bail, you know. I
24 was merely saying if that's what was deemed to be the
25 best, I would certainly do that. If six months is all

1 that seems appropriate, I'll do that.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I'll just work with my parole
4 agent.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

6 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** I have no
7 further questions.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
9 Any questions?

10 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** A few. When you dealt with
11 Ms. Hurlbutt as a -- in counseling, were any -- was
12 there any other counseling available to you?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. To none of us.

14 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** When you were talking
15 about -- they were asking you -- the Commissioners were
16 asking you about your contact with Pat Krenwinkel and
17 you described basically superficially seeing her around
18 the prison that you're both at. Do you have any close
19 relationship with her, both of you having shared so much
20 of the past together?

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Pat and I are different
22 people, and I don't seek her out. I see her in formal
23 gatherings and we're very different people. We approach
24 life differently and she's not someone that I choose to
25 engage in conversations with.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** But at a
2 certain point you did have a close relationship or
3 friendship with her.

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. What
6 changed?

7 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I believe that the more I
8 developed into my own person and she developed into her
9 own person and how I approach life and how she
10 approaches life. I'm not comfortable with her, and over
11 the years, what makes us have something in common is not
12 something I want to nurture.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

14 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Okay. And in page 4 of the
15 psych report they talk about your -- that when you were
16 at the Spahn Ranch and things were changing that it says
17 you expressed a desire to leave but you weren't able to
18 leave because Manson had taken a dominant role in your
19 life and you felt powerless and that you indicate to the
20 psych that you were once allowed to leave and you froze.
21 Were you ever allowed to leave?

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

23 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Okay.

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. I had told her something
25 different and I can tell you the events.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Please.

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I had gone up into a cave
3 with one of the bikers, and Manson was having more of
4 the biker community come and stay at the ranch, and
5 there was one in particular named Sammy that I was
6 enjoying. And he and I took a mattress up into a cave
7 and spent the night, and when I came down that morning,
8 Manson was very, very angry and threw Sammy off of the
9 ranch and told Tex we're losing this one and you need to
10 keep an eye on her. And then a carload of guys from
11 Venice Beach came up to get me out of the ranch and I
12 wanted to go, but I felt like my feet were in dried
13 cement. I was not able to -- I wasn't able to follow.

14 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** So you worshipped him
15 but you were afraid of him? Is that fair?

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. By that time.

17 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Was Sammy in that carload
18 that came out to --

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yes. Yeah.

20 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** No further questions.

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Sammy and his friends.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

23 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Commissioner, with
24 regards to the DA question about Mr. Vines, when did he
25 hang himself?

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Probably about 15 years ago.

2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** So we're talking -- no
3 wait, 2000, 2001?

4 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. Longer than that.

5 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** In the 90s?

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** In the 90s, I think he hung
7 himself. His family sent me a letter and told me.

8 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Well, I mean she does
9 bring up a good point because was -- how do I ask this
10 question. Why would you want to get involved with
11 somebody like that?

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Because it was writing
13 letters. It didn't -- we're both doing life sentences.
14 It didn't seem like it was really going anywhere other
15 than to communicate. And for years I felt that that was
16 probably the level of person that I could have
17 relationships with because of my own history and we
18 wrote.

19 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Okay. So that's about
20 what, close to between 15 and 20 years ago?

21 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah. We had stopped, you
22 know, writing as often near the end, and he had married
23 someone, so --

24 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Okay. Because he
25 sounds like he's in a worse situation than the guy you

1 did marry. You see where my question is going?

2 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

3 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Can you elaborate on
4 that?

5 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Well, the one I married was
6 here and had presented himself as rehabilitated, and I
7 really never connected the two of them.

8 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** How is Vines better
9 than him?

10 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I didn't look at it like
11 better. He just was not available in a real way.

12 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** So it's just fantasy in
13 your mind?

14 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

15 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Because it wasn't going
16 to come to fruition.

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Yeah.

18 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Would you --

19 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** At that point I was really
20 just doing what a lot of people incarcerated do, which
21 is write other people incarcerated. It doesn't
22 really --

23 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** So it wasn't a serious
24 romantic situation or it was?

25 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No. Only in fantasy.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Did you meet
2 him? You never met him?

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** This is just a
5 pen pal kind of situation from prison to prison.

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Pen pal 100 percent, yeah.

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Are you worried that if
8 and when you are back in the community you may fall prey
9 to the wrong people again?

10 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** No.

11 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Why not?

12 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Because of my support
13 network. Because of my therapies and understandings of
14 who I am. Because of the solidness of who I am as a
15 person. My interests. My -- I don't have the neediness
16 to be in a relationship.

17 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** If you date again, if
18 and when you're back in the community, and chances are
19 you're an attractive woman even at 66, you will have
20 suitors. What kind of man would you allow in your life?
21 What's your standard now?

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** At my age --

23 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** What's your minimum
24 criteria before you allow somebody in -- to involve
25 yourself romantically?

1 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** A thinking person. Someone
2 who doesn't drink a lot. Someone who probably has
3 children that he raised and grandchildren that he
4 enjoys.

5 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Why?

6 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Stability. That shows
7 stability and commitment and longevity. Someone who is
8 interested in world events. Someone who likes the arts.
9 Someone who enjoys having theoretical exchanges.
10 Possibly an educator. I would enjoy that.

11 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** And in your mind, how
12 should he be treating you?

13 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Well.

14 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Anything else other
15 than just well?

16 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** With dignity, with care,
17 equally.

18 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Okay. Nothing more.
19 Sorry, Commissioner.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
21 Those are good questions. Closing statement,
22 Ms. Lebowitz.

23 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Thank you.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

25 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** For all the

1 reasons I state below, The People of the State of
2 California believe that the suitability factors are far,
3 far, far outweighed by the unsuitability factors here.
4 The unsuitability factors are as follows. Number one,
5 the inmate has an unstable social history. We didn't go
6 that much into this at this particular hearing, but we
7 do know that the inmate rebelled from what she called an
8 idealistic or an ideal lifestyle. She rebelled from
9 that lifestyle and sought out a life of drugs. She
10 began ingesting hallucinogenic drugs at the age of 15
11 whereupon she ran away to San Francisco as an unmarried
12 female, had a pregnancy out of wedlock. She dabbled in
13 various non-traditional religious type viewpoints. And
14 we didn't go into this and I'll go into this a little
15 bit further in a little while, but in any event, she did
16 all this in her teens and then she ended up in Spahn
17 Ranch. She told the Board that she had a period of time
18 where she was not doing any drugs while she was in San
19 Francisco and while she was living with Bobby Beausoleil
20 and Catherine Share. However, on page 10 of 13 of the
21 CRA of this year -- from this particular psychiatrist --
22 she said when talking about her drug usage she said that
23 it was four years of continuous drug usage. That is an
24 inconsistent statement from what the psychiatrist,
25 psychologist wrote in her report than what the inmate

1 told the Board here. She also has prior criminal
2 activity. She admits that she -- what she called robbed
3 her father's house, but in reality it was a nighttime
4 residential burglary where she and the members of the
5 Manson family would do something called creepy crawling
6 and they would go into people's houses at night and
7 steal their things, and it was in preparation for this
8 mission. They dressed in dark clothing and it was
9 preparation and the mission that she talked to you
10 about, about sneaking up on people. She also had, as
11 the Probation Officer's Report indicates, several theft
12 charges that she was never convicted for but readily
13 admits and indicated a criminal lifestyle while they
14 were still committed while at the Spahn Ranch. This
15 indicates a pattern of criminal activity and a pattern
16 of what I consider to be a crime family which exactly --
17 that's what the Manson family was. The inmate has
18 demonstrated a lack of insight in several areas. *In Re*
19 *Shaputis*, S-H-A-P-U-T-I-S dictates that if despite years
20 of rehabilitative programming, of which the inmate has a
21 lot, the inmate still lacks insight into the offense,
22 into the gravity of the offense, or prior violent acts,
23 this constitutes some evidence that the inmate is still
24 a threat to public safety. The inmate demonstrates lack
25 of insight by minimizing her involvement in the crime.

1 She told the Board here today, as she has told several
2 psychologists in the past, and several Boards in the
3 past, that she looked away when Tex Watson stabbed
4 Mrs. LaBianca. It is beyond reason and beyond
5 recognition to believe that for the following reasons.
6 First of all, when they went into the house, Patricia
7 Krenwinkel immediately went to the kitchen and got some
8 knives for them to use. Tex Watson had brought a
9 bayonet with him. Tex Watson had stabbed and butchered
10 Leno LaBianca in the living room. The inmate and
11 Patricia Krenwinkel went into the bedroom, as she told
12 you, and the inmate, as she told you, put the pillowcase
13 over her head and wrapped the lamp cord around her neck.
14 Mrs. LaBianca, as she told you, hearing the guttural
15 screams of her husband, tried to get up and help him,
16 but instead what did the inmate do. She held her down
17 and Krenwinkel could not kill her because the knife that
18 Krenwinkel was using hit the collarbone and bent. So
19 the inmate calls Tex Watson, who had already killed
20 Mr. LaBianca in the living room. While Watson was
21 inside killing Mrs. LaBianca, Krenwinkel was out in the
22 living room stabbing him with a carving tong that they
23 had used for the family Thanksgiving dinners writing
24 war, carving it into his skin on his stomach. And
25 that's when Mr. Watson and the inmate were inside the

1 bedroom stabbing Mrs. LaBianca. For her to say that she
2 was looking away and did not participate in the stabbing
3 at that point is not only inconsistent and disingenuous.
4 The CRA from this year, 2016, gives a statement of
5 facts, and usually the Board reads the statement of
6 facts either as the inmate tells it or from the appeal
7 decision. In this situation, the psychologist gives the
8 same statement of facts as that which was used in the
9 2007 CRA and indicates that the inmate amended a few
10 changes. However, there are no changes. The inmate's
11 statement in the CRA is exactly the same statement as
12 the 2007 report. The inmate adopts the statement that
13 she stabbed Mrs. LaBianca 16 to 18 "superficial wounds"
14 which surprised me when I heard this. The reason that I
15 brought the coroner's report to make sure that the Board
16 reviewed it was that Mrs. LaBianca was stabbed 41 times.
17 The inmate believes that she was already dead. There's
18 an unnumbered page in the coroner's report that is
19 approximately four pages in -- five pages in and has a
20 chart and it talks about the lower back stab wounds
21 described as 3/4 to 1-inch wounds meaning the size of
22 the wounds, not the depth of the wounds described but
23 not numbered -- "some postmortem" not all postmortem.
24 So if the inmate stabbed Mrs. LaBianca as she claims to,
25 and maybe she doesn't have any independent recollection,

1 I don't know how you could be stabbing someone to death
2 and butchering them and mutilating them and counting the
3 times that you plunged that knife into a poor woman's
4 back. But let's say the inmate got that number from the
5 coroner's report. Only some of those wounds were
6 postmortem, and if the occurrence -- if it happened as
7 the inmate said, Mrs. LaBianca was not dead when the
8 inmate stabbed her. In addition, on page 2 of the
9 narrative that is somewhat further back in the coroner's
10 report, the coroner describes the stab wounds not as
11 superficial. The coroner describes the stab wounds as
12 stab wounds -- and this is on the narrative on page 2
13 which is the fifth paragraph down -- on the lower
14 portion of the posterior trunk numerous lacerations --
15 stab wounds whose depths are up to 1-1/2 inches at
16 approximately 3/4 to 1-inch in maximum width. That is
17 not a superficial stab wound. The superficial
18 description is made later. However, these do not show
19 any significant hemorrhage into the connective tissue
20 surrounding it, meaning they weren't the fatal wounds.
21 However, Mrs. LaBianca had 41 stab wounds, eight of
22 which were fatal, seven of which were on her back. The
23 superficial nature talks about "also present are linear
24 lacerations very superficial from 5 to 7 inches in
25 length." If there's any doubt in anyone's mind that

1 these stab wounds that this inmate inflicted were
2 nowhere near superficial and could have also possibly
3 been one of the seven fatal stab wounds. She talked
4 about Tex taking her clothes. Tex Watson was a 6 foot 1
5 man. This inmate was a slight -- at the time -- slight
6 female, 19-year-old. It is inconceivable that she would
7 give Tex Watson or Tex Watson would be able to wear this
8 inmate's clothes after the murders. Manson had
9 instructed them to all bring a change of clothes. If
10 she brought a change of clothes, then she could have
11 given, as she says, Watson her change of clothes. If
12 her clothes were not, in fact, bloody as she claims they
13 were not, there would have been no reason for her to
14 change clothes. And whose clothes did she change into?
15 Rosemary LaBianca, as she sat -- laid there bloody in
16 her bedroom. The next example of her lack of -- her
17 minimizing her involvement in the crime is the fact
18 that -- and it has not been discussed yet -- but the
19 defendant, through her -- the inmate through her counsel
20 has filed in 2015 a writ of habeas corpus to force the
21 District Attorney's Office and the LAPD to disclose
22 transcripts of statements by Tex Watson made to
23 detectives in 1971 indicating that they would be
24 exculpatory evidence for her parole hearing and
25 exonerate her in her parole hearing. If the defendant

1 admits responsibility as she says here today, there
2 would be no need for her to find exculpatory statements
3 from Tex Watson from 1971. That was a trial issue and
4 it has been determined that she has -- was culpable in
5 this crime. After she stabbed Mrs. LaBianca, she put on
6 her clothes and what happened then. They left the
7 house. They went back to the Spahn Ranch and she burned
8 the clothes. But before doing that, she wiped clean the
9 entire house of fingerprints. She told the Board that
10 she only wiped clean the fingerprints in the bedroom,
11 and at one point in one of the hearings, she described
12 it as busywork. That is far from busywork. That is
13 something that is deliberately designed such that none
14 of the participants would be found, identified or
15 charged. In the 2000 transcript from her Board of
16 Parole Hearings transcript at page 46, she said she felt
17 for a fleeting moment what was happening was wrong, and
18 in the hearing today she also minimized her conduct
19 about how she felt that it was wrong and that when
20 Patricia Krenwinkel came back and talked about the Tate
21 murders, it was wrong. Based upon her conduct there,
22 there was nothing that indicated that this inmate felt
23 for a fleeting moment or a nanosecond that anything she
24 did was wrong. In contrast, her statements back at the
25 ranch to the 13-year-old girl, Diane Lake, it was fun.

1 "It was fun and the more I did it, the more I loved it."
2 Does that sound like someone who had a fleeting moment
3 of morality? She told the Board in 2013 during her
4 transcript or in the transcript at page 48 that she said
5 that the only reason she said that was because Diane
6 Lake was a 13-year-old girl. She wanted to use the
7 language that she understood and she wanted to impress
8 her. Why did she want to impress her? Because Diane
9 Lake was seen to be the perfect woman, the perfect
10 specimen of what Manson wanted. This was a prepubescent
11 13-year-old girl. Why in the world would this inmate
12 need to impress her? In the life prisoner evaluation
13 done on -- for the hearing, prepared for the April 24th,
14 1986 hearing by Christine Sinatra at page 2, the inmate
15 said that she has "morally suffered over the years and
16 that she does not consider herself a career criminal."
17 The morals she learned as a child has not changed except
18 during -- her words -- "the one chance occurrence" when
19 she was part of the Manson family. If that's a chance
20 occurrence, that is the understatement of the century.
21 The inmate has also demonstrated a lack of insight by
22 failing to personally apologize to the family. At every
23 hearing, Louis Smaldino, as he sits here today and as he
24 sat here at previous hearings, has stood up and told the
25 Board that the inmate has never personally apologized to

1 the family. She's never reached out to the family to
2 apologize. She states at every hearing how sorry she is
3 and how she apologizes to the family while she's sitting
4 here in the Board room, but that's not the whole family.
5 This is one descendant. There's sons. There's
6 daughters. There are grandchildren. There are nieces.
7 There are nephews. At the 2010 hearing she read a
8 letter that she wrote, but again, still in the hearing
9 room. She's a facilitator for a 12-step program. She
10 talked about step six, step seven, step ten, 11 and 12,
11 and where's step nine. Well, step nine says that she's
12 to make "direct amends" to people she's harmed except to
13 do so, except when to do so would injure them or others.
14 She has never made direct amends to the family. She's
15 quoted that her amends are simply to teach children --
16 I'm sorry -- to teach other women and to be a good
17 mentor and to be a good person. That is not a direct
18 amend. Coming from a facilitator of a 12-step program
19 that's unconscionable. Mr. Smaldino has practically
20 begged at each hearing, and at this point it would be
21 too late because it would appear that the inmate would
22 be doing it just to satisfy the Parole Board. How about
23 instead of making quilts for the homeless or teaching or
24 taking ribbon-folding lessons or tutoring others, why
25 doesn't she send one to the family? It's been 46 years

1 and she still doesn't get it. On the contrary, she does
2 two things which are passive-aggressive. Number one,
3 she says -- and she has said at previous Board hearings,
4 especially in 2007 from the transcript at page 84. I've
5 apologized the best way I know how. I leave myself open
6 for a personal apology. What does that mean? That
7 they're supposed to come here and sit in front of the
8 window and have her apologize to them? She says again
9 in the transcript at page 6 "if ever a system is set up
10 where the victims would want to speak to me, I would."
11 Well, I have to tell you. There's a system that's set
12 up to apologize. It's called the United States Postal
13 Service and it's been around since the 1700s and she's
14 not availed herself of it. Each time the Board makes a
15 suggestion to her, she comes back and she trots in with
16 her papers and she says here, I've done everything the
17 Board has told me. The Board has told me to look at the
18 insight into my causative factors. I've taken a report
19 from a friend that I've known for -- now for 13 years
20 and she's evaluated me and I've come back to the Board
21 and I've done that. Has she done that for
22 Mr. Smaldino's request? No. That is a beautiful
23 example of lack of insight. She's demonstrated a lack
24 of insight for the physical injuries that she caused to
25 Mrs. LaBianca. She says -- and we've gone over this --

1 about her belief that some of the -- that the wounds
2 were superficial and we have shown that they are not.
3 She's demonstrated her lack of insight into
4 relationships with men. She claims that the reason that
5 one of the causative factors of this crime was that
6 Charlie made me do it. She married a man named Bill
7 Sywin in 1982 -- in 1981. She divorced him eight months
8 later in 1982. I assume there was some sort of
9 courtship prior to marriage and this was an ex-con who
10 served time in prison. She told the Board that she
11 divorced him because he overstepped the boundaries.
12 That she had a contract with him. That if he ever
13 overstepped the boundaries she would divorce him and
14 what did he do. He was caught with a female prison's
15 uniform -- a female guard -- strike that -- a female
16 prison guard uniform that they use here in CIW and a map
17 to the prison. Now the inmate was never implicated in
18 this scheme that was thought to be a scheme to break her
19 out, but she was adamant to the Board about how she
20 asserted her boundaries from there on with men and she
21 asserted her boundaries and did not have any
22 irresponsible relationships with men. But what does she
23 do? She writes to a prisoner, a twice convicted double
24 murderer not only in Texas, but also in Idaho. And in
25 the Board hearing meeting -- in the BPH transcript of

1 2010, she said at page 59 it was a strictly platonic
2 relationship because he was married. Well, just because
3 someone is married doesn't necessarily mean that it's
4 strictly platonic. And she told the Board here that for
5 16 years she communicated on a romantic sexual fantasy
6 level with a double murderer and that was after she had
7 told the Board that she had terminated all inappropriate
8 relationships. That is an inconsistent statement and
9 deceptive. She's also demonstrated a lack of insight as
10 to the carnage and devastation that Manson incited. In
11 previous Board hearings she said that she feels
12 indifferent to Charles Manson. Today she says that
13 she's offended that he gets so much recognition. That
14 she's offended by what he did. How about disgust? How
15 about revulsion? How about disdain? How about
16 something stronger than a very neutral feeling about
17 him? Everyone in the world is repulsed by what he
18 created and this inmate is simply offended. She's
19 indifferent. That is a complete lack of insight as to
20 what caused this crime, what she participated in and who
21 she associated with. She also demonstrated a lack of
22 insight by presenting an analysis of progress to the
23 Board authored by a friend. Another instance of a
24 demonstration of lack of insight is that she claims to
25 the Board that one of the causative factors was her

1 abortion. It wasn't until 2002 that the inmate actually
2 called it an abortion. In 1971 when she spoke to her
3 probation officer prior to her sentencing before she
4 received the death penalty, she told the probation
5 officer that she had a pregnancy at age 16 that resulted
6 in a miscarriage in the third month. During a 1978
7 custodial evaluation on page 25 of 30, the inmate "said
8 she was 15 when she became pregnant by a local boy who
9 had just dropped out of high school. She had a
10 miscarriage when she was about four months along." Now
11 in the 2002 Board hearing, the inmate wanted the Board
12 to know how detailed she was about her descriptions
13 about her life and the facts and the following exchange
14 took place. The Board asked her at page 41, so at about
15 age 15 you became pregnant and had a miscarriage.
16 Answer, yes, at 17. I know the documents say 15 and I'm
17 not sure how that happened. That was a detail that she
18 corrected about her age. Then there was a discussion
19 about Bobby Beausoleil and the Presiding Commissioner
20 asked "is there anything else about your background that
21 you would like the Panel to know?" And the inmate
22 talked about her high school drug use again, doesn't
23 mention the miscarriage or doesn't correct the idea that
24 it wasn't a miscarriage. At page 44 she corrects the
25 Board about being -- her being a homecoming princess and

1 not a homecoming queen. Page 44, "Sometimes I feel like
2 I have to be a little careful of all the little
3 technical details and so that's a small thing, but" --
4 again, doesn't correct the Board that she had an
5 abortion and not a miscarriage. The Panel turns the
6 tape over and then the inmate says "My attorney
7 mentioned something that I overlooked. And that's that
8 you referred to losing of the baby as a miscarriage and
9 it was an abortion." It took her attorney to tell her
10 that it was important that she had an abortion and now
11 it takes on a life of its own. It takes on a life of
12 its own as a causative factor that the inmate uses as an
13 excuse but has no insight that many people have
14 abortions and don't go slaughter innocent people in the
15 community.

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Ms. Lebowitz,
17 30 seconds. Thank you.

18 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Commissioner,
19 I know that I didn't have any objections at the
20 beginning on the record. I said that on the record.
21 But at that point in time you had not talked about the
22 20-minute limitation. I think that this case is an
23 extremely important case and it deserves more time than
24 an ordinary case. I'm almost finished, but I think that
25 The People of the State of California deserve to be

1 heard as to the opposition.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Go
3 ahead. I'll give you the same amount of time,
4 Mr. Pfeiffer.

5 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Twenty minutes will be fine
6 with me.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.

8 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** Thank you.

9 The inmate also demonstrated a lack of insight by
10 claiming that the LSD made her do it. She talks to the
11 psychiatrist in this year's CRA in 2016 on page 7 of 13
12 that she used heavily for four years. Now she used
13 these on her own free will. There was no mention that
14 she ever gave it up for four years. This is important
15 for the following reason. The inmate talks about the
16 fact that she has no way or that she did not question
17 anything that Charles Manson told her. She did not
18 question his theories. She did not question anything
19 that he told her. But in -- but when she was in San
20 Francisco, her purpose for running away was to join the
21 Self-Realization Fellowship and she told the Board that
22 the reason that she left the Self-Realization Fellowship
23 was because she found it to be hypocritical. Now it's
24 important in this respect. That if she was on LSD for
25 that period of time and that she could recognize

1 hypocrisy in the Self-Realization Fellowship, but she
2 was on the same LSD when she met Charles Manson and she
3 could not recognize the destruction, the complete -- I
4 don't even know the word -- the ludicrous philosophies
5 that he presented but she could recognize hypocrisy.
6 That is inconsistent and it doesn't make sense. Her
7 causative factor that Manson made me do it was not
8 believed by the jury. It was also not asserted as an
9 issue on appeal in 1980. She claims that Manson was --
10 she was so fearful of Manson that she couldn't leave the
11 ranch, but in 2007 in her Board of Parole Hearings
12 transcript at page 82, she said part of the -- part of
13 being at the ranch was to have your -- turned your back
14 on your family. And she claimed that Manson taught them
15 to distrust everything that their families taught them.
16 But on page 83 she describes a situation where she went
17 back to the home and got clothes from her mother. If
18 Manson would not let her leave the house or leave the
19 ranch and taught her to turn her back on everything that
20 her parents taught her then how in the world was she
21 able to leave the ranch. She told this Panel that she
22 was never allowed to leave and that she was fearful, but
23 the fact of the matter is that several people left. She
24 indicated to one Panel that she thought that she would
25 suffer the same fate. In 2004 she told the Board of

1 Parole Hearings at page 61 she thought if she left
2 Manson would kill her and she would suffer the same fate
3 as Leno and Rosemary LaBianca. Now there's no evidence
4 in any written document to suggest that Charles Manson
5 or anybody in the family killed anyone for leaving and
6 she was allowed to leave. She was allowed to go have
7 sex on the mattress in the cave and she was allowed to
8 go to her mother. If she was allowed to leave, then
9 Charles Manson's hold was not as tight as she would like
10 the Board to believe. She was looking for something to
11 be embraced. She left San Francisco. She left
12 Victorville. She left the tumult from Bobby Beausoleil
13 and Catherine Share and she came to live at the ranch
14 and she described it as a family. In the hearing today
15 she described about -- she described that everyone was
16 welcoming and that it was a family. This inmate has no
17 remorse and had no remorse about the crime or even
18 within three years after. She talked about making
19 amends and that -- I think that her time period was
20 three years after she broke from Manson that she was
21 able to make amends and she was able to -- she talked
22 about how she shows remorse as being the best she can be
23 by making every day -- by making every decision she
24 makes every day. In 1978, which was well after she
25 broke off from Manson and well after she decided she

1 could be the best she could be every day, the custodial
2 evaluation described her as being manipulative. It was
3 written on 10/2 -- October 2nd, 1978, a 30-page
4 custodial evaluation that I've referenced previously.
5 At page 14 the custodial staff found "she is very
6 manipulative and plays one staff against another along
7 with her crime partners. So adept is she at
8 manipulating that there was dissension among the
9 watchwomen." That doesn't sound like being the best she
10 can be after she broke off from Manson. The inmate
11 can't live unless she is in a strict disciplined
12 situation or custodial setting. To this psychiatrist --
13 to this psychologist, Kropf, when asked her self-
14 perceived character weaknesses she responded I can
15 become preoccupied with others' problems or injustices.
16 When others are displeased, I have to reconcile myself.
17 In 2013 she told the Board that she relies upon her
18 friends to tell if she's getting carried away with
19 something. She doesn't have a good set of boundaries.
20 She doesn't have a good definition of where she ends and
21 someone else begins and that's at page 88. In 2002, the
22 Board talked about a situation where she was trying to
23 please her cellmate talking about the same
24 characteristics as she did with Bobby Beausoleil,
25 smothering him -- or not Bobby Beausoleil, but the first

1 teenage Bobby -- smothering him. This inmate needs
2 boundaries. If she doesn't know where other -- where
3 she leaves off and other people begin, as Commissioner
4 Lam indicated, how will she know where to stop if
5 someone tries to manipulate her? Perfect example. She
6 thought it would be a good idea to have her friend write
7 an evaluation for the Board. I know that the Board is
8 interested in me ending my argument, but I haven't even
9 begun to go through the brutality and the carnage that
10 happened at the LaBianca house. This crime was
11 committed in a heinous, atrocious and cruel manner.
12 Multiple victims were butchered. The crime was carried
13 out in a dispassionate and calculated manner. The
14 victims were tortured and murdered. The inmate showed a
15 callous disregard for human suffering, and the motive
16 for these crimes are trivial in relation to the offense.
17 The inmate escaped the death penalty when it was
18 overturned. Her conviction was overturned because her
19 lawyer mysteriously disappeared in the middle of the
20 trial. Although that murder has never been solved, it
21 is presumed that it was at the hands of someone from the
22 Manson family. If the defendant -- if the inmate were
23 convicted today, she would be convicted of special
24 circumstances, a murder involving special circumstances,
25 and there are several. A special circumstance murder

1 entitles the defendant to be either put to death or live
2 in prison without the possibility of parole. Her third
3 trial ended in 1978, just months before this law was
4 instituted. Today these special circumstances would be
5 torture, the murder during commission of a torture, the
6 murder during the commission of a residential burglary,
7 a murder -- because they were multiple murders, a murder
8 done for racial motivation, a murder done by means of
9 lying in wait, and potentially that the Manson family
10 would be considered today a criminal street gang. The
11 facts of the murder were not gone over in detail by the
12 Board, and I know that I have a time limit, but I think
13 it's important to put this on the record. The inmate
14 was a member of the Manson family. Two weeks prior to
15 the LaBianca murders, there was a murder by a Manson
16 family member of a person named Gary Hinman. Similar
17 circumstances appeared at the Hinman house. The word
18 pigs was written in blood on the wall of blood of the
19 victim, the same as that which was done here. The blood
20 of Mr. LaBianca was written on the wall, rise, Helter
21 Skelter written on the refrigerator wall and death to
22 piggies. Brutal slayings had just happened two nights
23 before at the Tate house. Six people. Six lives were
24 taken, Sharon Tate, her unborn fetus, Wojciech
25 Frykowski, Abigail Folger, Jay Sebring, Steven Parent

1 covered all over the news and the inmate watched it.
2 She watched every gory detail on the news and got a
3 firsthand account from Patricia Krenwinkel about what it
4 was like. These people were ready to start a race war.
5 The fact that the inmate tells you that Patricia
6 Krenwinkel says that it was wrong and that young people
7 were killed, I think is not credible. These people were
8 ready to kill anyone and anyone who would further their
9 cause to start this racial war. The inmate felt left
10 out. She was dying to go. She was chomping at the bit.
11 She was jealous that she didn't get to participate in
12 that carnage the night before. It's been said in
13 several hearings and at the trial that she premeditated
14 these murders, that she thought about it for two days
15 about whether or not she could kill, and she decided she
16 could kill and then she went. She also took Tex
17 Watson's murder class that he held at the Spahn Ranch to
18 teach people how to stab people and to teach people to
19 pull of the knife a little bit further just to make sure
20 that they're dead. They met in the bunkhouse the night
21 before. Manson went over the rules of engagement, don't
22 make a mess like the night before, don't let them know
23 you're going to kill them. Seven of them piled into the
24 car, Manson, Krenwinkel --

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** All right.

1 Thank you, Ms. Lebowitz. That's about 40 minutes is
2 sufficient time for you to close. I appreciate your
3 closing. Maybe I was unclear about the intent of
4 closing, but I thought I was. That we're trying to
5 determine whether somebody is currently dangerous. But
6 maybe that was my mistake. Mr. Pfeiffer.

7 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Thank you, Commissioner. You
8 were clear and you were also clear about the time
9 limits. At first I thought, you know, the DA maybe was
10 not familiar with parole hearings, but as she went on, I
11 started to question some credibility with some of the
12 careful uses of some of the facts out of context.
13 Anyway, the unstable social history, the thefts, the
14 crime, those are all immutable, unchangeable
15 circumstances of -- they do not constitute some evidence
16 of a current unreasonable risk according to *Lawrence* at
17 page 1181. The DA relies on *Shaputis* that Ms. Van
18 Houten has no insight. In *Shaputis*, the inmate raped
19 his daughter, beat up several wives, put them in the
20 hospital, denied it all, blamed it on the wives and then
21 he didn't even go talk at his parole hearing. He was
22 quiet. This guy says nothing whatsoever related to the
23 lack of insight displayed in *Shaputis*. A writ for the
24 Tex tapes. I did that. And the reason I did that is
25 because I was told that there was some exculpatory

1 information on those tapes, and I tried to get them and
2 the DA refused to give them. And the DA's Office
3 position is that Ms. Van Houten, because it's post-
4 conviction, has no right to discovery -- no due process
5 right. And the Supreme Court asked their office to
6 answer, and in their answer, they -- three top deputies
7 from the Appellate Division signed this document, and
8 basically they go over and over again how Manson had
9 complete control over these people, how that was the
10 theory of the whole case, and although -- and the reason
11 that the Tex tapes don't apply is because they don't
12 make Ms. Van Houten not guilty of the commitment
13 offense. But they do diminish, to some degree, her
14 culpability, and Penal Code Section 4801, Subdivision
15 (b)(3) talks about, you know, if a prisoner presents
16 evidence of intimate partner battering, it can't be used
17 to support a finding that the prisoner lacks insight.
18 And to a degree, Manson was a batterer, maybe only
19 emotionally of Ms. Van Houten and the other family
20 members, but it somewhat does apply. It's certainly a
21 lot closer than *Shaputis* applies to this case. In
22 *Lawrence* they talk about the other things that the Board
23 and Governor must consider and it's remorse, and I just
24 ask that you listen and you make a credibility finding
25 of Ms. Van Houten's statements before you today. You're

1 sitting across the table. You got to ask her questions.
2 You got to see the body language, and please make a
3 credibility finding on that. I think she tried to be as
4 honest as she could be. It has to be remembered some of
5 the details of some of the facts are not going to be
6 exactly right. It was so long ago. Her plans for
7 release or develop marketable skills, I don't think that
8 those are any kind of issue. Past and present mental
9 state and past and present attitude towards her crime.
10 I think she described how she feels about her crime and
11 how it affects her. She says today -- even today she
12 has bad days and it's when she relives that, and that's
13 part of the sentence that she's going to have for the
14 rest of her life, whether paroled or not. It doesn't
15 matter. Consideration of the inmate's post-conviction
16 conduct and as it relates to her current ability to
17 function within the law if released from prison. One of
18 the arguments that the DA made was that she has to be in
19 a highly structured facility to be able to function.
20 Well, she was out on parole for a while at the -- or on
21 bail on the third trial and nothing bad happened. She
22 went to work. She functioned in the community. You
23 know it wasn't for a very long time, but she did well.
24 As far as Ms. Lebowitz wanting Ms. Van Houten to address
25 the victims' families through the mail or personally or

1 directly at a hearing, I don't think she understands
2 that that's not possible. If Ms. Van Houten were to do
3 that, she would be reprimanded for that, so certainly
4 not doing it can't be used against her. She says the
5 claim that Charlie made me do it -- well, their office
6 said the same thing in their Supreme Court brief over
7 and over again. She says the jury didn't buy it but
8 their office bought it, and her office relies on it to
9 this day. So for her to now argue against that is
10 disingenuous. The abortion. She, you know, it's
11 something that she didn't address right away because it
12 was so hard for her. And then to have her fetus buried
13 in the back yard, this was a situation she could not
14 escape. And for her to block that out, I think that's a
15 normal human reaction and just kind of in the beginning
16 not address it head-on and just look at it as a
17 miscarriage and that's -- that is at that time a lack of
18 insight and not addressing all of these things that were
19 pivotal at the time her life had changed so radically.
20 The other thing that was pivotal at that time that her
21 life changed so radically was the family's divorce. And
22 I read a book John Fogerty wrote last year and I was
23 surprised. He spent seven pages on his family's
24 divorce. And if you're not familiar with him, he wrote
25 all the songs for Creedence Clearwater Revival. And he

1 concluded with these sentences. He says divorce was an
2 immense failure to -- for me -- not for his family but
3 for him. He felt that responsible. He said it just
4 didn't happen to good families and his family's divorce
5 was the same time as Ms. Van Houten's. He said I felt
6 that I was at the bottom end of the social totem pole.
7 Ms. Van Houten today talked about how her friends
8 changed when she had her divorce. She was with these
9 single parent kids and that's when the drug use started.
10 He said my parents' divorce was almost too much to bear.
11 People handle divorce differently. It has different
12 impacts on everybody. And you know, it's -- John
13 Fogerty, he went and hid in his music and music writing,
14 and Leslie, she went and hid with drugs and lesser
15 friends, and it was a bad decision and she recognizes it
16 today. At the time that she was going to go to the
17 Self-Realization Fellowship, that time period, she was
18 sober. She had just finished business school. She was
19 sober. And so all those arguments about doing it while
20 on drugs don't apply. The -- she says that Ms. Van
21 Houten did not apply the issue that Charlie made me do
22 it. Well, the DA never appealed her sentence. Now she
23 says that oh, she was sentenced just barely before this
24 new special circumstances penalty was imposed by the
25 law. It was imposed by the law, but they can't impose

1 the law on a crime that was committed almost a decade
2 earlier. That's an ex post facto violation, but yet
3 that's the inference that the DA thinks that they should
4 have applied to this case. Premeditated, that's another
5 issue. The second trial was hung on the issue of
6 premeditation. The third trial, Ms. Van Houten was
7 convicted of felony murder rule, which they didn't have
8 to prove intent, premeditation or any of that. So not
9 only, you know, did she not acknowledge the
10 premeditation, the jury didn't either. The youthful
11 offender, this Board shall give great weight -- whatever
12 that means -- and I don't know what it means yet -- I
13 hope you do -- and if you could put that on the record
14 if you know what it means and put it on the record, I
15 think it would be helpful for all of us about the
16 diminished culpability of juveniles. And in *Miller v.*
17 *Alabama*, the Supreme Court talked about those hallmark
18 features, immaturity, impetuosity, failure to appreciate
19 risks and consequences, prevents taking into account the
20 family and home environment that surrounds them. No
21 matter how brutal or dysfunctional the family life might
22 be, they can't get away from it. And neglects the
23 circumstances of the homicide offense, including the
24 extent of the participation in the conduct the way peer
25 pressures may have affected them. Well, Ms. Van Houten

1 certainly had peer pressure from Charlie on down at the
2 ranch. They were pressuring each other because that's
3 what they were taught and trained to do. As far as the
4 elderly parole, at this stage of her life, you know,
5 she's got diminished capacity to be able to do something
6 violent. Matter of fact, the only violent thing she's
7 ever done in her entire life was the commitment offense.
8 Into substance abuse. It was severe. It was heavy and
9 it occurred at a time when the divorce happened which --
10 and shortly thereafter was the abortion which probably
11 fueled it. But she's addressed that and she's continued
12 to address it, and she talked about how she would do 12
13 steps probably for the rest of her life. The home
14 meetings, what those are called by the people in the 12-
15 step programs are the one meeting where you have your
16 closest friends and you share most intimately and it's
17 the one that you don't miss no matter what happens in
18 that week. I think that she referred to who it was and
19 when it was, but that's what's normally referred to as a
20 home meeting in the AA meetings on the outside anyway.
21 Ms. Van Houten talked about how first of all ludicrous,
22 as Commissioner pointed out, this whole going into the
23 hole for 150 years, and you know, emerging and
24 everything was. Some people say Christianity is
25 ludicrous, too, where Jesus Christ dies for three days

1 and is born again and then will live forever. But
2 there, you know, Christianity has had its wars through
3 the years and it doesn't justify any of this, but it
4 just shows the plausibility of somebody who has the
5 ability to control minds and is a godlike figure, how
6 this situation could possibly have happened, and they
7 took, as Ms. Van Houten pointed out, vulnerable people
8 whose, you know, relationships in their lives had been
9 fractured was the word she used. I think that was a
10 good word. The drugs that they took, the LSD in the
11 circle where Manson would talk to them for seven or
12 eight hours and indoctrinate them. I'm not an expert on
13 brainwashing. I'm not an expert on cults. But I was a
14 Navy Seal and we were taught how to get information and
15 how to get people to give us what we wanted them to give
16 us. And these are the kind of tactics that they taught
17 us. Said we all shared characteristics. We're all in
18 some place we had fractured personalities. Coupled with
19 that the drugs, coupled with Manson's ability and
20 knowledge to manipulate people, the LSD made us more
21 susceptible to suggestions. As far as what the law
22 says, unless today Ms. Van Houten poses an unreasonable
23 risk to public safety if placed on supervised parole,
24 this Panel shall parole her. And all I'm asking is that
25 you follow the law. And if you find that she's an

1 unreasonable risk to public safety, please state what
2 that risk is, and if you don't, please follow the law
3 and grant her parole. And I think that the one last
4 thing I wanted to point out is the amends. She can't
5 make direct amends to the family and step nine says to
6 do so unless it would hurt them or others. And trying
7 to make direct amends, first of all, would violate
8 prison rules, and second of all, it could hurt them. So
9 the only way she can make amends is I heard one
10 Commissioner state it as universal amends where you pay
11 it forward to other people. That's how she's living her
12 life. When you look at all of the work she's doing,
13 Deputy Commissioner says how do you fit all this into
14 your work week. For years, I've represented women here,
15 and it's an emotional thing for -- especially for women
16 to go to parole hearings, and they start to get very
17 anxious and nervous and almost mental basket cases. And
18 I've always sent them to Leslie to calm them down and
19 she's never said no. And I mean that's the kind of
20 stuff you get combat pay for, but she'll always take
21 them, open arms, has made a difference in their lives.
22 A lot of them have written letters. Some people say
23 don't trust a letter from an inmate. My experience is
24 if inmates sat on the other side of this table, they'd
25 be a little bit more careful than some of the

1 Commissioners on who they let out. They don't want to
2 see one person go home who can mess up this whole thing
3 for everybody else. And you're seeing people who are
4 writing letters who are successful on the outside who
5 became rehabilitated in some part through Ms. Van
6 Houten's efforts in here. And that's the way she's
7 making amends. She's making a difference in the world.
8 And how can she stay optimistic as the Deputy
9 Commissioner asked being denied parole all these years?
10 She said I'm going to live my life the best way I can,
11 and that's what she's done, and I think that her record
12 reflects that. So with that I just ask you to follow
13 the law and grant her parole. Thank you.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Ms. Van
15 Houten, this is your opportunity to address the Panel
16 directly with your closing statement if you so choose.

17 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** I would like to just say
18 thank you for the opportunity to come today. I answered
19 your questions as candidly as I'm able to. And I want
20 to again say how sorry I am for my unconscionable
21 behavior in 1969 and who I was. And I try to make
22 recompense for what I have done so that I can live with
23 myself and I'm deeply sorry for what I've done.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you,
25 Ms. Van Houten. We'll have an opportunity at this point

1 to hear victims' impact statements. Do you have the
2 written letter at this point?

3 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** We do.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Let's
5 take a recess right now. The time is approximately
6 1:50. Thank you.

7 (Off the record.)

8 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** We're back on record.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you,
10 Commissioner. The time is approximately 2:07. All
11 parties previously identified are present. We're ready
12 at this juncture for impact statements first from the
13 letter, if possible, and the microphone if possible.
14 Thank you.

15 **DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LEBOWITZ:** I will read
16 this the best I can as the printer cartridge on the fax
17 does not seem to be working. My name is Tony LaMontagne
18 M-O-N-T-A-G-N-E (sic), and I am the oldest grandson of
19 Leno LaBianca and his wife, Rosemary. I want to start
20 by asking a question not to be directly answered but to
21 be considered. Why are we actually here? Are we really
22 here to try and justify why -- unintelligible -- oh, why
23 we should allow a convicted and admitted mass murderer
24 out of prison? Please think about this statement --
25 about that statement for a second. Are we really at a

1 point in our society where we are actually spending our
2 time and energy on this nonsense? This is a person who
3 invaded my family's home. This could have been any of
4 your homes as well, but she and her group decided to
5 invade our home and stick a knife into my family over
6 and over and over, and I could continue, but you've
7 heard all the evidence for decades. We're here to
8 decide if we want this type of person in our
9 neighborhoods. This is not someone else's neighborhood.
10 This could be your neighborhood or my neighborhood.
11 Last time she was in my neighborhood, she murdered my
12 family. My family has forever been changed since that
13 tragic night, but I'm sure that you've heard the story
14 before as we've been doing this for almost 50 years.
15 What can I say that can convince you to keep this
16 murderer in prison for the rest of her life and not
17 allow my family to continue to endure this ongoing pain
18 of living this out over and over again? I would really
19 love an answer to that question. I spent the last
20 several days looking over transcripts and letters from
21 the past of this topic, and the reasons for keeping this
22 inmate in prison haven't changed. She's convicted of
23 murdering Leno and Rosemary LaBianca. This by itself
24 should be enough to keep her behind bars for life. She
25 has shown absolutely no remorse to our family for her

1 actions, and at this point, it couldn't be genuine even
2 if she tried. That ship has sailed. Everything that I
3 heard this morning in this hearing is a complete excuse
4 as to why she committed these horrible crimes. There is
5 absolutely no real remorse or ownership of her actions.
6 It's everyone else's fault, not hers. Take ownership of
7 your actions and the consequences that come from them.
8 Everyone else in society does. It's time to accept your
9 punishment of murdering my grandfather and his wife in
10 cold blood and stop working the system to get out. God
11 is watching. Please remember that Leno, Rosemary and
12 our family are the victims here, not this inmate. I
13 repeat, not this inmate. I want to conclude my
14 statement with a short and true story that I've heard
15 time and time again from my mother, Leno's first child,
16 about the last memories he has of her father -- she has
17 of her father. The last time I saw my dad was on
18 Father's Day 1969. I can still feel his arms around me
19 in what would be our last hug, and I remember our last
20 words on the telephone a week later as we discussed what
21 he'd do for his birthday. He said it might be better to
22 get together a week later. If he had not said those
23 words, my brother, my sister and I would have been there
24 that night and we would have died beside him. "Then
25 you're going to have to wait for your present" I told

1 him with a smile in my voice. "I can wait" he said. "I
2 love you Cory." Parole Board, please make the right
3 decision. Tony LaMontagne and family.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you.
5 Ms. Tate, would you like to make a statement first or
6 Mr. Smaldino?

7 **MS. TATE:** I'm coming up.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Okay. Thank
9 you, Ms. Tate.

10 **MS. TATE:** Sorry (inaudible). As I stated when I
11 checked in, I'm here to represent cousins of John
12 DeSantis, a cousin of Lou's, a nephew of Leno LaBianca.
13 I've also in the past represented Angela Smaldino who is
14 in extremely fragile mental state as a direct connection
15 to Ms. Van Houten's actions. I feel that I know very
16 well how these people feel and how it affects
17 generations going forward, which I believe you
18 experienced today with John Montagne on the phone.
19 That's a grandchild who never had the privilege of
20 meeting his grandfather, and still to this day he's
21 traumatized. The ripples in the pond are tremendous,
22 and it doesn't stop here. I don't believe that a just
23 society has anything in mind to -- they don't even --
24 most of them don't think it's possible that our justice
25 system could let out a member of a serial killing

1 family, which is what these people are bottom line. The
2 ripple effect that could happen there could be
3 tremendous. Who knows who is going to go off the deep
4 end first -- her or the public. I want to make sure and
5 so does the entire relatives on both Leno and Rosemary's
6 side of the family that nobody breaks. And the only way
7 that this can be ensured is to let Ms. Van Houten and
8 the rest of her crime partners live out their life in a
9 controlled environment where they can truly do good.
10 She's done a great job here in jail. I will not refute
11 that and neither will any of these family members. But
12 there are a few things that I would like you to take
13 into consideration. Over and over again the family
14 members have pled for a personal contact and the lawyers
15 keep saying that that's impossible. It is not. That is
16 a blatant lie and an abuse of the system. There is
17 technique involved in getting letters to the victim's
18 family. The truth of the matter is Ms. Van Houten has
19 never wanted to cross that bridge. There are so many
20 people involved here. She admits that she holds herself
21 responsible for the killings the night before. You've
22 got Gary Hinman's family. You have the Tate family
23 which includes me, the Sebring family, the Wojciech
24 Frykowski family. You have Steven Parent's family. You
25 have Gary Hinman's family, which all of these

1 occurrences were designed to cover up that particular
2 incident. Each of those prior murders she wanted to be
3 a part of. She trained for them. If that's not lying
4 in wait, I don't know what is. If that's not special
5 circumstances and an indicator of an extremely
6 potentially sick individual, there are markers here
7 which the psychology community takes into consideration.
8 Perhaps better doctors -- there are better and worse in
9 everything, but their opinion is that people that have
10 these markers are almost destined to have trouble
11 adapting because they can't see the world through
12 empathetic or passionate eyes. This is shown again with
13 the lack of concern of contacting the family. If she
14 had -- she only wants to do her dues or her due
15 diligence in her way, in her world. There's a sea of
16 people out here that need an apology before they can be
17 taken -- she can be taken seriously, and I do want you
18 to take that into consideration. Also, nowhere in these
19 laws that have been quoted does it state that the
20 severity and magnitude of the crime doesn't count. It
21 does count. You can take that into accountability and I
22 know that John DeSantis expects that. We all do. So
23 with that I would like you to give her the maximum years
24 possible, which would be the five years at this point in
25 time given her record. And I thank you.

1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you,
2 Ms. Tate. Mr. Smaldino.

3 **MR. SMALDINO:** First of all I'd like to thank you
4 for allowing me to speak on behalf of the LaBianca
5 family. My name is Louis Smaldino. I am the oldest
6 nephew of Leno and Rosemary LaBianca. My mother is
7 Stella Smaldino, who is Leno's older sister. The
8 victims here, we're here to protest against any parole
9 for Ms. Van Houten or any of the Manson family members.
10 I have attended ten of these hearings with a great deal
11 of sadness, angst, anger and disgust for what these
12 people did to our family. It is very difficult to
13 relive the tragedy each time I appear, but I believe it
14 is important that I do so. Someone has to speak for the
15 victims of this violent murderous rampage visited on
16 them as well as our family. Someone has to speak for
17 justice. Leno and Rosemary were in life's prime, in
18 their mid-forties with five children and were dearly
19 loved. He was the owner of a successful grocery
20 business which subsequently failed due to his absence at
21 great personal financial loss to the family. Rosemary
22 was life personified. I don't know if you've seen
23 pictures of her, but she was literally -- she could have
24 been a movie actress and she was beautiful, gregarious,
25 giving, and most importantly a good mother. Both were

1 brutally attacked and murdered in the sanctity of their
2 home by sociopaths bent on murder and starting a race
3 war. It was not enough to kill before, but they did it
4 again here with no remorse. All still live and keep
5 burdening our legal system with frequent parole requests
6 as if their heinous crimes and acts never took place.
7 I'm here to remind the Board that we can never forget
8 the acts committed or the void in so many lives that
9 exist. We ask for justice. Excuse me. The facts have
10 been painfully laid before you today. The
11 premeditation, the zeal, the thrill of the kill, all are
12 traits of a sociopath which is incurable. Ms. Van
13 Houten is someone who is without real remorse and has a
14 disregard for human life. To this day, she has offered
15 no apology to any of the victims' families and claims
16 only -- she was only a spectator who stabbed Rosemary
17 after she was dead. This is someone who is deficient as
18 a human being and I hate to say that about anyone. Who
19 of us would not accept total responsibility for these
20 murders if we participated in any way? She is a danger
21 to society and can never be trusted or be released with
22 this sort of a mindset. Ms. Van Houten is without
23 empathy or compassion, and frankly, in my opinion, is a
24 narcissist who only thinks of herself and finding a way
25 out of prison. The place where these murders took place

1 was our traditional family home where we all gathered to
2 enjoy holidays. It was my grandfather's house. The
3 home was desecrated. The knife Leno was stabbed with
4 and left in his body was the same utensil that was used
5 to carve turkeys and hams by my grandfather, my dad, and
6 Leno himself. How does anyone forget this -- ever? How
7 does anyone forget the last moment of Rosemary's life as
8 she heard Leno's last screams and knew her demise was
9 soon to follow? The horror of it all. How do we
10 forget? Both my grandmother and mother never were the
11 same after these events. They were constantly sad
12 before their deaths. The children of the deceased
13 cannot bring themselves to come to these hearings. As
14 the oldest, I've assumed this role, God help me, to save
15 them the anguish of facing these horrific murders once
16 again. The Manson family are terrorists, albeit home
17 grown. They are long before their time. I mean what
18 we're saying today these people were back in the 60s.
19 They are a gang of murderers who are unrepentant and use
20 excuses of brainwashing and drugs to vindicate
21 themselves from their actions. How would we deal with
22 the terrorist today if they did these sort of things,
23 you know? Parole them? They will say and do anything
24 to game the system and try to achieve freedom. They
25 gave up their right to freedom, even life, when they

