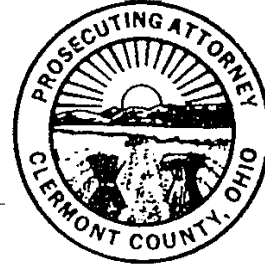


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August 21, 2018

Parole Board Chair  
Adult Parole Authority  
770 West Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43222

Re: Larry M. Ralston A152318

I am writing this letter to strongly oppose parole for Defendant and wish to see him serve life in prison. Defendant is a serial killer. It is not often such a phrase is truly applicable, but in this case it is precisely the phrase that must be used to describe Defendant. Serial murder, according to Black's Law Dictionary, is "[a] murder in which a criminal kills one of many victims over time, often as part of a pattern in which the criminal targets victims who have some similar characteristics. *Black's Law Dictionary* 1177 (10th Ed.2014). Between 1975 and 1977, Defendant killed at least five women. His pattern was to pick up young female hitchhikers or young women he knew only briefly, take them to a remote location, try to engage in sexual conduct with them, and if they refused or resisted, strangle them and leave their body. In fact, two of Defendant's

victims we killed in the exact same manner, in the exact same location. While three other young women were fortunate enough to survive their sexual assaults, their stories may be very different had a car not pulled onto the scene in the middle of the ordeal. Moreover, it was because these women survived to tell their story that Defendant's other victims received some modicum of justice.

After Defendant raped the women in his car by forcing them to have sex with one another and then forcing himself on at least two of them, a car happened to pull up near the remote area where Defendant had been parked, ultimately causing Defendant to let the women go. Thereafter, Defendant fled to Chicago where authorities eventually caught up with him. It was during law enforcement's interrogation of Defendant on these rape charges that Defendant admitted to the aggravated murders of the multiple women. Not only did Defendant give a detailed summary of how he came to murder each one, he showed officers where he dumped the bodies—the same locations where their bodies had previously been found.

In Clermont County alone, Defendant was convicted of four aggravated murders and two rapes. Though one of his aggravated murder convictions was overturned based on a now outdated understanding of corpus delicti, he nonetheless admitted to five murders. Defendant killed Elaina Bear in 1977 after he picked her up hitchhiking. Defendant took her for a ride and at some point in their trip in Clermont County, Defendant forcefully raped her. He then strangled his young victim and took her life. Defendant told officers, "It's the only way I ever killed any of them." After killing Elaina, Defendant continued to drive around, talking to her lifeless body for hours. He stated that he had held her hand and caressed her head to comfort her. Eventually, Defendant

stripped his victim of her clothes and left her naked body in a creek under a bridge. He then took Elaina's clothes and threw them in a dumpster, knowing it was too cold for anyone to go searching through the garbage.

Two years prior, Defendant strangled and killed Linda Harmon in the exact same place as he killed Elaina. He described killing Elaina as easier than killing Linda. Linda had disappeared waiting for a bus on September 3, 1975 and her dismembered body and skeletal remains were found in a remote area around Felicity in Clermont County. Defendant stated that he had wanted to have sex with her, but that she resisted. He told officers that this started a fight where he ended up strangling her.

In 1976, Defendant killed Nancy Grigsby. He told police how he wanted to have sex with her, but that she resisted and so he killed her. He stated that after killing her, he carried her body to a place just off the road among some trees. Her body was later found after some hunters came across her skeletal remains.

In 1977, Defendant raped and killed Diane McCrobie. He stated that Diane had resisted the rape, causing him to hold her down by her throat as he had sex with her. Defendant eventually realized that Diane had stopped breathing. After strangling her, Defendant dragged her body into an open field and covered it with brush. Diane's remains were eventually discovered and she was identified both through a necklace that she had been wearing and through dental identification.

There are some crimes that are too extreme, too atrocious to warrant a second chance. No matter Defendant's level of rehabilitation, what he did was unforgivable. Moreover, Defendant had a second chance after he killed Linda Harmon. Instead of realizing the gravity of what he had done and turning himself in or getting some help, he

instead turned to drugs and alcohol and killed again. He had a third chance after killing Mary Ruth Hopkins. Once again, he squandered this chance and killed again.

Defendant had a fourth chance after killing Nancy Grigsby, a fifth chance after killing Elaina Bear, and a sixth chance after killing Diana McCrobie. Not even those were enough chances as he then kidnapped and raped three teenage girls. Only then, subsequent to being caught after fleeing to Chicago, did he admit to his crimes, did he admit he needed help. Defendant also caught a major break having been sentenced to death for the murder of Elaina and facing the death penalty for the murder of Diana McCrobie, when the United States Supreme Court invalidated Ohio's death penalty scheme. But for an error in the way Ohio drafted its death penalty law, Defendant would have surely been put to death by now. There is no reason Defendant should be afforded one more break by being let out of prison. Defendant did not give his victims a break. He did not give them a second chance. Instead, he strangled them for rejecting his sexual advances and carelessly dumped their bodies to decompose, leaving a number of families to grieve. Therefore, it is the opinion of undersigned counsel with the full support of the Clermont County Prosecutor's Office, that Defendant spend the rest of his life in prison

For these reasons, I strongly recommend Defendant serve life in prison. I remain,

Sincerely,

Nick Horton  
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney