



County of Rockland  
Office of the District Attorney

THOMAS P. ZUGIBE  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

April 30, 2009

Division of Parole  
Great Meadow Correctional Facility  
11739 State Route 22  
P.O. Box 51  
Comstock, New York 12821-0051

Re: Richard LaBarbera DIN # 81A2806

Dear Members of the Parole Board,

The above-referenced inmate is scheduled for an appearance before you on May 12, 2009. The inmate was sentenced to an indeterminate term of imprisonment from 25 years to life upon his conviction after trial of the crime of Murder in the Second Degree. I am writing to advise you of my vehement opposition to his application for parole. As the District Attorney and life-long resident of Rockland County, I can attest to the fact that few cases have left such a deep and long-lasting scar on the community. Each time this inmate and his co-defendant apply for parole that scar is reopened.

While the facts of the case are well settled, the emotions remain raw after nearly 30 years. On October 28, 1980, on the last day of her young life, 16 year-old Paula Bohovesky was walking home from her after school job at the local library. What should have been a nice walk along the quiet streets of the small hamlet of Pearl River, New York turned into a nightmare, the likes of which no person should ever endure, let alone a 16 year-old child.


Throughout the day and evening of October 28, 1980 the inmate and the co-defendant Robert McCain were drinking at a local bar. Sometime after 7:00 p.m. when Paula left the library, the inmate and the co-defendant saw her walking alone past the bar and began to follow her. The co-defendant viciously struck her in the head with a rock and then pursued her as she attempted to escape down a driveway. The inmate and the co-defendant caught and overpowered her, knocking her to the ground. The co-defendant continued to viciously beat Paula about the head and neck until she was unconscious. He then pulled her pants down and raped her as the inmate watched.

After the co-defendant left, the inmate raped Paula a second time. When she began to groan, the inmate took a knife and brutally stabbed her in the back five times and left her lying face down in a pool of blood. Paula's lifeless body was found early the next morning. The inmate tried to dispose of the murder weapon by throwing it into a nearby lake but it was later recovered by police. The

medical examiner testified that Paula would have died from the neck and head wounds within 6-12 hours even if she had not been stabbed. The horror of this case is that she was not only raped twice, but that she suffered two separate and distinct assaults at the bloody hands of the inmate and his co-defendant.

At the time of her death, Paula was a talented young girl who had a lifetime of possibilities stolen from her. The pain that this heinous crime inflicted on her family endures to this day. For the punishment to truly fit the crime, this inmate must be made to serve the maximum term of his sentence of life in prison. Accordingly, I respectfully request that the Board of Parole deny the inmate's application for parole.

Very truly yours,



Thomas P. Zugibe  
District Attorney