1 committed these murders -- multiple murders. In fact,
2 they should have all suffered capital punishment for
3 their deeds, but due to the quirks in our legal system,
4 they have the possibility of parole. We stand firmly as
5 a family against parole and ask that Ms. Van Houten
6 accept responsibility for her part in these heinous
7 murders and pay the just price for them. Leno and
8 Rosemary will never be able to enjoy their children,
9 grandchildren or extended family. They will never be
10 able to enjoy a meal or a family gathering. They will
11 never be able to enjoy the fruits of their labor. They
12 will never be able to enjoy old age. These were all
13 taken away from them. It is not fear that causes
14 thousands of people to oppose this parole, but a demand
15 for justice for the heinous crimes committed. Only
16 justice can restore some semblance of equity by keeping
17 Ms. Van Houten in prison for the rest of her life where
18 she can pray and do good works to make some amends for
19 her unspeakable deeds. Again, I would like to thank the
20 Board for allowing me to speak. I'm sorry for my
21 temperament.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you,
23 Mr. Smaldino. With that, we're going to recess for
24 deliberations. The time is approximately 2:25.

25 **R E C E S S**

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS**D E C I S I O N**

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM: Back on record.

PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM: Thank you.

The time is approximately 3:20. All parties previously identified are present. We have reconvened for the pronouncement of the Panel's decision in the matter of Ms. Leslie Van Houten with a controlling offense of Penal Code Section 187, two counts, and conspiracy in the first as well. In our deliberations we did consider the Central File, the additional documents submitted and marked, all responses received from the public and the testimony presented at this hearing by Ms. Van Houten. Also, obviously we took into consideration Ms. Tate's impact statement here today as well as Mr. Smaldino. We also took into consideration at this hearing here today the inmate qualifies as a youthful offender pursuant to Penal Code Section 3051 as enacted by SB 261 and the great weight requirements set forth therein, namely, giving great weight to diminished culpability of juveniles as compared to adults, the hallmark features of youth, and any subsequent growth and maturity. We also considered that the inmate, Ms. Van Houten, her current age at this time qualifies her as an elderly

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1 parole. We considered the confidential section, did not
2 rely on said information for this instant hearing here
3 today. Ultimately, Ms. Van Houten, we have made a
4 decision unanimously to grant you parole and find that
5 you are suitable at this time and as such do not pose an
6 unreasonable risk of danger to society. Ms. Van Houten,
7 this decision is not final. BPH Decision Review has 120
8 days to review this decision. Thereafter, the Governor
9 himself has 30 additional days during which time he may
10 review this decision de novo. In our deliberation, we
11 discussed areas tending to show unsuitability, and
12 foremost, obviously the life crime has impacted many
13 people in many walks of life over decades and
14 generations that still go on today. Your actions were
15 deemed to be atrocious, cruel and monstrous. Your
16 actions, as Ms. Tate stated eloquently here today,
17 resulted in a ripple effect of family members,
18 grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and the general public.
19 The other areas we discussed in our deliberation was the
20 very essence of this crime here today, and that is the
21 life crime itself. In certain unique cases, the law in
22 the cases and the dicta directs us and tells us that in
23 extraordinary cases that those cases -- those
24 individuals responsible for those cases may be the sole
25 **LESLIE VAN HOUTEN W-13378 DECISION PAGE 2 4/14/16**

1 basis of denial irrespective of years served. At first
2 glance, reviewing these documents, reviewing this case,
3 I believe this was one of those cases. The mere mention
4 of the name Manson half a century later invokes the
5 thought of evil, fear and danger to the general public
6 and the perception and that's not only delegated to
7 people in this city or this country, but around the
8 world as was demonstrated by all the support and
9 opposition we've seen. But in our deliberations we
10 discussed that this case, your case, is distinguishable
11 from those cases. That case is a Charlie Manson case
12 and a Charlie Manson hearing. That case factor, the
13 manipulation, the control, your age at the time, makes
14 your case distinguishable and not that case that case
15 law refers to. So that was really the sole issue before
16 the Panel in our deliberations. We listened to closing
17 arguments. We listened to the body of the hearing here
18 today, and there's a lot of evidence that supports
19 unsuitability, but the problem is there needs to be a
20 nexus. Otherwise, you'd never get out. Nobody ever
21 gets out in this world if that's the case. The crimes
22 are so atrocious, the crimes are so deeply gruesome and
23 monstrous, but that's not the law. That's not justice.
24 And to be quite honest, if that was the law, and you

25 **LESLIE VAN HOUTEN W-13378 DECISION PAGE 3 4/14/16**

1 were sent to death, that's the law. But currently where
2 you're sitting and the rules that we have to abide by,
3 that is not the law. So we have to follow the law. For
4 this very body of individuals, we have to follow the
5 law. Otherwise, all laws can be violated against all
6 people. So that factor loomed large in the Panel's --
7 and when you see victims like the ones that appeared
8 here today, when you see the letters, it just looms
9 large. You see the victims before you where as a Panel,
10 we're human. But ultimately the Panel determined that
11 these factors were far outweighed by other circumstances
12 not only showing suitability, but it's exemplary
13 behavior. But I think to a certain degree you have to
14 show exemplary behavior. You have to show something
15 beyond the normal inmate. It just looks like that's how
16 it has to be. And given a long period of time, those
17 immutable factors no longer indicate to the Panel here
18 today a current risk of danger to society in light of a
19 lengthy period of positive rehabilitation, and that's
20 what we have. You have been incarcerated for
21 approximately 46 years. You were 19 years old when you
22 committed this life crime, and you're currently 66 years
23 old. You're now much older, less susceptible to peer
24 pressure, and you have significantly matured, not only

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1 in age, but also through work you've done and the
2 maturation process, the self-study, education and the
3 like. That was evidenced here today and we saw it. The
4 juvenile status, the great weight played a role in this
5 hearing here today. We have to take that into
6 consideration and give it great weight, and the very
7 essence of those laws is what we see before us in
8 Ms. Van Houten. Juveniles are less susceptible to
9 deterrents, are less susceptible than adults because
10 they lack the maturity and underdeveloped sense of
11 responsibility which often results in impetuous and ill-
12 considered actions. Your choices that you made in your
13 life at an early age based on the belief system that the
14 family was over when there was a dissolution led you to
15 a lifestyle of drugs, running away, unplanned pregnancy,
16 the abortion, anti-establishment philosophy of the
17 times. You exhibited these hallmarks of youth at the
18 time of the crime as compared to adults, lack of
19 maturity, underdeveloped sense of responsibility,
20 leading a reckless, impulsive lifestyle. So that was
21 261. That was what the Supreme Court has ruled on, and
22 that is on point with the case factors we see before the
23 Panel here today, so the great weight played a role.
24 Your age played a role. Historically speaking you did

25 **LESLIE VAN HOUTEN W-13378 DECISION PAGE 5 4/14/16**

1 not have a record of assaulting others as a juvenile,
2 and you lacked a significant history of violent crime as
3 an adult. Since your incarceration, you've had a
4 positive performance rating in prison. You've been a
5 tutor, culinary, porter, upgraded educationally, your BA
6 degree, master's degree, a thesis to go with that. You
7 have received vocational training in data processing and
8 tutor to go along with vocation of education in and of
9 itself that will help you put -- and secure employment
10 in the community. You have been involved in numerous
11 self-help programs in the institution, not only involved
12 in taking them for over 40 years, but also as a leader
13 and facilitating, inclusive of Alternatives to Violence,
14 Victim Offender Education Group, Emotions Anonymous,
15 Chaffey College for over a decade now. Your behavior in
16 prison speaks for itself. Forty-six years, not a single
17 serious rule violation. None for violence. None for
18 substance abuse. You spoke about your substance abuse
19 issues early on while incarcerated which shed light on
20 your credibility at this hearing here today and we found
21 you to be utmost credible at this hearing.

22 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Thank you.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** You have an
24 outlined detailed relapse prevention plan to ensure your

25 **LESLIE VAN HOUTEN W-13378 DECISION PAGE 6 4/14/16**

1 sobriety. You could relate the 12 steps. More
2 importantly, you understand what tools AA and NA have
3 provided, which is essential to making the changes
4 necessary to prevent relapse over time. You were able
5 to demonstrate to us and were able to verbalize to us
6 the requisite insight into the causative factors and
7 triggers that plagued your life. This understanding is
8 important to us, the Panel, in that you were able to
9 verbalize and demonstrate why you did what you did, what
10 changes you have made throughout the years, and what
11 tools you have garnered to safeguard against repeating
12 those past mistakes. You demonstrated this not only
13 through your testimony here today, but also documents
14 we've marked as exhibits, insight letters, relapse
15 prevention plans, parole plans, community resources,
16 support system in society. Ultimately the Panel
17 determined that you did not minimize nor blame others
18 for your actions, and you took full responsibility for
19 your conduct. Your version that you articulated here
20 was deemed to be plausible and not against the face of
21 reason. You demonstrated the requisite remorse
22 indicating you understand the nature and magnitude of
23 the offense. I understand that the Tates -- Ms. Tate's
24 comments here -- and I also understand that Victims

25 **LESLIE VAN HOUTEN W-13378 DECISION PAGE 7 4/14/16**

1 Services doesn't accept letters to forward to the family
2 members at this time, but we saw the contrition. We saw
3 your expressed remorse for loss of life. Your parole
4 plans are viable. You have identified people and place,
5 transitional home and appears you have a network of
6 support in the community. We want to also note the
7 Comprehensive Risk Assessment not only in 2016, which
8 found you to be a low risk of recidivism, 2010, 2007,
9 2006 and seems like from 1980 on, they have been
10 positive. And to be quite honest, after these 46 years,
11 we looked for even a singular issue to demonstrate an
12 indicia of evidence that creates a nexus to current
13 dangerousness. There just isn't one anymore.
14 Commissioner, comments.

15 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Thank you,
16 Commissioner. I must tell you, no matter how many of
17 these hearings we do, every time we listen to the
18 victims' family or the victims' family representatives
19 speak, it's excruciating, I mean, so I want to let you
20 know that we don't give -- take grants lightly at all.
21 But in your case, I will tell you that it is
22 overwhelming the evidence that you are suitable.
23 Because when I was prepping for your case, I'll be
24 honest with you. I had a really difficult time

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1 believing in brainwashing. I really do. I mean you
2 know, nobody in this room hasn't heard of Manson and the
3 murders, so -- but I will tell you that by the time I
4 was done reading everything that I could, that is the
5 only conclusion that I could come to. That that is the
6 only way to understand your case. And that is you were
7 a follower and you were under his control. Everything
8 that you've explained today and everything I've read in
9 the file, it clearly -- it's very clear that he was a
10 mastermind at mind control at every move, and within
11 those few months that you were with him, there's no
12 question to me after having heard everything and read
13 everything that that's what was going on. I think
14 that's why you were, after the murder, as you told the
15 last Panel, I mean the facts of your case have been
16 heard so many times that I found such consistency really
17 over the years that we didn't -- I didn't feel I needed
18 to drill much into it, but that would explain to me why
19 you spent two months after the murder in Death Valley
20 looking for this hole, the bottomless pit. You were
21 gone. So for me, your hearing, it was very important
22 for me that you understood how all that came to be and
23 how you deprogrammed from it and where you are at this
24 point, and I think you answered every question that I

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1 needed to know to feel safe in my heart and my intellect
2 that you are ready and you are safe to be released. And
3 I think you have tremendous insight, and if you are not
4 rehabilitated, I don't know who is. But I want to put
5 on the record something else that is -- cannot be
6 ignored, and that is I printed out every single one of
7 your psych reports all the way back to '71 and read them
8 all. And from 1980 until today, 17 doctors have said
9 that you are a low risk to an extremely low risk and
10 that you -- on psychopathy you rank very low to low
11 which tells me that -- which actually fits into the
12 understanding that you were brainwashed, and that's why
13 we see a girl who didn't have any violence before commit
14 this horrific crime, and when she comes out of it, we
15 don't see any more violence. I think all the facts fit.
16 That is not to say that I don't hold you accountable
17 because you led yourself to that point, but I do want to
18 read -- because I think it's very -- supports this
19 grant, you know. In '85 Dr. Cotter says that there's no
20 contraindication to your release other than public
21 opinion. '86, Dr. Weathers says that your
22 rehabilitation is complete. Your violence potential is
23 low. Every single person says you were low or extremely
24 low. I believe Dr. Coburn even said that he felt safe
25 **LESLIE VAN HOUTEN W-13378 DECISION PAGE 10 4/14/16**

1 enough for you to live on the upstairs of his home. So
2 you know, in reviewing this and digesting everything, I
3 have to ask myself, okay, one doctor, you know, okay,
4 maybe incorrect. Two, three, four, five, but 17 over 36
5 years. I cannot sit here and be dishonest with the
6 facts is what I'm telling you. And is that to say that
7 if every case 17 doctors said you're safe, I would
8 rubber-stamp it? No. What I saw in the last five hours
9 tells me that they're right. I didn't see -- beyond all
10 the factors of suitability, insight, no assaultive
11 juvenile record, rehabilitation up the wazoo, beyond all
12 that, I'll be honest with you, what I look for in the
13 end is whether you still have criminal thinking,
14 criminal behavior, any vestiges of that criminal mind,
15 and I saw nothing today. And I think after five hours
16 you don't see any, I have to stick with what the
17 evidence shows and not pretend that something is there
18 when it's not. So I really commend you. You know,
19 usually after a grant, I like to tell inmates that the
20 only way you can keep the memory of suffering alive and
21 the memory of the victims alive and the victims' family
22 alive and what they're going through is to live a life
23 of integrity and pay it forward. But in your case,
24 you've already been doing that for so long, so I guess

25 **LESLIE VAN HOUTEN W-13378 DECISION PAGE 11 4/14/16**

1 all I have to say is keep it up and I wish you good
2 luck.

3 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Thank you.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Thank you,
5 Commissioner. With respect to term calculations, the
6 term of confinement of the life crime is as follows.
7 Per Penal Code Section 3046(c) a qualified youthful
8 offender found suitable and eligible for parole
9 regardless of any remaining terms to be served subject
10 to BPH Decision Review, Governor's review and any terms
11 to be served pursuant to *In Re Thompson* as a result of
12 our decision today you are eligible for parole upon
13 reaching your MEPD or youthful offender parole
14 eligibility date, whichever occurs earlier, which you
15 have. With respect to conditions of parole, you're
16 subject to all imposed general and special conditions of
17 parole as set forth by Penal Code Section 2512 and 2513.
18 Based on that statutory authority, this Panel orders the
19 following special conditions of parole. For you not to
20 have any contact with the victims' family or next-of-
21 kin. For you to participate in a residential program,
22 transitional home as is ordered by DAPO of your choice.
23 The Roxie is --

24 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Roxie Rose.

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1 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER ZARRINNAM:** Roxie Rose is
2 sufficient for the Panel here today for -- at a minimum
3 of one year I think is a good start for you to engage in
4 transitional home. With that I'd like to thank all the
5 participants here today, and this hearing is hereby
6 concluded. The time is approximately 3:40. Good luck
7 to you.

8 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Thank you.

9 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAM:** Good luck, ma'am.

10 **INMATE VAN HOUTEN:** Thank you very much.

11 **ATTORNEY PFEIFFER:** Thank you both.

12 **A D J O U R N M E N T**

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25 **LESLIE VAN HOUTEN W-13378 DECISION PAGE 13 4/14/16**

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THIS TRANSCRIPT CONTAINS THE PROPOSED DECISION OF THE BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS (BOARD) ANNOUNCED AT YOUR RECENT BOARD HEARING AND IS PROVIDED TO YOU IN COMPLIANCE WITH PENAL CODE SECTION 3041.5, SUBDIVISION (A) (4), AND CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 15, SECTION 2254. THIS PROPOSED DECISION WILL BECOME FINAL WITHIN 120 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE HEARING AS REQUIRED BY PENAL CODE SECTION 3041, SUBDIVISION (B), UNLESS THE BOARD NOTIFIES YOU IN WRITING BEFORE THEN THAT THE PROPOSED DECISION HAS BEEN MODIFIED, VACATED OR REFERRED TO THE FULL BOARD, SITTING EN BANC, DUE TO AN ERROR OF LAW, ERROR OF FACT OR NEW INFORMATION PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 15, SECTION 2042. THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR HAS AUTHORITY TO REVIEW THE BOARD'S DECISION AND AFFIRM, MODIFY, OR REVERSE IT PURSUANT TO PENAL CODE SECTIONS 3041.1 AND 3041.2.

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**CERTIFICATE AND
DECLARATION OF TRANSCRIBER**

I, CHERYL SORENSEN, as the Official Transcriber,
hereby certify that the attached proceedings:

In the matter of the Life) CDC Number: W-13378
Term Parole Consideration)
Hearing of:)
)
LESLIE VAN HOUTEN)
_____)

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN

CORONA, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 14, 2016

8:46 A.M.

were held as herein appears. Further, this transcript
is a true, complete, and accurate record, to the best of
my ability, of the recorded material provided for
transcription.

Cheryl Sorensen

Cheryl Sorensen
April 26, 2016
Northern California Court Reporters
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