

January 6, 2021

State of California  
Board of Parole Hearings  
PO Box 4036  
Sacramento, Ca 95812-4036

Re: Thomas Edward Waterbury CDCR #C38792

Dear Honorable Members of the Parole Board,

I am writing to strongly encourage the parole board to oppose Governor Newsom's decision to grant clemency and stop the release of Thomas Edward Waterbury. Thomas brutally murdered his young wife, Debbie, as she slept. The murder of Debbie Waterbury devastated the community of Rialto and is still prevalent today, as it was the day Thomas selfishly took her life.

By way of introduction, I am the chief of police for the City of Rialto and have knowledge of this heinous crime. Thomas was convicted of first-degree murder by a jury of his peers, and the Honorable Judge Ben T. Kayashima sentenced him to life in prison without the possibility of parole. A state appellate court later upheld Thomas' conviction and sentence.

I implore the parole board to deny releasing Thomas from prison. Simply, his release will be an injustice to Debbie and her remaining family members. Releasing Thomas will accomplish nothing less than reopening the emotional wounds still felt by our community. Although this brutal act occurred 40 years ago, the images of Thomas' actions of shooting his wife twice, in the head, while she slept will forever be branded on this community. The evidence clearly indicates that Thomas killed his wife for financial gain, specifically to collect Debbie's \$100,000 life insurance policy and move on with his mistress in Debbie's home. The conniving actions that evening included Thomas self-inflicting a gunshot to his own chest to avoid detection and prosecution. What is further disturbing is Thomas's orchestration of blaming a minority intruder for the murder. This cannot be tolerated, especially in today's societal expectations.

The governor approved clemency for Thomas in the name of mercy. However, Thomas showed no mercy or remorse when he brutally murdered his wife on that Christmas Eve. An act that Debbie's family continues to endure with each passing December 24th, instead of celebration with family, including Debbie. Another compelling set of facts that demonstrates Thomas' inability for rehabilitation is how he viciously attacked his younger brother Terry, who subsequently disowned Thomas. Terry was brutally burned at the age of 13 and still lives with those emotional scars. Terry publically stated, "No way in Hell should he (Thomas) be let out. He's a complete liar, manipulator, and sociopath." We at the Rialto Police Department concur.

Thomas' prison record indicates he is a model prisoner who has found religion and has assisted other prisoners. This should be expected of any prisoner who has been sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. Especially, from a husband who murdered his wife. Make no mistake, Thomas is a violent domestic terrorist and domestic batterer who has attacked his own family members and has not demonstrated any remorse for his destructive behavior. Rest assured, if granted release from prison, Thomas will re-offend.

I pray the parole board will determine what is best for Debbie, her family, and the Rialto community. That determination is for Thomas remaining incarcerated for the remainder of his life, as a jury, judge, and state appellate court ruled.

Thank you for your consideration in doing what is right in upholding Thomas' life sentence without parole.

Sincerely,

Mark P. Kling  
Chief of Police  
Rialto Police Department