

PAROLE SUITABILITY HEARING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS

In the matter of the Parole    CDC Number: **W72019**  
Consideration Hearing of:

MARY S REESE

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN

CORONA, CALIFORNIA

11/09/2021

2:13 PM

PANEL PRESENT:

MARY THORNTON, Presiding Commissioner

ROSALIO CASTRO, Deputy Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT:

MARY REESE, Inmate

MILENA BLAKE, Attorney for Inmate

UNIDENTIFIED, Correctional Officer

Transcribed by:

Eman Abdulaziz

## INDEX

	<u>Page</u>
Proceedings .....	3
Case Factors .....	29
Pre- Commitment Factors .....	10
Post-Commitment Factors .....	34
Parole Plans .....	44
Closing Statements .....	59
Recess .....	69
Decision .....	70
Adjournment .....	86
Transcript Certification .....	87

**PROCEEDINGS**

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** We're on the record.

**PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Thank you. We're on the record. Today is November 9th, 2021. The time is now 2:13 PM. This is the initial parole suitability hearing for Mary Reese, CDCR number W72019 who is present in the BPH hearing room at the California Institute for Women in Corona, California. We are conducting this hearing by video conference. Ms. Reese, can you hear and see me?

**INMATE REESE:** Yes, I can.

**PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** If at any time that changes, please alert me so we can pause and make the necessary adjustments. For the record, I can see and hear you. Deputy Commissioner, can you also see and hear Ms. Reese?

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Yes, I can.

**PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** This hearing is being audio recorded and will be transcribed. So, for the purpose of voice identification, we will each identify ourselves. While Ms. Reese is participating from the institution, all other participants are participating remotely. I will identify each person. When I do, that person is asked to state your full name and spell their last name. I'll go first. My name is Mary Thornton T-H-O-

1 R-N-T-O-N, Commissioner. Can we have the Deputy  
2 Commissioner please identify himself?

3 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Rosalio Castro, C-A-S-  
4 T-R-O.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Ms. Reese, can we  
6 have you identify yourself, spell your last name and give  
7 us your CDCR number?

8 **INMATE REESE:** Uh, Reese, R-E-E-S-E, W72019.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Thank you. Can we  
10 have Ms. Reese's Attorney please identify herself?

11 **ATTORNEY BLAKE:** Good afternoon, Milena Blake, B-  
12 L-A-K-E. And just for the record, my first name is M-I-L-  
13 E-N-A.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** We'll note for the  
15 record that we do not have a participant from the Los  
16 Angeles County District Attorney's Office participating in  
17 this hearing today. Ms. Reese, were you able to hear all  
18 the participants who identified themselves?

19 **INMATE REESE:** Yes, yes, ma'am.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** As I mentioned,  
21 this proceeding is being recorded as mandated by Penal  
22 Code section 3042, subsection (B) and will be transcribed  
23 as the official record of this hearing. No other  
24 recordings are authorized, including a recording available  
25 by video conference software. A violation of this

1 provision may result in exclusion from this or future  
2 hearings. Now, we are going to take a brief break to check  
3 the quality of the recording and to make sure that each  
4 party can be heard. Now, we'll go off the record to do  
5 that. The time is now 2:15 PM.

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1           **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:**   It's good. We're back  
2 on the record.

3           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   Okay, thank you.  
4 We're back on the record. Now it's still 2:15, actually  
5 2:16 AM, PM. The sound check was performed to be  
6 satisfactory. We do need to do a review under the  
7 Americans with Disabilities Act to make sure that you can  
8 fully participate in and benefit from the hearing today.  
9 We have reviewed your DECS database and your form 1073.  
10 According to those records, you need glasses. Did you  
11 bring your glasses with you today?

12           **INMATE REESE:**   Yes, I do. I do, I, I have them,  
13 <inaudible>.

14           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   <Inaudible> do you  
15 normally have any other kinds of accommodation? Like cane,  
16 hearing aid, braces, inserts, anything else you use?

17           **INMATE REESE:**   No, I don't, just the glasses.

18           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   Okay. It looks  
19 like as far as education, you did get a GED. Was that in  
20 1999?

21           **INMATE REESE:**   Yes, ma'am.

22           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   And have you ever  
23 been a part of the mental health system at CDCR, in other  
24 word, CCCMS, EOP or DDP?

25           **INMATE REESE:**   Um, I'm sorry, could you repeat that

1 question, please?

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Have you ever been  
3 a part of the mental health system at CDCR? In other  
4 words, have you ever been in CCCMS, EOP or DDP?

5 **INMATE REESE:** I remember when I first came to prison  
6 in 2010, um, I was in that unit on A yard for, I think a  
7 week.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay.

9 **INMATE REESE:** One week and that was it.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. So, one  
11 week, are you on—

12 **INMATE REESE:** Yes.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Are you taking any  
14 medications today?

15 **INMATE REESE:** No. No, I am not.

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Counsel, does your  
17 client require any other reasonable accommodations for the  
18 hearing today?

19 **ATTORNEY BLAKE:** No.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. Based on the  
21 answers to these questions and the information we have,  
22 the Panel does not see a reason why this hearing cannot be  
23 held today. So, Ms. Reese we're not here today to  
24 reconsider the findings of the trial or to the appellate  
25 courts, nor we are here to retry your case. This Panel

1 does accept as true the findings of the courts. The  
2 purpose of today's hearing is to find out who you are  
3 today, and whether you would pose unreasonable risk of  
4 danger to society if you're released. We will consider  
5 many factors, including your criminal history, your  
6 behavior, and your programming since you came to prison,  
7 your Parole Plans if released and the testimony today.  
8 During this hearing, we may not ask you about every factor  
9 listed in our regulations, but we have reviewed your  
10 Central File. And you can talk about those topics when you  
11 give your closing statement. After the Panel has asked you  
12 our questions, your Attorney will have a chance to ask you  
13 clarifying questions. After her questions, we will have  
14 closing statements. Your Attorney will have 10 minutes to  
15 provide a closing statement. After her closing statement,  
16 you may also make a closing statement. It is our  
17 expectations that all parties through this hearing will  
18 treat one another with dignity and respect. Counsel, will  
19 your client be testifying all matters today?

20 **ATTORNEY BLAKE:** Yes.

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Ms. Reese, I do  
22 strongly encourage you to be completely honest with us  
23 today. Can I have you <inaudible> raise your right hand?

24 **INMATE REESE:** Yes.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Do you solemnly



1 swear or affirm that the testimony you give at this  
2 hearing will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but  
3 the truth?

4 **INMATE REESE:** Yes.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Thank you. So,  
6 looking at the record, I see that your date of birth is  
7 December 15th, 1958, that you are now 62 years old, that  
8 you were 48 at the time of this crime. And that you've  
9 been in CDCR custody for 11 years. Does that sound right  
10 to you?

11 **INMATE REESE:** Yes.

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** So, this Panel has  
13 reviewed your Central File and the Comprehensive Risk  
14 Assessment. You are encouraged to correct, or clarify the  
15 record as we go through the hearing today. We have also  
16 reviewed the confidential portion of your Central File and  
17 we'll advise you, and of course the title 15, if any  
18 portion of that will be used. Your Comprehensive Risk  
19 Assessments was authored by Dr. Myers and that was  
20 approved by the Forensic Assessment Division on September  
21 5th, 2021. That report says that you spoke with the Doctor  
22 on August 18th of this year. Have you had the chance to  
23 read that assessment?

24 **INMATE REESE:** Yes, I have.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** After having read

1 it, did you find any mistakes or errors in the report?

2 **INMATE REESE:** Um, no. Everything was correct.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. So, this is  
4 your first hearing today. So, we want to start with your  
5 criminal history. So, you are a third striker. You're here  
6 on a burglary and I really read your entire history of  
7 criminality that aggravated that sentence to put you in  
8 prison for this long-term. So, that's one of the reasons  
9 we're looking at all of your criminal history, not just  
10 that one crime today. When we look at your criminal  
11 history, it looks like there's a lot of theft related  
12 behavior as a juvenile. You were arrested for, um, a theft  
13 of an automobile as an adult. You had numerous property  
14 crimes as well, including more auto theft, grand theft,  
15 forgery, which is also another form of theft, possession  
16 of stolen property, burglaries. Um, there was also some,  
17 uh, arrests for prostitution. So, while I look at all that  
18 I'm seeing mostly, um, property type crimes. I did see at  
19 17 and arrest for a robbery. Is that right?

20 **INMATE REESE:** Yes.

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay.

22 **INMATE REESE:** Correct.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** And did you have  
24 any other crimes that were violent related?

25 **INMATE REESE:** No.

1           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**    Okay.

2           **INMATE REESE:**    No violence.

3           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**    Okay. Um, it looks  
4    like also you were involved in using, um, substances. Um,  
5    it looks like mostly a lot of different types of theft,  
6    really. So, when I, when I see history like this, I'm  
7    wondering what was the deal with the thefts? Were you  
8    stealing to support yourself? Were you stealing for drugs?  
9    Was it, was it, are, is there another reason? So, what was  
10   behind all of your thefts?

11          **INMATE REESE:**    Um, my addiction to drugs. That was  
12   the purpose for these crimes.

13          **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**    Okay. Was there  
14   any other reason or was it really the addiction that drove  
15   your, your theft behavior?

16          **INMATE REESE:**    Just that reason.

17          **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**    Okay. And so,  
18   thinking about your addiction, tell us more about that.  
19   So, when did your addiction start and with what?

20          **INMATE REESE:**    Okay. Um, I was raped at the age of 13  
21   and I was given alcohol. That was my first time I was, uh,  
22   given that by, uh, the person that raped me. That was the  
23   first time I've ever had alcohol. And, um, after that  
24   rape, I was pregnant. Um, I had a child at 14 and I  
25   started drinking and using drugs by 15. So, um, I was very

1     ashamed, uh, at that time. Uh, having a baby and  
2     responsibility was very difficult for me, um, because of  
3     the rape, uh, so by drinking and using drugs, I covered up  
4     my feelings behind it.

5           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**     Okay. Okay. So,  
6     the person that raped you at age 13, you said that person  
7     gave you alcohol?

8           **INMATE REESE:**     Yes. So, yes he did.

9           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**     And did you, after  
10    that, did you continue to also use alcohol or is it more  
11    like, oh, I use that with that incident and I don't want  
12    to use that again.

13          **INMATE REESE:**     That was when I was 13 and that was  
14    given to me, I, that was a traumatic effect because he  
15    told me that this Kool-Aid and when he manipulated me to  
16    his door, um, I was walking home from school. And, uh, if  
17    I could tell you the story, if you don't mind—

18          **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**     Sure.

19          **INMATE REESE:**     I used to walk home from school and I  
20    would pass his house. So, making a shortcut school and a  
21    couple of times he waved, and I kept, you know, I kept  
22    going. So, so one particular time he asked me to come up  
23    to him. He says, come here. And I walked up, curiosity.  
24    He's like, I made you some lunch and I have some,  
25    something cold to drink, come in, come in. So, I step in

1 and he said, "Sit down" and so, like I'm sitting in his  
2 chair and he hands me the drink. And I take the drink,  
3 thinking it was Kool-Aid and it was alcohol. So, I was  
4 very dizzy and I got raped. And when I went home, I was,  
5 you know, I was traumatized. Uh, I never drank ever again,  
6 but I kept that. What happened to me? I didn't say  
7 anything to anyone. So, as, once I had the baby, my mother  
8 found out it was like seven months. And once I had the  
9 baby, I was stayed there with my parents. Um, I stayed  
10 about a year, but I started having trouble. Um, uh, I  
11 would say around 15. I started having behavioral problems  
12 with my mother. I started having problems and, um, of  
13 course I lost all my friends. Um, I was 14 and the parents  
14 of my friends, they didn't want them hanging with me. I  
15 didn't tell anybody I was raped and the parents didn't  
16 know, but they thought, oh, she's fast. She's, don't hang  
17 with her. So, due to me, losing my friends and being raped  
18 and with a baby, the stress of that, I start using, uh, I  
19 try, I wasn't doing it at first, um, like every day, but  
20 just where I got a chance to get out of the house or go  
21 with other people, I started. And then it just started to  
22 progress. Um, and it just built up as time went. And  
23 that's where you see that that's in, indicating, it, it  
24 increased. And, um, that's<inaudible> really that.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** It sounds like

1 alcohol was involved in the rape. And so did you then not  
2 want to have alcohol? So, you're using other substances,  
3 but not alcohol or was alcohol part of the things you're  
4 using later as well?

5 **INMATE REESE:** It was just a part. It started from  
6 alcohol. It started from alcohol, right.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** So, when you said  
8 you were, after having a baby, then like at 15, I think  
9 you said you started using drugs. So, what did you start  
10 with? What's, what substance?

11 **INMATE REESE:** Marijuana. That was pretty popular in,  
12 within the seventies. So, it was marijuana and, um, wine,  
13 you know, I, um, ripple, um, this wine. It wasn't any hard  
14 liquor at first.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Did you have a  
16 drug of choice?

17 **INMATE REESE:** I liked the marijuana, uh, and I was  
18 drinking alcohol, but it, but I did like the marijuana. I  
19 did like that.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Um-hum. So, it  
21 looks like he told the Doctor—

22 **ATTORNEY BLAKE:** In fact Commissioner, just, just  
23 to clarify, did you mean a drug of choice over her entire  
24 life or when she was young? I just wanted to make sure  
25 that we got the right answer or does it not matter?

1           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   I'm not sure it  
2 really matter. I would just—

3           **ATTORNEY BLAKE:**           Okay.

4           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   kind of wanted to  
5 see what her response was.

6           **ATTORNEY BLAKE:**           Okay.

7           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   So, did you, let  
8 me just clarify, did you change your preference for a  
9 certain type of drug in, later in your life?

10          **INMATE REESE:**   Yes. As, as I got older, um, I got  
11 introduced to cocaine.

12          **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   Okay.

13          **INMATE REESE:**   Um, that was high school. That was  
14 high school year. So, junior high, I say between 15, I  
15 would say 17, it was strictly marijuana. However, when I  
16 got in high school, that was my first experience with  
17 cocaine.

18          **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   Okay. Okay. So,  
19 when did you start stealing to buy drugs?

20          **INMATE REESE:**   Well, I think <inaudible>I can say  
21 when I got into relationship with Don after I started  
22 dating older people because of <inaudible>friends, I got  
23 into a relationship with Don Baker and, um, I started  
24 going more to his mother's house because he had a single  
25 parent. So, it was just those two that lived there. So,

1 when I was 15, I started leaving the house, going to their  
2 house, and I lived there most of the time. And that's when  
3 I started getting into, uh, the, uh, criminal behavior. I  
4 learned things from, from him. I was pretty much coached,  
5 too. And that's where the money was spent, um, through the  
6 prostitution for, uh, for drugs, so that it was fit for  
7 too. He gambled and we also bought marijuana. He liked it  
8 a lot. I used it. And that's where that began.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** So, is he the one  
10 that taught you how to do the whole credit card fraud  
11 thing?

12 **INMATE REESE:** No. That's, that goes up a little  
13 further up. That's Kenner. Yeah, we haven't <inaudible>.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay, so you with  
15 one boyfriend, uh, he's kind of teaching you some stuff.  
16 Was it more prostitution than theft?

17 **INMATE REESE:** Well, just for the first, like the  
18 first year between, I was like, I would say like, between  
19 like 15 and 16, I think about a year I hung around, um,  
20 him and his mom, because his mother would like, she would  
21 have me to, uh, go steal like food at the store. She would  
22 say, come on, Mary let's go. And, you know, she would put  
23 on me. So, that's where that, that behavior began. Um...

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. So, it was  
25 another relationship where you were taught how to do



1 credit card fraud?

2 **INMATE REESE:** Yes.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. Stealing  
4 credit cards, doing that kind of thing and then, um,  
5 forgery all that kind of the crimes that go along with  
6 that?

7 **INMATE REESE:** Um-hum, it was the first. Uh, I don't  
8 know if you see it on my record, but when there was an  
9 auto theft, uh, from the DMV, uh, it was Kenner Hatchway.  
10 Um, I met him in my neighborhood and, uh, he befriended  
11 me, gave me a ride and he was the one that started talking  
12 to me about that.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay.

14 **INMATE REESE:** And so that's where that began.

15 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** So, I'm kind of  
16 hearing, you know, the risk factors that pop-up is, you  
17 know, there's the substance abuse issues. There's the  
18 criminal thinking and behavior. There's relationships,  
19 maybe some manipulation that you know was happening. So,  
20 um, how have you addressed those risks factors?

21 **INMATE REESE:** Um, as far as the relationships? Is  
22 that, I'm unclear, what questions—

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** <Inaudible>  
24 there's several things that look like they feed into your  
25 criminal history. So, substance use is one. I mean, you'll

1 talk later in the hearing with the Deputy Commissioner  
2 about that, but you know, this criminal thinking where,  
3 oh, it's unacceptable way to get money by robbing off  
4 people or store. So, you know, how have you addressed that  
5 kind of thinking?

6 **INMATE REESE:** Well, that was my past behavior. I've  
7 taken a lot of self-help and behavioral classes and I'm  
8 not the same person I was back then. I, right now, I mean,  
9 I, that's not me today. That was the past. And I've  
10 addressed those issues with the classes that I've taken.  
11 Um, I received myself-help there. Um, I'm not, I don't  
12 even think the same way, this kind of unacceptable  
13 conduct.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Let me just take a  
15 step back. So, we talked about your theft that it was  
16 really because of your addiction. When you think of  
17 causative factors, you know, it was kinda maybe more  
18 encompassing. When you think about your life crime, it was  
19 a series of burglaries. Um, the record shows that you are  
20 a person <inaudible> to gain entry into elderly victims'  
21 residences, and then on some of the victims, you'd perform  
22 exams, then stole credit cards and then use those credit  
23 cards in stores afterwards. Um, looks like what I saw I  
24 think it was about a three thousand dollars loss amongst  
25 multiple <inaudible> in a way to this particular case. So,

1 tell us about this particular case. What are the causative  
2 of factors for your life crime?

3 **INMATE REESE:** Um, addiction, uh, my rape, instant  
4 gratification, impulsivity, criminal mindset and bad  
5 choices.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** So, this time,  
7 this, I mean, these were in your late forties and now I  
8 think of people being impulsive as being, you know, the  
9 youth offenders, the teenagers, the very young adults. So,  
10 why were you still impulsive at age 48?

11 **INMATE REESE:** I relapsed. Um, I was released in  
12 2007. And at the time I was doing very well when I got out  
13 on parole. I had a job, my place, car, went to college. I  
14 was doing well, my son, uh, I didn't, I was doing well. I  
15 had an emotional breakdown, too, because my 17 year old  
16 and a half, um, he was almost 18 within two weeks. Uh, the  
17 grandfather was wanting me to get my son as soon as I had  
18 got out and I was making all the provisions I could. Uh, I  
19 do remember me taking, uh, fir pain, um, Tylenol three, I  
20 got some for some pain and I didn't realize that it  
21 triggered, it triggered my, uh, addiction. I hadn't at the  
22 time had any self-help classes. Prior, this is my first  
23 time ever doing any self-help through my prior  
24 incarcerations. So, I had no plan for that, but it did  
25 happen to me. And when I lost my son during the gang

1 violence, he was shot in the back. I didn't know how to  
2 deal with that because I had never, I didn't have a  
3 support team or anybody that like I have today. So,  
4 therefore I was trying to do it on my own. And it was very  
5 difficult for me. Um, so, I went back. I fell back into my  
6 addiction and I did, it just started right back over, like  
7 in a ripple effect. So, I know what the causative factors  
8 to this crime is about. I did <inaudible> it and it just  
9 seemed like a start to get progressed, worse and worse,  
10 you know? So, I guess I was in my forties; however, all  
11 the other prison terms, jail terms, I never had any self-  
12 correction, no coping skills, no mentors, no groups, no  
13 nothing.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** So, before you  
15 relapsed in 2007, how long were you sober prior to that?

16 **INMATE REESE:** When I got out, I think it was  
17 probably about maybe like six months or something like  
18 that, maybe six, maybe five or somewhere in there.

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. And so you  
20 relapsed because you said you're, you lost your son and  
21 then you had nothing other, no other coping skills. And  
22 then you end up taking Tylenol three and then that  
23 triggered your addiction?

24 **INMATE REESE:** I stopped, that triggered my  
25 addiction, um, because of the grief. I was at work, when I

1 was told that my son was shot. You know, I was doing very  
2 well at the time. I was at work. Um, my family member came  
3 and told me that my son was shot by a gang member. I,  
4 well, now I see, um, my triggers because of fear. I just,  
5 I just lost it. I didn't have any skills. I didn't know.  
6 It's not a, I'm not trying to make an excuse on this, but  
7 that is what happened. I went right back into, I just lost  
8 it all.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. So, what are  
10 your triggers for substances?

11 **INMATE REESE:** My triggers for substance is being  
12 around anyone that is using alcohol or drugs, being around  
13 bars and parties, where they have the liquor where they're  
14 serving alcohol, uh, being in a familiar place where drugs  
15 are being used.

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** What about  
17 internal triggers?

18 **INMATE REESE:** My internal triggers is fear. Fear is  
19 one of my main, one of my main, um, internal triggers,  
20 fear, shame, guilt—

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** This is it?

22 **INMATE REESE:** <Inaudible>. I'm sorry.

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Go ahead.

24 **INMATE REESE:** One need to be accepted.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** What was the

1 trigger that led to the relapse in 2007?

2 **INMATE REESE:** Fear.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** What were you  
4 afraid of?

5 **INMATE REESE:** When they said that my son was, when,  
6 when I was away in prison, my son <inaudible> leave,  
7 befriend a gang in Inglewood. So, I was unaware of that.  
8 Um, when the family member came to my job and told me that  
9 my son was shot and he believes that it was from a gang  
10 and I thought, wow, are they going to come kill me? I  
11 don't know anything about a gang. I've never been in a  
12 gang in my life, but I hear about it on the news. I have.  
13 I've heard about where, where are they going to, what was  
14 the reason that no one could ever tell me why. They  
15 didn't? So, I was in fear. I felt like I was in fear of my  
16 life and in direct way, because you know, I didn't know  
17 why.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. So, how long  
19 was your relapse in 2007? How many months?

20 **INMATE REESE:** I'm sorry. Can you repeat that  
21 question?

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** How long was your  
23 relapse for? Because these crimes look like they were  
24 committed over a period of at least a month. So, how long  
25 did you relapse in 2007?

1       **INMATE REESE:** I continued. I continued on all the  
2 way up until I was arrested.

3       **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. Okay. So,  
4 you said you were working at the time. So, if you were  
5 working at the time, why didn't you just use your money  
6 that you are earning to buy marijuana or whatever drugs  
7 you were using?

8       **INMATE REESE:** That wasn't a plan that once I was  
9 working, I didn't, I wasn't using when I was working. I, I  
10 was doing very well. When I, when I came home, I got a job  
11 within like a few weeks and I got my place.

12       **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** I think maybe you  
13 didn't understand my question. So, my question is—

14       **INMATE REESE:** Yes.

15       **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Once your, your  
16 son was killed and you find out about it, and so this kind  
17 of leads to the relapse. You say you have a job, so you  
18 are earning money. So, if you—

19       **INMATE REESE:** That's true.

20       **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** What, my question  
21 is, why did you have, why did you resort to all this  
22 burglary activity to pay for whatever, instead of you, you  
23 had a job. So, I'm assuming you had an income. Why did you  
24 need extra money?

25       **INMATE REESE:** I left my job. I left, I left my job.

1 I left my place. I left everything. I just left out of  
2 fear. I didn't stay in my place anymore. I became homeless  
3 after that.

4 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Why did you leave  
5 your job?

6 **INMATE REESE:** My son was murdered by a gang. I left  
7 everything. I thought, well, are they going to kill me?  
8 That was, fear came up. And I know, I didn't know what to  
9 expect because I didn't know the reason.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Excuse me. Excuse  
11 me.

12 **INMATE REESE:** Um-hum.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. So, so, you  
14 left your job. Did you leave your, were you were living,  
15 you became homeless?

16 **INMATE REESE:** Yeah, I left. Yes, I left, everything.

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** How, but how does  
18 that indicate—

19 **INMATE REESE:** I left—

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** I'm not sure I  
21 understand.

22 **INMATE REESE:** Pardon me?

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** I didn't  
24 understand you.

25 **INMATE REESE:** <Inaudible>.



1           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   I'm not sure I  
2 understand. So, if you are afraid, it seems like leaving  
3 your job, leaving where you're living would make you, put  
4 you more at risk. So, how is that going to protect you?

5           **INMATE REESE:**   I didn't know whether the gang knew  
6 where I lived. I, I didn't know that I didn't, I didn't  
7 know I did. I, it was just, no one had told me why they  
8 just said gang. I mean, the<inaudible> police said it was  
9 a gang. It was a gang that shot my son. So, I didn't know  
10 whether or not he, he owed them money or, or what  
11 happened. What did he do? So, all I thought was, oh my  
12 God, are they going to come after me? I just, I panicked.  
13 I panicked. I...

14           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   I guess I—

15           **INMATE REESE:**   Fear—

16           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   I mean, to me,  
17 I'm, I'm thinking about, I'm thinking, okay, you say you  
18 were doing well. You had a job. You had a car, go to  
19 college. You get some, you know, incredibly heartbreaking  
20 gut wrenching news, but I'm thinking, okay, why would you  
21 say, well, gee, I don't, I don't know if there's people  
22 that were happening, that might be after me. I'm going to  
23 move. I'm going to move to a different community or  
24 different part of the state. And I'm just going to plug in  
25 there. Maybe I'll talk to my Parole Officer. I'll kind of

1 figure out something wrong. I mean, why wasn't that an  
2 option for you?

3 **INMATE REESE:** I had no coping skills at that time.  
4 I, I, I didn't have any coping skills at that time. I,  
5 fear came up and I just, I panicked.

6 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** When's the last  
7 time you had any type of drugs or alcohol?

8 **INMATE REESE:** 13 years. 13 and a half today.

9 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Anything in  
10 prison?

11 **INMATE REESE:** No.

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** So you're saying  
13 the last time was prior?

14 **INMATE REESE:** Yes. Uh, yeah. Um, no, no drugs, no  
15 alcohol.

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. So, when you  
17 think about your crimes now, I'm talking about the most  
18 recent set of burglaries, how do you feel about those now?

19 **INMATE REESE:** I feel ashamed about those. That's  
20 still my victims, they didn't deserve that. They were  
21 older people. They didn't deserve to be treated that way.  
22 That was very callous. I was a monster. I was very selfish  
23 and self-centered. And the way I think about it today, it  
24 hurts me to even know that my character went that far.

25 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** So, who is

1 impacted by your crimes?

2 **INMATE REESE:** My victims, their family, the people  
3 that, that love them, their friends, their communities, my  
4 family.

5 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** What have you done  
6 to make amends?

7 **INMATE REESE:** I wrote letters. I wrote them. I've  
8 also, um, I'm taking a class for Victim Impact also. It's  
9 probably not in my file. I sent my certificate to my  
10 Attorney. Um, so, I wrote essays, um, for at least about a  
11 year. So, I, I graduated from that. And, um, also I've  
12 done, um, remorse letters.

13 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** I didn't see any  
14 of those in your file. Did you turn those in?

15 **INMATE REESE:** The Victim, uh, the Victim Impact  
16 certificate, my Attorney has that. I did—

17 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** I, I saw that in  
18 your—

19 **INMATE REESE:** Sorry to interrupt.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Took, took Victim  
21 Awareness through PREP in 2019. There were some individual  
22 class certificates. I didn't see the final one that  
23 indicate you've finished, um, here. I didn't see letter to  
24 the victims turned in. Did you turn any of those?

25 **ATTORNEY BLAKE:** Uh, Commissioner, they are in the

1 10-day packet. I'm just trying to pull up the page number  
2 right now. There are one of the last exhibits. Um, just  
3 give me, give me two seconds. I'll see if I can find the  
4 final certificate as I believe that was submitted. Um, so  
5 it's exhibit, uh, F of, of the 10-days of my packet.  
6 That's Minnesota 10-day packet, page 175 of the 10-day  
7 packet. I, I hope we have the same pagination.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Um, well, maybe  
9 not, because my, it looks like—

10 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** I don't think so. My  
11 10-days, 493 pages, but I do see an apology letter to the—

12 **ATTORNEY BLAKE:** <Inaudible> exhibit F of, of what  
13 I submitted if that's helpful.

14 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** I see an apology to Ms.  
15 Smith.

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. So, I see at  
17 127. I see it—

18 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** To Ms. <inaudible>?

19 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. Yes.

20 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** To, uh, Carol Smith and  
21 Ms—

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. I see it.

23 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** And Ms. Free.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay.

25 **INMATE REESE:** Yes.

1           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   Okay. So, I see  
2     that you wrote those three letters. So, what do you think  
3     the impact was to the victims?

4           **INMATE REESE:**   I believe that this, well, I know this  
5     was emotional harm that I caused them. I invaded their  
6     space. I misused their trust and they didn't deserve that.  
7     This, I believe as I went further and I had to really  
8     deeply go further than that, because the harm that I  
9     caused them, could've caused them a stroke. It could have  
10    caused death. You know, it, it, it could have, because  
11    when you're emotionally upset, it bothers you physically.  
12    So, I have to soul search and see the impact of my harm.  
13    And I'm truly sorry for that. Um, there's no words that  
14    can explain how I, how I feel. I'm grateful that that  
15    didn't happen, but that could have. It could have.

16          **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   So, one of the  
17    things that was so disturbing when I read about this  
18    crime, I mean, anyone, you know, when your home is broken  
19    into is, you know, it's scary. It's unnerving, but you  
20    didn't just do that. You also performed exams on the  
21    victim. Some why did you do that?

22          **INMATE REESE:**   I remember the victim has said, oh,  
23    you're a nurse. My leg right here is hurt, right here or  
24    something. So, I'm like, oh, oh, is it? Okay. And that was  
25    how that happened. I didn't, it wasn't something that I

1 came in to say I was going to perform. She was concerned  
2 that something was bothering her.

3 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** So, was it just  
4 the one that you did that to?

5 **INMATE REESE:** Yes. That's what I can remember. I do  
6 remember the lady saying, oh, my leg is, it', this is  
7 where it's <inaudible> am I wear. Okay. And that's how  
8 that happened. But it wasn't where I intentionally went in  
9 and said, this is what, this is what I'm doing.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** So, how did you  
11 get access to their credit cards and property?

12 **INMATE REESE:** Well, I went to the residence. Um,  
13 which particular person may I ask, he was speaking about—

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Well, were they,  
15 they, were they all fairly similar, though? The, you know,  
16 the method you were using.

17 **INMATE REESE:** Um, asking to go to the bathroom.

18 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Hello. Are you guys  
19 there? I don't hear anything.

20 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. Yeah—

21 **INMATE REESE:** Yes. I'm still, oh, oh, oh, I'm sorry.

22 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. Okay. Let me  
23 check with my colleague and see if he has any questions  
24 for you or anything so far.

25 **INMATE REESE:** Okay.

1           **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:**   Well, just, uh, you  
2 talked to the Commissioner about your, your history of  
3 substance abuse. You talked to the Psychologist also, and  
4 you talked to the Probation Officer Report back when it  
5 happened about it. Also the Psychologist thinks you  
6 minimized with, the Psychologist when you were interviewed  
7 in August, 2021. Did you read that?

8           **INMATE REESE:**   Yes, I did. Yes, I did, sir.

9           **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:**   Uh, and is the  
10 Psychologist right or did she just misunderstand you or  
11 what's going on there?

12          **INMATE REESE:**   I absolutely agree with the  
13 Psychologist. However, when we had that conversation and  
14 what I just spoke right now about me starting off with the  
15 substance and when I was with Don and Betty, I only was  
16 with those two for about, um, about a year when it began.  
17 And then after that, I continued that myself. So, that's  
18 what I meant by that when I talked to the psychologist. I  
19 must have misunderstood the question because I never  
20 stopped. And so when I had to dig deep into, um, my self-  
21 help and as I started to talk to, um, my sponsor it's,  
22 it's she says that—

23          **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:**   So—

24          **INMATE REESE:**   When you, when you do it, it, I never  
25 stopped. And just say that unless I went to the jail at

1 the time, so it was a continuance. So, I didn't-

2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** All right.

3 **INMATE REESE:** Minimize in explaining it, I believe.

4 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** So, that's what I'm  
5 concerned about, in August of this year.

6 **INMATE REESE:** Yes.

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** That's two, three  
8 months ago.

9 **INMATE REESE:** Um-hum.

10 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** She says you minimized  
11 it. You're saying you agreed with that, but you're saying  
12 that you just didn't explain it right? Or what are, what  
13 are you saying?

14 **INMATE REESE:** I'm trying to say that I agree with  
15 her. I had to search and wonder why she said that. And so,  
16 once I thought about it, I said, yes, I continue. Like my  
17 sponsor said you never stopped using from 15 on until  
18 present, then, then you always use.

19 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** So, you, you're saying  
20 you-

21 **INMATE REESE:** You know, so-

22 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Hold on. So, you're  
23 saying you forgot the extent of your substance abuse. And  
24 when you went back and looked, you realized, yeah, I did  
25 continue to use. And therefore I minimized. So, you're



1 saying you just didn't, didn't remember well, or is that  
2 right?

3 **INMATE REESE:** No, I was explaining that when I first  
4 started with Don, when I first started drinking, when I  
5 continue, I was talking about the one year that I was with  
6 Don and Betty. I wasn't speaking about my whole entire. I  
7 must've misunderstood the question. That's what I'm  
8 saying. Um, so, she said-

9 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** So, that's what I'm,  
10 that's what I'm asking you. So, you're saying it's a  
11 misunderstanding?

12 **INMATE REESE:** Yes.

13 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** So, it's a  
14 misunderstanding, but you do acknowledge today that your  
15 substance use was more extensive than what you told  
16 psychologists in August, 2021. Is that what I hear you  
17 say?

18 **INMATE REESE:** Yes. Absolutely.

19 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** All right. That's the  
20 only question I had about the, the, uh, life crime pre-  
21 conviction matters. Do you want me to go to post-  
22 conviction? Uh-oh what happened to her?

23 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** <Inaudible> some  
24 bad internet quality so, I think I'll turn my camera off.

25 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** There she is.

1           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   I'm getting bad  
2 internet quality. So, I'm going to leave my camera off for  
3 a bit.

4           **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:**   All right. Did you want  
5 me to go through post-conviction matters?

6           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   Yes.

7           **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:**   All right. Uh, Ms.  
8 Reese, so we're now going to talk about what's been  
9 happening since you came to prison and, uh, it looks since  
10 this is your first hearing, we'll go ahead and, uh, just  
11 put on the record some of the things you've been doing.  
12 You've been attending college. You got three credits in  
13 2021. You've participated in e-learning in 2018, 20 19. I  
14 saw a certificate for career readiness from 2017. You also  
15 told the Commissioner, it's on the record, your GED from  
16 1999. You've worked in scullery kitchen, canteen,  
17 teacher's aide, a porter, dining room. Your supervisor  
18 reports have been mostly, um, uh, satisfactory. I saw a  
19 lot of threes in there. Your vocational participation  
20 includes janitorial. You're in that now, uh, and in 2020  
21 and 2019, <inaudible> machine operator in 2017, office  
22 services and related technologies, uh, 2016 and 2013,  
23 computer literacy in 2013, PIA fabrics in 2013. You did  
24 silk screen in 2012. I saw a Chrono that you removed  
25 because of theft. Is that true?

1       **INMATE REESE:** Yes, sir.

2       **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** What did you steal?

3       **INMATE REESE:** Some thread.

4       **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Why'd you do that?

5       **INMATE REESE:** It was a bad choice. It was bad  
6 choice.

7       **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** All right. And then  
8 your self-help participation, you did AA in 2019 and 20  
9 Beyond Violence in 2020, NA in 2018 and 2019, Codependents  
10 Anonymous 2019, Healing Trauma in 2019, Freedom to Choose  
11 in 2019, the Prison Fellowship in 2018, Toastmasters in  
12 2018, the Five Inchers 2017. You worked with a program  
13 called community support group there at CIL, CIW. And in  
14 that program it included Denial Management, Victim Impact,  
15 Conflict Resolution, Criminal Thinking. Healthy  
16 Boundaries, that was in 2020, uh, Growing up in an  
17 Alcoholic Home in 2020 and 2019, Introduction to Financial  
18 Literacy in 2019 CEO of Your Life, uh, life scripting, uh,  
19 both in 2016, a New Direction in 2015, Power of Prayer in  
20 2014, Wellness Program in 2013, Autobiographical Writing  
21 in 2021. And through PREP self-study, you did Victim's  
22 Awareness in 2019, 2020 and 2021. Which of these has been  
23 the most significant for you?

24       **INMATE REESE:** There's one that isn't in the file,  
25 one of my number one, um, groups. One of my first groups

1 is GOGI Campus. Um, I, I don't know of any of my  
2 certificates are, are scanning GOGI, but that was my—

3 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** When did you—

4 **INMATE REESE:** Number one.

5 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** You do, when did you do  
6 that? What year?

7 **INMATE REESE:** I think that when I first got arrested  
8 and Lynn wit, um, I was there for one year. I gave my  
9 Counselor the certificates and I don't know, maybe it gets  
10 scanned into my file.

11 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** All right. So tell me  
12 about what was so impactful about it that you say it's the  
13 most significant.

14 **INMATE REESE:** Well, GOGI is all my coping skills.  
15 Um, there's 12 tools for lasting change, and those are the  
16 ones that I use.

17 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** What are they?

18 **INMATE REESE:** Those are, well. Um, I can start off  
19 by, uh, the what if. In the what, it, it, uh, it cancels  
20 out the impulsivity. The what if is, if you think about  
21 what the consequences are to, um, your actions, you know,  
22 it helps you think about, um, what you do. Uh, then  
23 another one that's a positive thought positive action,  
24 belly breathing, ten second LIGHTSWITCH, foster your  
25 brain. All of these tools are used for behavior. It swaps

1 out, um, your old habits and you put in new ones to  
2 replace.

3 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** How has the self-help  
4 that you've participated in changed you?

5 **INMATE REESE:** It's changed me a lot because through,  
6 I would say to Healing Trauma is one that I've taken also,  
7 and it, it speaks about trauma. And how, like, if you were  
8 a child and you had trauma and how it changes the dynamics  
9 of your self-esteem. Um, Healing Trauma talks about where,  
10 uh, triggers come from and coping skills. Um, things that  
11 a lot of us that P S, uh, PST, uh, PTSD, I'm sorry. Um,  
12 it, that's like one of them which healing Trauma, uh, I've  
13 taken. Uh, another one, um, I have problems with was I  
14 take another class. I don't know if he ever mentioned that  
15 one, which was, uh, unhealthy, Healthy Relationships. Uh,  
16 that's a significant class for me with Domestic Violence  
17 and Beyond Violence. It teaches me, uh, about  
18 relationships, not just intimate relationships, but  
19 relationships, uh, in general, because I had a history of  
20 being very young and I was ratable myself where I was a  
21 people pleaser, you know, trying to get acceptance out  
22 there and, to carry on. So, it teaches me the warning  
23 signs of who I'm going to associate with and who I should.  
24 And there are some other groups, I don't know.

25 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Well, I'm not asking

1 you about groups, um, necessarily. I'm asking you about—

2 **INMATE REESE:** Um—

3 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** All your self-help, how  
4 has it, how it changed you?

5 **INMATE REESE:** Oh, okay, I'm sorry. My self-help has  
6 changed me tremendously. It's given me insight on who I  
7 was and it is, now it has reflected back to who I am  
8 today. It's built me up. It's given me, um, more  
9 confidence about myself and more self-esteem. I have  
10 boundaries today. It was a lot, there was things that I  
11 just won't compromise at all.

12 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** All right. So—

13 **INMATE REESE:** And so...

14 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Go ahead.

15 **INMATE REESE:** Yeah. So, I'm not the same person that  
16 I was before through those self-help groups, because each  
17 one has built me up to a level to where I'm a community  
18 leader. I am a peer coach in GOGI. I am, uh, I volunteer.  
19 I do a lot of good things today. You know, my life has  
20 totally changed because of these self-help groups.

21 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Do you think you were  
22 dangerous back around the time of your life crime?

23 **INMATE REESE:** Well, um, are you speaking about  
24 violence, in that aspect?

25 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Danger, any kind of

1 danger?

2 **INMATE REESE:** I believe that I wasn't a, a, a good  
3 person back then, as far as the decisions that I made.

4 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** All right. What is plan  
5 to avoid substance use in the future?

6 **INMATE REESE:** My plan is or to attend in AA, and I  
7 will have to most likely attend that for a long time,  
8 maybe a lifetime. However, if it keeps me, if it keeps me  
9 from using substance or any kind of alcohol, that's what  
10 gives me hope. You know, I have to continue to, um, always  
11 stay with the, uh, self-help, which is NA, AA because of  
12 that. I can't compromise. I can't take, I can't go to a  
13 party as I would give an example. I can't go to a party  
14 and someone hand me a drink. I have to bring my own drink,  
15 if I'm at a party. I can't, I can't compromise. I can't be  
16 around anyone that's using drugs. I can't be at a place  
17 that, uh, or with anyone that uses drugs, no matter if  
18 it's a family member, coworker, whoever it is. I can't  
19 even take a, any type of prescription medication that has  
20 coding, which that's where I relapsed that, um, anything  
21 that has any narcotic. When I go to the Doctor, I have to  
22 make sure that I, I just went to the Doctor, I think it  
23 was just a couple of days ago where I asked the Doctor, if  
24 it is pain medication that I take, I said, does it have  
25 any kind of narcotic in it or anything, any kind of

1 substance that that's, um, addicting. I have to always be,  
2 uh, careful of, um, what I take and who I'm around to keep  
3 myself, uh, on Board.

4 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** And what about  
5 relationships? What are your coping mechanisms to deal  
6 with negative relationships?

7 **INMATE REESE:** I have really tight boundaries today,  
8 even with not intimate relationship. I have no interest in  
9 that. I've been away from my children for mostly all of  
10 their lives, and I have grandkids I don't know, and I  
11 don't have any, I don't, I will, I have no reserves or a  
12 relationship whatsoever. Even with friendships, I don't  
13 have boundaries with that. Uh, I don't tolerate, um, if,  
14 uh, if I'm around a person, they were going to have to be  
15 a person that has good qualities that are uplifting for  
16 me. And so I'm very selective even here in prison. I'm  
17 like that. And I started it here. I started it here. I  
18 don't compromise with anybody that's not doing anything  
19 that uplifting for their lives and, um, any negative  
20 behavior, any negative type of, uh, activity. I would  
21 definitely not be around that.

22 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** All right. And your  
23 discipline record shows one administrative rule violation  
24 for, uh, it says borrowing personal property in January  
25 22nd, 2019. It's administrative and the record indicates



1 that you said that you were borrowing, that you had bought  
2 a hairdryer, hair straightener—

3 **INMATE REESE:** Um-hum.

4 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Two fans, a lamp and a  
5 typewriter. Is that true?

6 **INMATE REESE:** Okay. On the, on the, um, I brought  
7 that with me on the hair straightener, the blow dryer,  
8 that one of those were my friends' and the other one's my  
9 roommate. And I had them in my locker and I have been  
10 using them for Sundays for church. And that was a rule  
11 violation that we're supposed to give permission. Um, the  
12 fan and the typewriter, and it was a broken lap. I know  
13 you're talking about that, and those are the things that I  
14 get, get from other people, I might've given them a  
15 canteen or something. So, I take full responsibility for  
16 that write-up. And I did plead guilty for that, because  
17 that was a rule that I broke, you know, and I learned  
18 something for, from that.

19 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** So, you knew you were  
20 violating the rule when, when you had those items?

21 **INMATE REESE:** When I had those items, yes. I knew  
22 that a rule, a rule is a rule. Now, when it came to the  
23 straightener and, uh, the blow dryer, I don't know. It  
24 just, it still was a rule. I didn't know that I couldn't  
25 in a sense, I, but it's a rule. I found out that, that I

1 broke the rule.

2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** But going back when,  
3 when it was happening, when you had those items, did you  
4 know—

5 **INMATE REESE:** Um-hum.

6 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** You were violating the  
7 rules?

8 **INMATE REESE:** Yes.

9 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** And—

10 **INMATE REESE:** Yes.

11 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** What was, how did you  
12 allow yourself to violate the rules? How did you justify  
13 it? Or what was your thinking about it at the time?

14 **INMATE REESE:** I, well, I can't justify breaking a  
15 rule. I, I can say this, that I learned that at the time I  
16 must have thought, well, that's a small rule. That's, we  
17 all do it. However I had to learn from that write-up. I  
18 had to take something from that. That's why I pled guilty  
19 because it doesn't matter how small the rule is, or no  
20 matter how big it is. It's still a rule and there's  
21 consequences for that. So, I learned something from that  
22 write-up, and unfortunately I got it, but it did teach me  
23 a life lesson also.

24 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Why, why do you think  
25 that rule is in place?

1       **INMATE REESE:** The rule is in place. I can say that I  
2 know all aspects of the reason. However, I can say that  
3 there is a reason and that I got out of it to me was that  
4 if I can't be trusted with a small rule to, to go by,  
5 then, what am I going to do with a bigger rule? Because  
6 rules have consequences. So, I learned from that, that I,  
7 I, I truly believe that if I didn't get that write-up  
8 then, or, or any of our writers, um, I, I got something. I  
9 learned a lesson from it.

10       **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Well—

11       **INMATE REESE:** I have to look at it that way.

12       **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Can you think of any  
13 harm that that rule is trying to prevent?

14       **INMATE REESE:** Yes. Absolutely. I can.

15       **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** What, what harm?

16       **INMATE REESE:** Because if they didn't set rules in  
17 place, then there would be no structure. So in order to  
18 keep structure, rules have to be in place. So, that's what  
19 I take out of that.

20       **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** All right. You also,  
21 also had six Counseling Chronos for disobeying two of  
22 those in 2015 theft of the fabric thread that we talked  
23 about performance, uh, not working that was in 2012,  
24 failed to return from a class, refused, uh, to work. You  
25 had left tools on attended at one point. And you indicated

1 to me that, uh, what you think all this means is that if  
2 you can't be trusted with small rules, you can't be  
3 trusted with the big rules. Is that what you said?

4 **INMATE REESE:** I did say that. Yes. I said that.  
5 That's where all my write-up began. Um, that was PIA, uh,  
6 fabric, right?

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Yeah. The one in 2013.

8 **INMATE REESE:** Yes.

9 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Yeah.

10 **INMATE REESE:** Um-hum.

11 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** All right. Where are  
12 you going to live, if you get paroled?

13 **INMATE REESE:** In a transitional housing.

14 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** You had several  
15 acceptance letters. Have you decided which one are you  
16 going to, or which one's your number one choice?

17 **INMATE REESE:** Well, I was offered a job at  
18 Initiative Justice, um, and it's downtown Los Angeles, and  
19 there was a program that's not far, which is a New Way of  
20 Life. It isn't very far from that job.

21 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** So, you want to go to a  
22 New Way of Life because there's a job that's nearby.

23 **INMATE REESE:** Yes. And this job, um-

24 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** What is, what is the  
25 job?

1           **INMATE REESE:**   <Inaudible>.

2           **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:**   What are you going to  
3 be, what are you going to be doing?

4           **INMATE REESE:**   Pardon me?

5           **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:**   What are you going to  
6 be doing?

7           **INMATE REESE:**   Well, they offered to train me. I've  
8 been, when I first arrived at CIW, I volunteered for the  
9 law library. And, uh, I learned because I want to get back  
10 to the community. And so I learned all I could there. And  
11 so I have this because my life hasn't been that great  
12 through many years. I want to start giving back. So, this  
13 is like a dream job to me, because I feel like I could  
14 give back to the community. Um, there is young kids, youth  
15 out there that are misdirected, misguided, and I do have  
16 my story, through what I've been through and all what I've  
17 learned and who I am today. So, to work there is like an  
18 honor to me, yes. If I could get that job, I'd be—

19           **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:**   The letter, the letter  
20 that we have says they'll give you a place to volunteer.  
21 Are you sure it's a job?

22           **INMATE REESE:**   Yeah. At least at once time volunteer  
23 that they'll train me and then they'll hire me.

24           **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:**   Okay.

25           **INMATE REESE:**   Yes.

1           **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:**   Since you're going to  
2   be participating in civic engagement with the legislative  
3   system and, uh, dealing with, uh, recidivism, community  
4   matters.

5           **INMATE REESE:**   Yes.

6           **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:**   All right. And how are  
7   you going to support yourself? With that job?

8           **INMATE REESE:**   Well, I made a plan that, well, I  
9   don't know if you ever see the Amazon commercial. He says,  
10   well, you know, I go to school and I do this and I hire  
11   you because they have different hours. And so—

12          **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:**   Yeah, it so—

13          **INMATE REESE:**   I have a, yeah, I have a life coach,  
14   Anthony, and he's like, Mary, I want you to work at  
15   Amazon. And I'm like, okay, sure. And so when I saw the  
16   commercial, too, I thought, well, how can I have to keep  
17   this Initiative Justice job. I want to give back to the  
18   community. I mean, I've taken so much for so many years  
19   and I just feel like I, I need to give back. I, I need to  
20   do that. And so that's my desire. So, however, we made a  
21   plan. I was thinking, I could work four hours at  
22   Initiative Justice during the day or three hours volunteer  
23   for training. And then I could go to Amazon after. So, I  
24   thought this would be a good idea. And that was the reason  
25   why I wanted to connect with the New Way of Life because,

1 um, the, uh, Initiative Justice is very far.

2 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Okay. You, um, had a  
3 lot of support letters for this hearing, as well as for  
4 your re-sentencing. Who would you say is your most  
5 important supporting, support people out there? You could  
6 list the top two or three.

7 **INMATE REESE:** I'm going to say I have Anthony, which  
8 is my, uh, life coach. He's, uh, um, our daily minister.  
9 And I speak to him pretty much daily. Um, I run by every  
10 aspect of my life where I have a concern, or if I have a  
11 thought about something, I go to him. He's like my go-to.  
12 Um, he's never been in prison and he's never been in jail.  
13 He's never used drugs, alcohol, or any of those things.  
14 And, um, I respect his opinion and he brings biblical to  
15 me. He's the one that has me start paying my ties right  
16 now. And so, you know, in, in church and I look up to him.  
17 I have, uh, also my mentor for, for GOGI Campus because I  
18 don't ever want to forget, um, GOGI, Coach Taylor, um, the  
19 behavioral program. That's my very first program. And I  
20 have, uh, alumni with, uh, it's Pepperdine university. So,  
21 there's a lot of different events. And so I'm a part of  
22 the GOGI campus family, so <inaudible>my mentors there.  
23 Uh, I also have a sponsor, which is an NA, AA sponsor,  
24 Terry Scott. Um, she's will be with me when we're going to  
25 meetings. And, um, she's very powerful in the community.

1 And, um, Maggie, she's in, she's another mentor for GOGI.  
2 So, I have quite a bit. I have Daniel, which is in the CC,  
3 um, Coalition for Women. He's been very supportive for me  
4 too, along with the three-strike project, which I'm really  
5 honored to have. I have such a big, uh, support team that  
6 is amazing I've never had in my life. And...

7 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** If you were—

8 **INMATE REESE:** I think I never had—

9 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Do you know what a  
10 hypothetical is?

11 **INMATE REESE:** Um, no. Could you explain that to me,  
12 you know.

13 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** It's like, um, like a  
14 scenario, um, like if you were to violate your parole,  
15 what would be the most likely area that you would violate  
16 in?

17 **INMATE REESE:** Oh, I see what you're saying by the  
18 hypo, I'm just wanting to let you know that I wouldn't. I  
19 wouldn't ever my parole. I would never take a chance on  
20 losing my life again.

21 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** All right.

22 **INMATE REESE:** If I have to go a third area to go to  
23 a place, that hypothetically, they told me that I can only  
24 go five miles. I would check to see how many miles it was,  
25 where I have to go before I go. I could—



1           **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:**   What's—

2           **INMATE REESE:**   Never take another over.

3           **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:**   All right. So, um, what  
4   would be the area that you would be most likely to violate  
5   in? Not that you're going to, but what would be the most  
6   likely area? In other words, what's your greatest  
7   weakness? What's the thing you're going to be most careful  
8   about when you get out there?

9           **INMATE REESE:**   The most thing I'm going to be very  
10   careful about is always asking for help. That's when, you  
11   know, I'm going to keep a very good report with my Parole  
12   Officer. I'm going to check in as much as possible and I'm  
13   going to, um, always ask for help.

14          **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:**   Okay. Thank you. I  
15   don't have anything else, Commissioner.

16          **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   Ms. Reese, do you  
17   use the 12 steps?

18          **INMATE REESE:**   Yes, I do.

19          **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   Do you know all 12  
20   steps?

21          **INMATE REESE:**   I'm on, I'm at the 10 step right now  
22   and I know what the, the 11 is the only one that, um, I  
23   don't know. However I know all the rest.

24          **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   Okay. So, when you  
25   say that you're on the 10th, now, that means you started

1 at one. Then, you've worked your way through.

2 **INMATE REESE:** Yeah, and yeah, my memory's not the  
3 greatest, but, um, I made sure I went down to, I skipped  
4 the 11 right now and I went down to this, to the 12, the  
5 12th step to this spiritual awakening. And, um, that's 11  
6 is—

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Do you use step  
8 10?

9 **INMATE REESE:** Pardon me?

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Do you use tip 10?

11 **INMATE REESE:** Um, the personal inventory?

12 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Yes. Do you use  
13 that step?

14 **INMATE REESE:** Yes, I do that. I do that on a daily  
15 basis.

16 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. So, tell me  
17 about the latest inventory that you did. What'd you find?

18 **INMATE REESE:** The latest inventory that I did was I  
19 made a decision with, uh, a person that, um, wasn't  
20 healthy for me and I had to cut ties.

21 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Who's that person?

22 **INMATE REESE:** Uh, this person is in prison here, the  
23 person I'm talking about.

24 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. So, when did  
25 you make—

1       **INMATE REESE:**   <Inaudible>.

2       **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   When did you make  
3   that decision?

4       **INMATE REESE:**   I made it pretty final because someone  
5   was trying to talk me into having the relationship again.

6       **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   The, the question  
7   was when? Was that today or last week, or when did you  
8   make that decision?

9       **INMATE REESE:**   Oh, I made that decision, um, about a  
10   week ago.

11       **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   So, what have you  
12   done in regards to that decision since then?

13       **INMATE REESE:**   I continued on to, I continued on with  
14   my life. It wasn't healthy for me. I had to set  
15   boundaries.

16       **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   But I mean, how  
17   did you, how do you said you have to cut someone out? So,  
18   how did you do that? I want to know what you did with that  
19   unhealthy relationship.

20       **INMATE REESE:**   I disassociated myself. That's what I  
21   did.

22       **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**   And how?

23       **INMATE REESE:**   I just, how? Oh, I, I had to, I walked  
24   away from the, from the, the relationship. This person  
25   wasn't healthy for me because this person who hasn't had

1 any change and I had spoken before about, we haven't found  
2 a reason, or even, even just, this is in no type of  
3 intimate relationship. This was just a friendship.

4 However, I've known this person for quite some time, but  
5 this person is not growing. And, um, I, I'm not trying to  
6 say I'm very <inaudible> or anything, but right now I am  
7 because I've gone through too much in my life to tolerate.

8 If I'm going to hang around anyone, or I'm going to  
9 socialize with somebody, they're going to have to meet, be  
10 where I'm at or above. And I didn't see any growth from

11 this person. And, you know, it was time for this person  
12 was like glamorizing criminal lifestyles and, and still

13 stuck in the past. And just because I know you from a year  
14 ago, two years, three years, it doesn't mean that, um, I,

15 I have to start setting boundaries here. So, this person

16 wasn't healthy for me. So, therefore I, I had to step back  
17 from this person. And recently I had another friend that I

18 say, hey, Mary they want you to. And I, I told my friend,

19 I says, I can't, I can't go back to the relationship with  
20 her because she doesn't have the growth that I need to

21 help me. So, therefore, I can't compromise. I have to set  
22 boundaries and I'm going to start setting boundaries here

23 in prison. And so that's what I do. If you're not, if

24 you're not, if we're not praying together or you're not

25 about the word of God, you're not in college, you're not,

1 you know, you don't do anything positive with your life,  
2 then I'm not going to have association because I've gone  
3 through too much in my life to tolerate that. So, I've  
4 already cut ties with this person for probably six months.  
5 However, another person tried to intercede because she was  
6 thinking, oh, wow, well, why don't you start talking back  
7 to <inaudible> And you know, I see this person kind of  
8 looking like she wants to, but I can't because if I  
9 compromise here, I feel like when I get home, when I get  
10 home, I'll do the same thing. So, my standards of people  
11 have changed because I've changed. So, this is, and I'm  
12 serious about my recovery and I'm serious about my life  
13 today.

14 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. Just, I want  
15 to make sure I understand. So, um, you said about a week  
16 ago, you had this decision you made to cut ties with this  
17 person and you disassociated yourself. You walked away,  
18 um, had to set some boundaries, but then you, you said  
19 like cut ties with them six months ago. So, what happened  
20 in the more recent timeframe after cutting the boundaries  
21 initially, or cutting of ties initially that you felt like  
22 you had to do something more?

23 **INMATE REESE:** Well, what I'm saying is that, okay, I  
24 stopped talking with her probably like about six months,  
25 because I started to notice that, um, the behavior in her

1 was very unhealthy for me. And so another friend that's  
2 hanging with her right now, and I know her. She knows her.  
3 She came to me last week and she was saying, "hey, Mary,  
4 why don't you, why aren't you and her taught me, I'm not  
5 trying to tell you what to do," but, you know, she's  
6 trying to convince me to go back. And I had already  
7 explained to this person, the issues and how I was  
8 dissatisfied with this person, and so, uh, her behavior,  
9 you know, her not, her growth wasn't good. And just, she's  
10 still stuck. She's still stuck in her recidivism. I, I can  
11 see. And I'm not there anymore. I'm not where I was years  
12 ago when I knew her. And so therefore I felt like I need  
13 to start setting boundaries <inaudible>. So, any people  
14 that I know, I don't hang around a big group of people,  
15 but any people that I associate with today has to be  
16 healthy people. And it, it still, it doesn't matter. It  
17 has, it has to start here in prison. And so we, because  
18 of, of my beliefs and who I am today, I, I had to cut the  
19 tie. So, when someone tried to convince me which I'm boss  
20 of my brain. I used the GOGI tool no one, no one is. I  
21 don't use their brain. I use my own. So, I use my GOGI  
22 tool, which I'm the boss of my brain. I'm making this  
23 decision because I have boundaries today. And so if I  
24 started here in this prison, I won't have no problem on  
25 the streets doing the same thing, because that's the same

1 thing that I did. I compromised, you know, my beliefs when  
2 I was out there, when I was continuing to just pick up  
3 friends that weren't healthy for me. This is where my  
4 whole life went down the way it did. And so I have to  
5 admit because I'm responsible for everything that I did,  
6 but I also have to learn from my mistakes. And right now I  
7 am not the same. I, the people that I going to be  
8 associating with or building friendship with, associating  
9 with are going to have to be healthy people.

10 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** So, another  
11 follow-up question I have is about your job. So, pull up  
12 the job, the letter from Initiate Justice. And so this is  
13 a letter from April this year. So, it talks about offering  
14 your support system. It talks about <inaudible>. It also  
15 says this is a big, if the budget allows, we are willing  
16 to hire you. So, when someone says something like that,  
17 that to me, that's not a definite. That's a maybe. And  
18 when someone says that they're really couching it, knowing  
19 that maybe there's going to be a reason it's not going to  
20 happen. So, you know, that's not a definite offer. Um, so,  
21 if that doesn't work out, if you can't get hired by  
22 Amazon, what's the, what's your next plan to support  
23 yourself?

24 **INMATE REESE:** Well, I, I am vaccinated and I hear on  
25 the news all the time that there's a lot of jobs out

1     there. So, I don't at this particular point, I'm a, I'm a  
2     janitor in my unit right now. I have a new Chrono from my  
3     boss, but I didn't know how I can submit that because all  
4     my work ethics because of, you know, the past, um, that my  
5     boss just gave me. I don't know if you can see this. Uh, I  
6     I'm, uh, I can do any job. I could be, you know, I'm a  
7     porter right now. So, I could work at probably most  
8     likely, I know that, um, I can work anyplace, Walmart,  
9     Target, any feeling friendly jobs. I have a list of jobs,  
10    um, that I can go. I am a licensed cosmetologist. And  
11    also, um, when I worked, you might see, um, when I was a  
12    teacher there from cosmetology, I have to go back and take  
13    the written to get my license. So, I can also work in that  
14    field. And also I have that, well, I'm very proud to have  
15    that Baylor University business certificate and for  
16    <inaudible> venture. And they do have an employment, uh,  
17    agency there where they help us with employment because  
18    they have a lot of, uh, support through a lot of job  
19    offers, you know, for jobs. Um, so that should not be a  
20    problem as far as employment for me.

21           **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:**     So, as far as the  
22    cosmetology, you said you did take the written test. How  
23    much is it cost to do that?

24           **INMATE REESE:**     Uh, I believe I asked my boss how much  
25    she thought it would be. And she said around probably like



1 \$500, I think, two to five or something like that.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. Let's go  
3 ahead and look at the Comprehensive Risk Assessment. Your  
4 Risk Assessment gave your overall risk rating as a  
5 moderate. The Clinician goes to your various risk factors  
6 that are relevant towards your risks. Looking at the  
7 historic category, those factors include violence,  
8 antisocial behaviors, relationships, substance abuse,  
9 personality disorder, and supervision response. Those are  
10 moderate relevant. Excuse me. There was one that was  
11 <inaudible> to be highly relevant in historic category and  
12 that was employment problems, which is why I asked some of  
13 these follow-up questions on that issue. Then looking at  
14 the recent problems that the clinical factors, there were  
15 a few noted there, and they include your lack of self-  
16 awareness, your instability and supervision response.  
17 Under the risk management category that for future  
18 problems the ones noted there include personal support,  
19 supervision response, and stress or coping. So, it sounded  
20 to me like stress was a factor in your relapse in 2007.  
21 So, what are some of other ways you deal with stress  
22 today?

23 **INMATE REESE:** Well, I'm going to give an example. I,  
24 um, got overwhelmed maybe a few days ago or something, and  
25 they were like screaming on the speaker, "Reese, could

1 people come," you know, and I'm thinking like, oh my God.  
2 So, I used one of my coping tools and I said, oh no,  
3 because I, that started to stress me out. I was feeling a  
4 bit overwhelmed. So, what I do is I just sit and I used  
5 my, one of my coping skills, which is from GOGI. It's the  
6 10 second LIGHTSWITCH. And what you do is that once you  
7 get that overwhelmed feeling, you just ground yourself.  
8 Uh, you count for the 10 seconds before you make a  
9 decision. And so I used it and it was very effective for  
10 me. Uh, also in, uh, Beyond Violence, we have the five  
11 senses where you, um, you see, hear, smell, touch, and  
12 taste. You can use those coping skills before you react  
13 and, um, and so that's what I use when I'm feeling  
14 overwhelmed or stressed. I also have my support team if I  
15 have a situation to where I feel that I can't resolve on  
16 my own. I have my support team to call. I have, I can ask  
17 for help.

18 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. Let's go  
19 ahead and move on to clarifying questions. So, let me  
20 check with your Attorney, Ms. Blake, do you have any  
21 clarifying questions for your client?

22 **ATTORNEY BLAKE:** Um, I think the one thing I had  
23 was about the, the position. I just wanted to draw the  
24 attention to the end of the Initiate Justice, but I think  
25 that we covered that. So, I think, um, I think that, um, I

1 think that we're good.

2 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Okay. Let's move  
3 into closing then. So, Ms. Blake, you have 10 minutes.  
4 It's 3:36.

5 **ATTORNEY BLAKE:** Great. Thank you so much. Um, and  
6 I want to thank everyone here for their time today. I know  
7 there is a little bit of technical difficulties there at  
8 the beginning, which makes it a longer day, but I really  
9 appreciate it. Um, so I'm here asking you today to find  
10 Ms. Reese suitable for parole. I think that there's ample  
11 evidence to support that finding. Um, the first thing is  
12 that Ms. MS. Reese and I, we haven't actually talked about  
13 it today, but she received a letter from the secretary of  
14 corrections, uh, recommending that her sentence be  
15 recalled and that she, um, be re-sentenced for immediate  
16 release based on her exceptionally meritorious conduct.  
17 Um, she is one of fewer than 200 people to have ever  
18 received this type of recommendation. It's an extremely  
19 thorough bedding that goes through this process. Um,  
20 Commissioner, I'm not sure you look like you're looking  
21 for it and I did submit it as part of my packet. Um, it's  
22 exhibit A. Um, so, you know, I know that the, the, the  
23 secretary of corrections doesn't sit directly above the  
24 Board of Parole Hearings, but she's certainly a powerful  
25 person to write basically what amounts to a letter of

1 recommendation for her release. So, I think that that's  
2 something that's probably not, doesn't come up often, um,  
3 in, in these rooms and I think should be given pretty  
4 considerate weight. Um, in, in making that finding, an  
5 order for the secretary to sign that letter, she had to  
6 personally conclude that not only would Ms. Reese not be a  
7 danger to community to our community, but would actually  
8 be an asset to our community if released. Um, the second  
9 thing that I think is very unusual as we're only here  
10 today, because Ms. Reese received a commutation comes from  
11 Governor Newsome. Um, I've talked about how rare a  
12 recommendation under 1170 DS based on meritorious conduct  
13 for a commutation is even more rare. Um, talk about, uh, a  
14 certain level of scrutiny that, that an inmate would have  
15 to go through to receive that recommendation. In addition  
16 to all of the review of the file and everything else, uh,  
17 there's a certain political risk that, um, you know,  
18 let's, let's face it, politicians have to be considered  
19 when making that recommendation. And, uh, Governor Newsome  
20 felt that Ms. Reese was worth taking that risk to bring  
21 her here to today, uh, much earlier than she would  
22 typically be before the Board. Um, and a more sort of like  
23 typical, uh, typical factors that you might look at her  
24 prison behavior, um, as we talked about today. It's really  
25 been exemplary. It's not perfect. She did, um, steal that,

1 that, that role of thread. And you've had a couple of, um,  
2 Counseling Chronos, um, but really given the, the length  
3 of time that she's been here, it's really pretty  
4 astonishing how, how much she has been able to, how well  
5 she has been able to stay out of trouble in a really  
6 difficult environment. Um, and on the flip side, her  
7 programming has been excellent. Um, Deputy Commissioner,  
8 when you were going through her list, it was 2020, 21,  
9 2020, 2019, all the way back, um, actually back when she  
10 was in jail, when she started programming this time. Um,  
11 she has really dove into her rehabilitative programming to  
12 an, an incredible extent. And I hope that you too can also  
13 see the way that she talks about it. She's not just  
14 attending these classes. She's really internalized the  
15 lesson and can speak to both the classes themselves  
16 fluently, but also how they would apply and how they would  
17 end do apply in her everyday life. Um, we talked pretty  
18 extensively about her substance abuse pass and how that  
19 was really a driver of a crime. And, you know, um, well,  
20 she's been sober the entire time that she has been in  
21 prison this time. We, we didn't talk about it. Um, but I'm  
22 sure that if you asked Ms. Reese, um, that was not  
23 necessarily true for prior prison commitments. We, we all  
24 know that it's not necessarily difficult if you really  
25 want to, to get controlled substances in prison and the

1 fact that that, um, that Mary has not done that has said,  
2 as a testament to her commitment, to her sobriety. Um, her  
3 Risk Assessments, um, we didn't talk about it much today,  
4 but, uh, she has had the compass, um, done the risk and  
5 use assessment. Her scores on there are, they can't any  
6 better. They're low for everything that should be low and  
7 high for everything that should be high, which is all that  
8 we can ask for. I also submitted as part of my packet, a  
9 Risk Assessment that was prepared for her 117 OD, um,  
10 court proceedings done by a federal, a former Federal  
11 Probation Officer, Richard Wood, who found Mary to be, um,  
12 a low risk to public safety if released and found her  
13 worthy of a second chance. Um, we touched a little bit on  
14 her age. Mary is almost 63 years old next month. Um,  
15 people, uh, her, of her age, very rarely re-offend after  
16 the age of 50, basically criminal, recidivism falls off a  
17 cliff. Um, I don't think it's, that's going to be any  
18 different for Mary. Um, she also has a number of letters  
19 of support from Correctional Staff. So, I think these are  
20 pretty compelling to, to me personally, because not only  
21 is it, are they people who don't typically, uh, take the  
22 time to write letters of support to, to have them  
23 released, but they're also someone who gets to see Mary  
24 day in and day out. It's hard to fake good behavior, 24  
25 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Um, a

1 number of these Correctional Officers are, um, are  
2 assigned to the honor dorm where she lives and they see  
3 her interact with their peers, with staff, and they really  
4 know who she is in a way that can be difficult to, to  
5 ascertain, um, just on paper and for them to testify to  
6 her good nature, to her sincere remorse for her crime, I  
7 think, um, should carry a pretty significant weight. Um,  
8 along those lines, her, Mary is very remorseful for her  
9 crimes. We, I'm glad that we were able to locate the  
10 letters of remorse that she's written to her crime  
11 victims. She did complete the, um, the Victim Impact  
12 class. And I was trying to find the final certificate. I,  
13 I couldn't find it in the packet, but if I can't find it,  
14 I'll try and bring it to your attention. Um, and that was,  
15 I think, the, the final touch on her remorse. I think that  
16 she came to the feelings of, um, of remorsefulness based  
17 on her extensive criminal, I'm sorry, based on her  
18 extensive, uh, rehabilitative programming. And then  
19 finally sort of putting the cherry on top of the remorse  
20 <inaudible> was, was the Victim Impact class that really,  
21 I think, put into words on of the things that she had  
22 intuitively understood based on her other programming. Um,  
23 she also has re-entry, um, a very strong reentry plan,  
24 which she never had before. Before every time she came  
25 out, she did her time and just came out and we, everyone

1 in this note, everyone in this room knows that's not a  
2 good way to, to, to be successful. You can't do this on  
3 your own, especially someone that has the background that  
4 Mary has. So, in addition to all the programming and the  
5 skills that she's learned while in prison, she has been  
6 accepted to both two residential reentry programs. We  
7 talked about a New Way of Life. She's also been accepted  
8 to Crossroads and other similar program, um, on the other  
9 side of Los Angeles County. Um, she has been, um, she'd  
10 also be greeted at the Prison Gates by the Ride Home  
11 program, which is an award-winning developed with the  
12 Obama White House to provide immediate peer support upon  
13 release, uh, to people when they're, um, when they're  
14 home. The other thing we also didn't talk about she was  
15 very strong family support as well. Um, for when she does  
16 finally leave her a transitional home, um, including a  
17 brother who owns, um, a number of properties that, that  
18 Ms. Reese could stay at, rent-free taking some of the, the  
19 pressure off. But I think too, when we were talking about  
20 the Initiate Justice, um, volunteer program, you know, Ms.  
21 Reese had a, uh, I think a good balance, right, Amazon,  
22 uh, I can tell you Amazon always hiring. Um, so Amazon is  
23 the way that she can support herself. It's actually not a  
24 bad company to work at, right, <inaudible> they pay well.  
25 They have benefits, but she would still have time and the



1 flexibility to, to do the, the work that feeds her soul,  
2 which is volunteering with Initiate Justice. And I think  
3 that's, that's a very, um, a very grown-up and  
4 sophisticated way to think about your entry. You know, I  
5 think some people are a little bit pie in the sky. Well,  
6 I'm going to volunteer and it's going to be great and I'm  
7 going to help the youth. Well, that's great. How are you  
8 going to eat? How are you going to pay rent? And I think  
9 Mary has, has, by trying to think about this as a, in a  
10 sophisticated and a more, um, grown up way to start to  
11 think about how to meet the prior practical needs but also  
12 meeting her emotional needs. Um, you know, we, we talked a  
13 lot about Mary's childhood, um, and this really atrocious  
14 thing that happened to her when, when she was 13, that I  
15 think really set her on the path that she has today. And I  
16 think it's very compelling to think about the fact that  
17 she's never dealt with that trauma until this current, uh,  
18 prison sentence. That's an incredible thing to carry with  
19 you as a 13 year old child to, uh, and then to, to be,  
20 become a mother at 13 when you're just a child yourself is  
21 a lot to ask anyone to bear. And then when you didn't  
22 have, when she didn't have the support system, that we  
23 would hope that she would have, it's, it's re it's frankly  
24 not surprising that, that she ended up on the path that  
25 she is, that she did. But Mary has done something that I

1 think is incredibly hard. It is to look not only about  
2 pain in her face, but also the pain that she has caused  
3 others. And to really try and address that both in terms  
4 of healing herself and trying to, to give back and provide  
5 some small recompense for the harm that she's caused  
6 others. Um, you know, Mary entered prison in 2007, which  
7 is just about the time that the prison system changed its  
8 name to add rehabilitation. And it was supposed to, uh,  
9 really emphasize a goal that the prison system had, was  
10 not just to incarcerate people, but to actually improve  
11 people so that they could come out as better than when  
12 they went in. And I think Mary really embodies that goal  
13 in a way that I think is, is difficult. Um, it is  
14 difficult to, to see another people. She has, from the  
15 moment she was, um, convicted, she has really, really  
16 dedicated herself to improving her, her life, in life and  
17 improving herself. And she did this without any  
18 anticipation of early release. We talked about, right,  
19 right now, Mary is, is lucky to have two potential avenues  
20 for release. Both of them are extraordinary, the 117 0D,  
21 um, and then the commutation, but those, those things  
22 weren't, they, weren't a possibility in 2007. That's not  
23 why she was doing any of this program. She was doing this  
24 programming because she saw, she saw, she took a true look  
25 at herself in a way that is highly commendable, didn't

1 like what she saw and has been trying to address it every  
2 day since then. And she has walked the walk, she's talked  
3 the talk, and I think she's earned an opportunity to, to  
4 earn that second chance and to contribute to our community  
5 on the outside as well she's contributed on the inside, so  
6 um, so what that I ask you to, to find her suitable. Thank  
7 you.

