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HALL OF JUSTICE
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October 30, 2024

VIA E-MAIL: Ashley.johansson@agov.ca.gov

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

Re: Request to Grant Clemency for Lyle Menendez, CDCR # K13758

I write in strong support of Lyle Menendez's petition for clemency submitted to your office on October 28, 2024. Mr. Menendez is currently 56 years old serving his 34th year in prison at the RJ Donovan Correctional Facility.

On August 20, 1989, at 21 years old, Mr. Lyle Menendez participated with co-defendant and brother, Erik Menendez, in the homicide of their parents, Kitty and Jose Menendez, as they sat on the family's couch watching television and eating. Both Lyle Menendez and Erik Menendez fired Mossberg shotguns at their parents striking them multiple times killing them.

Mr. Menendez was sentenced at the age of 26 to life without the possibility of parole (LWOP). At the time of the offense, there were credible allegations that Lyle Menendez was the victim of sexual and physical abuse at the hands of his father, Jose Menendez. The Los Angeles County Probation Report prepared in connection to the criminal case, documented the ongoing molestation Lyle Menendez allegedly suffered at the hands of his father until he was 8 years old.

During his 34 years of incarceration, Mr. Menendez has worked hard to transform his life. He has participated in rehabilitation, including earning his Associates Degree in Sociology from Southwestern College. Lyle Menendez graduated from the University of California, Irvine with his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology.¹

¹ Support for all programs developed, laudatory chronos, and the probation report are attached as exhibits to the current Penal Code 1172.1 motion filed in Los Angeles Superior Court on October 24, 2024 and can be provided upon request.

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
October 30, 2024
Page Two

In addition to continuing his education, Lyle Menendez has created four new programs within the RJ Donovan Prison to assist his fellow inmates. The four programs include: (1) Greenspace; (2) Rehabilitation through Beautification; (3) Adverse Childhood Experience and Rehabilitation; and, (4) Youth LWOP Ally. Additionally, Lyle created and wrote the WIRE bulletin, an inmate advisory bulletin for the purpose of communicating Inmate Advisory Council matters to the inmate population.

Current statics indicate a total of 36% of people serving LWOP sentences in California are currently over 50 years old. These individuals are not eligible for elderly parole or compassionate release. Yet, most people serving an LWOP sentence are classified as low risk according to the California State Risk Assessment (CSRA). Mr. Menendez's CSRA score and classification score are the lowest levels possible for someone serving a sentence of LWOP.

Our office has communicated with several family members regarding resentencing in this matter. All family members, except for, Mr. Milton Andersen, Kitty Menendez's brother, support commutation.

Mr. Menendez's current age of 56, his 34 years spent in custody, low CSRA, low classification scores, and his dedication to rehabilitation make him an exemplary candidate for clemency.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my Special Counsel, Shelan Joseph, by phone at (213) 974-3500 or email at sjoseph@da.lacounty.gov.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney