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October 29, 2013

Board of Parole Hearings PO Box 4036 Sacramento, Ca 95812-4036  
Attn: Lifer Petition Review

RE: Raul Higgins,  
P-29949

Hearing Date: 9/26/12 – 3 year denial, next  
hearing

Date  
9/26/2015

Subject – PC 3041 5(b)(4) REVIEW TO  
ADVANCE HEARING

To the members of the Board and whom it may  
concern:

My name is Stephen Bolger and I am Carolyn Bolger's fourth child; I was nine years old when her life was snuffed out, by the hands of Raul Higgins. This crime, committed on November 20, 1998, is still as fresh and as painful as the day it first happened. As my family and I prepare for the approach the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death, we are all comforted by the thought that Raul remains in prison and can do no more harm to our family or anyone else's.

I would like to draw the Board's awareness to the duplicitous nature of Raul Higgins. Although this man may seem like a harmless, regretful and almost pitiable person, the truth behind his façade is far more dark and dangerous.

When my mother and Raul first started seeing each other, he

seemed and acted like an upstanding, respectable man, much like he seems now. I know this, because my mother gave him a roof to stay under when he did not have one and my brother Joseph, my sister Megan, and I shared our home with him. My mother, who supported us three kids on her own, opened our doors and welcomed him in.

However, as time went on a much more harsh and cruel side of Raul began to surface and got progressively worse, and ultimately ended in my mother's death. This is all documented so I am sure you are aware, but this just goes to show how cunning and manipulative this man is. On the surface he may seem harmless, but hidden beneath is a far darker and dangerous truth. My mother was scared for her life, before this man actually committed his crime and this is what made her withdrawal from their relationship. The capacity for murder was in Raul before his "crime of passion" was enacted.

His crime was brutal as Raul Higgins strangled a single mother of five children, who one hundred percent relied on her for support, with his bare hands. Since her death I have been relocated to multiple different guardians and was placed in foster care for two years before I moved out on my own when I was seventeen years old. The death of my mother did not just affect Raul Higgins or Carolyn Bolger, it has affected an entire community of close friends and family and has left us all with scars that we will carry for the rest of our lives.

One year has passed since I have seen Raul face to face. The memory still lingers in my mind like a bad taste. His continued attempts to obtain parole are constantly threatening to rip those scars open anew. Each time my family and I must plead and defend the court's sentence, the cut goes a little deeper as our lives continue to be affected by this man. His first hearing was a difficult hurdle to pass last year, but the thought of having to do it all over again, so soon, is a burden that our family just may not be able to handle.

I beg the Board, do not be fooled by the reformed image this man

tries to portray, as my family so easily was before. Keep this dangerous person in prison as punishment for his crimes and so that my family may have peace of mind for the terrible tragedy of our mother's death. Please do not grant this request and please help us honor our mother's memory by denying this early hearing and keeping Raul Higgins where he belongs.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for this opportunity for our family to express our concerns.

Sincerel

y,

Stephen  
Bolger