8 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Thank you. Ms.  
9 Reese, this is your opportunity. Would you like to make a  
10 closing statement at this time?

11 **INMATE REESE:** Yes, ma'am. Thank you sincerely Board,  
12 Panel, Commissioners for conducting this hearing today. I  
13 like to start by expressing my humblest apology to Ms.  
14 Smith, Ms. Doe and Ms. Free who were all affected by my  
15 poor choices and the community. This crime, I take full  
16 responsibility for my actions. I am deeply sorry for  
17 causing all of you this emotional pain and worry. I stole  
18 your personal property, which didn't belong to me. I used  
19 your trust to believe that I was someone else. I'm sorry  
20 for the deceitful manipulating actions. While I also  
21 invaded your space where you should've felt safe, I  
22 violated, violated you again. You never deserve to be  
23 treated this way. I'm truly sorry again. And I hope and  
24 pray for your forgiveness and your family's forgiveness,  
25 too. I didn't realize the severity of the pain I caused

1 you. In my early childhood years, I struggled with  
2 learning and understanding the basic principle of caring  
3 about the feelings of others. I was so broken as a child  
4 and a teenager impressionable by the streets. So, I  
5 tattered mentally at the age of 15 with a life of crime. I  
6 was 14 with the responsibilities of a child by someone who  
7 raped me. I was violated by giving my trust. I did the  
8 same thing, my crimes to other people. I'm extremely  
9 sorry. You all were affected by my senseless behavior. I  
10 cannot undo the harm I caused. However, I could change  
11 myself from that callous monster I was. Finally, I reached  
12 out for help. I couldn't continue to hurt and harm other  
13 people. The 13 years have passed. I am grateful for many  
14 self-help classes, which has helped me address my hardcore  
15 issues of my past. As I began to acknowledge how I got  
16 where I, I'm, I equipped myself with lifelong tools for  
17 change. I practice daily to maintain the morals and  
18 principles with the respect of others. I'm going to  
19 maintain a close relationship to guide me every day. And  
20 now I'm a mentor peer coach for GOGI Campus, a behavior  
21 program. I teach the 12 steps for lasting change. My  
22 desire is to help are huge, to be better, to make better  
23 decisions. So, they be better equipped to live a healthy  
24 life. May God be with you all. Mary. I beg this Panel to  
25 take notice of the measures of all the changes that I have

1 made. I am now grown to be respectful, responsible,  
2 considerate, and compassionate. I ask with all my heart  
3 that you find my efforts worthy, sincere. I have developed  
4 a quality of character necessary to become a contributing  
5 member of society. And I humbly ask that you find me  
6 suitable for parole today. Thank you.

7 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Thank you. The  
8 Deputy Commissioner and I are going to exit the Team's  
9 meeting room to deliberate. Our pictures will drop. Would  
10 you please remain online? We'll come back to this meeting  
11 room upon conclusion of our deliberations. The time is  
12 3:49 PM. And we'll go off record.

13 **[RECESS]**  
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**CALIFORNIA BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS****DECISION**

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** We're back on the record.

**PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** Thank you. We're back on the record. Today is November 9th, 2021. The time is now 4:17 PM. We will now reconvene this hearing for the pronouncement of the Panel's decision. All the same parties who were previously identified have returned for this decision in the matter of Ms. Ms. Reese. The CDCR number is W72, let's see, sorry. It's W72019, with the controlling offense of first degree burglary resulted in a sentence of 25 years to life, plus 10 years for having two prior serious felony convictions. The sentence was commuted by the Governor on May 28th, 2021, making you legally eligible for parole hearing. There were multiple victims in this case, which was a three strikes case. In reaching our decision today, we must not act arbitrarily or capriciously. We must consider all relevant, reliable information available. In doing so, we must determine if the inmate continues to pose unreasonable risk to public safety and a denial of parole must be based in evidence in the record of the inmate's current dangerousness. In this case, the Panel has read and considered the written record

**MARY REESE            W72019            11/09/2021            DECISION PAGE 1**

1 before us, including the inmate's Central File,  
2 Comprehensive Risk Assessment, Ms. Reese's testimony  
3 today, statements from her Attorney and the opposition  
4 letter that was received for the Pasadena Police  
5 Department. The confidential portion of inmate's file was  
6 review, but was not relied on in making today's decision.  
7 Based on the legal standards and the evidence considered,  
8 we find that you do pose an unreasonable risk to public  
9 safety and are therefore not suitable for parole. In  
10 making this decision, we looked at factors both mitigate  
11 and aggravate your risk. Looking first at the mitigating  
12 factors, we found your release plans to be mitigating. You  
13 do have Parole Plans addressing most of the community  
14 stability factors. You have been accepted into  
15 transitional housing. You do plan to continue self-help in  
16 the community. You did receive support letters. You have  
17 some job ideas, help of sponsor and wrote relapse  
18 prevention plans. We did, however, find that the factors  
19 mitigating your current risk were outweighed by factors  
20 that aggravate your current risk, but first of those being  
21 the Comprehensive Risk Assessment. That assessment did  
22 determine that you pose a moderate risk of future  
23 violence, meaning that you pose a somewhat elevated risk  
24 relative to other long-term offenders. Your criminal

25 **MARY REESE      W72019      11/09/2021      DECISION PAGE 2**

1 parole history is also aggravating as you do have an early  
2 onset of criminality, multiple crimes or short intervals  
3 between a poor performance on supervised release. As a  
4 juvenile, you were arrested at age 15 for grand theft auto  
5 and 17 for robbery. We also saw behavior that included  
6 prostitution, stealing and running away. As an adult, you  
7 were arrested numerous times. You saw a whole variety of  
8 property crimes, including forging credit card  
9 information, um, grand theft, forgery, theft, more auto  
10 theft, and multiple burglaries, both first and second  
11 degree prior to the life crime arrest in 2007. You also  
12 had several arrests for prostitution over the years as  
13 well. On the supervisor release, we do see that you  
14 violated both probation and parole. Um, next, your self-  
15 control that was found to be aggravating as throughout  
16 your criminal history you were unable to control your  
17 behavior as a result of one or more of the following. You  
18 were impulsive. You did fail to recognize or think of  
19 consequences when committing your crimes or engaging in  
20 other antisocial behaviors. You were also callous towards  
21 others and did not consider how your actions would affect  
22 the victims and others at that time, or for years to come.  
23 And you had a criminal attitude and thought of other's  
24 possessions as there for your taking and use. Your lack of

25 **MARY REESE**

**W72019**

**11/09/2021**

**DECISION PAGE 3**



1 programming is also aggravating, as the Comprehensive Risk  
2 Assessment designated the risk factors that remain  
3 currently relevant for you, such as violence, antisocial  
4 behaviors, relationships, substance abuse, and lack of  
5 self-awareness. You have not completed internalized  
6 programs based on all of your risks. Your institutional  
7 behavior is also aggravating as you have had serious  
8 misconduct while incarcerated, as well as recent as  
9 common, regardless of severity. We did see one RVR. This  
10 is an administrative write-up for borrowing personal  
11 property in 2019 when you have property that belonged to  
12 other inmates. I've note that we also did see a Counseling  
13 Chrono in 2013 for a theft from your job. Your offender  
14 change today was also found to be aggravating. As despite  
15 programming, you do continue to express views that  
16 demonstrate lack of change. We do think you walk  
17 understanding or self-awareness into the causative factors  
18 in both: your life crime, as well as your other  
19 criminality. If you haven't figured out why you did what  
20 you did, you are more likely to do it for some things  
21 <inaudible> as you won't know what to watch out for, to  
22 prevent yourself from being involved in similar behavior  
23 in the future. So, today you talked to us about the  
24 causative factors for your crime to be addiction and your

25 **MARY REESE**

**W72019**

**11/09/2021**

**DECISION PAGE 4**

1 criminal mindset and impulsivity. However, we really  
2 didn't hear a lot of insight throughout the hearing that  
3 your character defects that continue to drive you to  
4 commit various theft in your crimes to fund that  
5 addiction. Um, we also note that in the CRA, the Clinician  
6 also felt that you lacked self-awareness. We just think  
7 there's more for you to uncover there about what drove  
8 your criminal behavior. We also think that you lack some  
9 understanding into your substance abuse issues. You did  
10 tell us that you began using as a teenager to cover your  
11 feelings of shame that were connected to being raped. And  
12 you talked about the 2007 relapse that you had being due  
13 to the stress over your son's death, as well as fear  
14 connected to the circumstances of that death. Today,  
15 however, when we talked to you about your triggers for  
16 substance use, initially, when we asked you, you mentioned  
17 only external triggers and none of those appear to be tied  
18 to your initial use of substances or your most recent  
19 relapse, um, cause the Panel had to prompt and ask you  
20 about your internal triggers. It's concerning that you can  
21 relapse again because you care to be less aware of your  
22 actual internal triggers, which seem to have triggered you  
23 to use. We also think you lack tools to stay sober in the  
24 community. When asked you did say your tools involved,

25 **MARY REESE**

**W72019**

**11/09/2021**

**DECISION PAGE 5**

1 going to NA or AA, what you said was a long time and I  
2 quote, "Maybe a lifetime." If you're an addict, you would  
3 know that that's a lifetime, lifetime commitment. You  
4 should be making other tools you mentioned were not being  
5 around places are at where people are using, where use is  
6 happening. You didn't mention the 12 steps as being a tool  
7 for staying sober. Later in the hearing, we did have a  
8 discussion about that. And we found out that you haven't  
9 worked through all 12 steps that doesn't really appear  
10 from our discussion that you have a good working knowledge  
11 of them yet, um, in our discussion based on your most  
12 recent step 10, uh, because you do say that addiction is  
13 what drove your criminality. It's about most important  
14 that you have solid tools to help keep you sober in the  
15 community. We also are concerned about recent misconduct.  
16 It does show recent criminal thinking. So, you did have  
17 the RVR for borrowing personal property in 2019, that was  
18 less than three years ago. You did have property belonging  
19 to other inmates. You did admit to us that you knew it was  
20 a rule violation, but you did it anyways. We're also  
21 concerned that when we talked to you about that, you  
22 really seemed to lack any understanding of why your rule  
23 would be important or imposed, um, such as that rule about  
24 to have other people's property. So, that was a concern

25 **MARY REESE**

**W72019**

**11/09/2021**

**DECISION PAGE 6**

1 that you didn't kind of have any understanding of why that  
2 might be a rule or important to obey it, um, but it really  
3 showed us, there were some residual criminal thinking and  
4 that was still recent. Um, we also saw that you've  
5 continued criminal, um, theft behavior in prison, and this  
6 was not connected to substance abuse. This was that write-  
7 up you had, and I know it was a little bit longer ago, but  
8 it was not conducted to substance abuse, and you were  
9 unable to explain why you engage in that theft behavior  
10 other than it was a bad decision. Well, bad decision, as a  
11 reason, it doesn't really show any insight at all because  
12 everyone could say anything they did that was bad, or, you  
13 know, against any rule or any crime was a bad decision.  
14 So, it left us thinking that maybe there are other factors  
15 other than substance abuse that led to other theft crimes  
16 you have in a community that you haven't really addressed  
17 yet because there's this one. And we don't know, really  
18 know why you did that. So, we think there's unanswered  
19 questions there. There's more causative factors that are  
20 yet to be explored. We're also concerned that when you  
21 look overall yourself-help, it's really re, rather recent,  
22 minimal and not internalized as I said, for substance use  
23 driving their criminality and not having worked through  
24 all 12 steps. You see that you started the 12 step class

25 **MARY REESE**

**W72019**

**11/09/2021**

**DECISION PAGE 7**

1 in 2018. So, that's really very recent compared to you,  
2 um, decades-long issues with substance use. Um, we also  
3 looked at your relapse prevention plan, so we didn't  
4 really find them comprehensive in nature. We didn't see  
5 one for criminal thinking. When I looked at the one for  
6 your substance abuse, it's really more a history of your  
7 substance use. It's really not a relapse prevention plan.  
8 At the end, it kind of says something like, yeah, I need  
9 to get some tools to deal with this. It's not a relapse  
10 prevention plan. Your relapse prevention plan should have  
11 triggers both internal and external as well as tools that  
12 you know would have internalized. So, we didn't find that  
13 relapse prevention plans that you turned in comprehensive  
14 in nature. Today, we also found some issues with the  
15 credit, credibility and minimizing of your conduct and  
16 blaming others. So, the CRA does note you have a history  
17 of deceit and manipulation. You did appear in our  
18 discussion to blame the commission for misunderstanding,  
19 um, related to substance abuse history, minimizing, does  
20 show lack of insight and a continued pattern of criminal  
21 thinking. Let me check with my colleague now and see if he  
22 has any additional comments.

23 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Um, can you ask the  
24 Officer to shut the radio down? Cause it's really.

25 **MARY REESE            W72019            11/09/2021            DECISION PAGE 8**

1 All right.

2 **INMATE REESE:** <Inaudible>.

3 **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CASTRO:** Okay. All right. Thank  
4 you. Uh, nothing additional, just, um, maybe a little more  
5 explanation as to the, um, the, uh, minimizing. Uh, we  
6 asked you about the, that statement that you made about  
7 your substance use to the Psychologist about three months  
8 ago, and you are really equivocated. First, you said you  
9 did minimize, and then you talked more and it was more  
10 like, well, it was a misunderstanding. And so, when you  
11 were, the Commissioner said you kind of blame the  
12 commission, um, I think we meant you kind of blamed the  
13 Psychologist, uh, for having that misunderstanding or that  
14 lack of communication. So, we see a little bit of, uh,  
15 blaming, uh, the circumstances, the situation, either a  
16 psychologist or for not communicating well, the question  
17 to you, uh, or not understanding your answer. So, that was  
18 a little bit, um, concerning, or you admitted that you did  
19 minimize it, which is not being completely true, not being  
20 completely honest. Um, because when you minimize, that's  
21 what you do, you, you hide a little bit of the truth. You  
22 hide some of the truth, reveal some of the truth, and  
23 that's what the, uh, Commissioner meant, uh, our concern  
24 with that issue based on your answer today in the

25 **MARY REESE            W72019            11/09/2021            DECISION PAGE 9**

1 statement just three months ago, and, um, when we talked  
2 about internalizing the self-help, uh, Commissioner talked  
3 about that, just want to go into it a little bit more, no  
4 more explanation into that, because what we discussed  
5 there was that we asked you, asked you about changes that  
6 you've made, and you've told us what programs you've been,  
7 what you learned in the programs. Um, and really, um, we,  
8 the question really went more towards what changes would  
9 have required you to say, well, I went from being this  
10 type of person and now I'm this type of person, the then  
11 and now. This was the opportunity to do that. And I asked  
12 you, "Were you dangerous?" And I tried to ask you a  
13 different way and you're still, "Well, I was not a good  
14 person because of the decisions I made." And, uh, we're,  
15 we're trying to get at is really, um, the, uh, the  
16 offender change, whether, you know what changes have  
17 happened to you, um, or are you just taking programs and  
18 learning stuff and, uh, just throwing it up there, like a  
19 shotgun approach. Uh, so we felt that you hadn't really  
20 internalized a lot of the programs because, uh, you  
21 weren't able to give us some of your, your personal  
22 traits, your changes that you've made, and that's what the  
23 question really called for, but your, your style of  
24 answering, um, have not been really responsive to the

25 **MARY REESE**

**W72019**

**11/09/2021**

**DECISION PAGE 10**

1 question. There was also, um, an issue with other  
2 questions, um, and we had a concern when the Commissioner  
3 asks you about the inventory that you do when she asked  
4 you about your late inventories, and you said that you do  
5 them daily, and she asked you about your most, your most  
6 recent one, which should have been this morning or  
7 yesterday, since you said daily. And you talked about a  
8 decision that you made two weeks ago, not really about an  
9 inventory, because an inventory also goes to thinking of  
10 taking stock of yourself and, and, and talking about a  
11 characteristic or a trait or something that you're going  
12 to work on, or that you felt you were deficient, or that  
13 you're going to address differently. And you just went  
14 into, um, an example of a decision that you made and  
15 really didn't answer the question either. So, um, of  
16 course the Commissioner did mention the, the answer that  
17 you gave us about being an AA and NA "maybe for a  
18 lifetime. "We're quite certain that AA and NA teach you,  
19 if you're addicted, it's a, it's a lifetime thing. And so,  
20 your answer there wasn't really consistent with some of  
21 the core teachings in those programs. And, um, regarding  
22 your discipline, the ability, um, and the insight into the  
23 rule-breaking, um, you really weren't able to answer. You  
24 didn't have a lot of insight into why the rules in place

25 **MARY REESE**

**W72019**

**11/09/2021**

**DECISION PAGE 11**



1 and, you know, all rules are there to prevent some kind of  
2 harm. And the only thing you could think of regarding your  
3 infractions was that there would be no structure. And we  
4 tried to elicit from you what, what the harm would be. And  
5 for example, there could be a harm that could lead to  
6 violence. Uh, it could be dispute as to who owns what  
7 property. This inmate stole that property and the reason  
8 these rules are in place about getting your property, uh,  
9 registered and, uh, having the institution know about what  
10 property is yours so they can resolve those issues, uh, so  
11 that they don't lead to violence. And that is there for  
12 the security of the institution, the inmates and the, um,  
13 the officers as well. So, your question was, your answer  
14 was a little bit lacking in that regard also. And overall,  
15 when we talked about your discipline, when you talked  
16 about what you learned from it, that if you can't be  
17 trusted with small rules, you can be trusted with big  
18 rules. Well, for you, there really aren't no small rules.  
19 Um, when we're talking about your, your change, we don't  
20 care what the institution calls the rule breaking. They  
21 could call it a Counseling Chrono. They could call it a  
22 verbal warning. We're looking at your conduct and your  
23 understanding of yourself, what it meant about, what it  
24 said about you. So, we don't give any weight to the fact

25 **MARY REESE**

**W72019**

**11/09/2021**

**DECISION PAGE 12**

1 that it was administrative or a rule violation, or a  
2 Counseling Chrono. We're looking at what you know about  
3 it. And for you, um, there really are no small, uh, rules.  
4 You're, you're a lifer. Uh, we're assessing you for the  
5 security of the public in the future if you were to be  
6 released and you, um, you need to be careful about all  
7 your behavior. Uh, if you start slipping, uh, allowing  
8 yourself to violate rules knowingly like you did, that's a  
9 big thing for you. You said it yourself. It'll grow into  
10 something bigger if you were outside. So, it's not really  
11 a small, uh, rule violation, a small rule. It's a big  
12 thing for you. It's a big thing for all the inmates. And  
13 so we felt you lacked a little bit of, uh, internalization  
14 and insight and overall with coupled with your other  
15 violations, one of them related to theft also, uh, which  
16 is kind of a deceit as well. It's hiding the truth. You're  
17 concealing that you took something. Um, it made us, um,  
18 conclude that this area was aggravating. Uh, it was less  
19 than three years ago, the rule violation. Your  
20 explanation, uh, today was a little bit, uh, lacking. And  
21 the statement to the Psychologist was just about three  
22 months ago. So, the reason I'm telling you all this is so  
23 that hopefully you'll get a copy of this transcript, It  
24 will be available for you and so that you can address

25 **MARY REESE**

**W72019**

**11/09/2021**

**DECISION PAGE 13**

1 this. So, this is like a learning experience. Uh, you may  
2 disagree with everything we said. That's fine, too. Uh,  
3 you may get a different Panel for your next hearing. Um,  
4 but we hope that you consider these things because we  
5 think that, uh, they have done a lot of work and in many  
6 respects. Uh, you're on the right track. We don't want you  
7 to, um, to lose hope. Uh, we want you to keep working on  
8 these, on these areas. That's why we're telling you about  
9 them. Okay. Good luck.

10 **INMATE REESE:** Okay. Thank you.

11 **PRESIDING COMMISSIONER THORNTON:** <Inaudible>  
12 explanation about one of the things I said. Ms. Reese,  
13 hopefully that will be more help you, helpful to you to  
14 hear kind of the more in depth explanation for a lot of  
15 our findings today. Based on these things, we do conclude  
16 that you pose an unreasonable risk to public safety and  
17 accordingly, the Panel find you unsuitable for parole.  
18 Based on you having no write-ups for violence and  
19 beginning to engage in self-help programming, we do find  
20 there's a clear and convincing evidence that neither a 10  
21 nor a 15 years denial is appropriate in consideration of  
22 victim and public safety. Instead, your next scheduled  
23 parole suitability hearing shall be set in three years'  
24 time based on the time necessary for you to address the

25 **MARY REESE            W72019            11/09/2021            DECISION PAGE 14**

1 factors that continue to aggravate your current risk as  
2 previously discussed. You can request an earlier hearing  
3 than the denial period we issued today, provided there's  
4 been a change of circumstance or new information,  
5 establishing a reasonable likelihood that you do not  
6 require an additional period of incarceration. The  
7 petition to advance form 1045A will be provided to you by  
8 your Counselor, if you make such a request in the future.  
9 You can submit a PTA form once every three years. In  
10 addition, because this is a three-year denial, in about  
11 one year from now, the Board will review your case. If you  
12 have remained disciplinary free and worked on the  
13 recommendations, there's a strong likelihood your next  
14 hearing will be advanced about 18 months from now. Our  
15 recommendations are to get, and to remain disciplinary  
16 free, to earn positive Chronos and to continue in your  
17 self-help, especially areas of substance abuse, criminal  
18 thinking and victim impact. Uh, I know you said you did  
19 complete a Victim Awareness. I would suggest taking  
20 another class of Victim Impact or Awareness. I did, even  
21 though we did find your letters to the victims, they seem  
22 rather superficial. We would like to see you acknowledge  
23 the impact or likely impacts on the victim in those  
24 letters. We would also like you to develop more

**MARY REESE****W72019****11/09/2021****DECISION PAGE 15**

1 comprehensive relapse prevention plans that include  
2 internal and external triggers and tools and update the  
3 one that you wrote for substance abuse. Also draft one for  
4 criminal thinking. This decision is not final, it will be  
5 reviewed by the Board for up to 120 days. You'll be  
6 notified in writing if there is any changes to this  
7 decision. I want to thank everyone who's participated in  
8 the hearing today. The time is now 4:37 PM. This hearing  
9 is adjourned.

**ADJOURNMENT**

THIS TRANSCRIPT CONTAINS THE PROPOSED DECISION OF THE BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS (BOARD) ANNOUNCED AT YOUR RECENT BOARD HEARING AND IS PROVIDED TO YOU IN COMPLIANCE WITH PENAL CODE SECTION 3041.5, SUBDIVISION (A) (4), AND CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 15, SECTION 2254. THIS PROPOSED DECISION WILL BECOME FINAL WITHIN 120 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE HEARING AS REQUIRED BY PENAL CODE SECTION 3041, SUBDIVISION (B), UNLESS THE BOARD NOTIFIES YOU IN WRITING BEFORE THEN THAT THE PROPOSED DECISION HAS BEEN MODIFIED, VACATED OR REFERRED TO THE FULL BOARD, SITTING EN BANC, DUE TO AN ERROR OF LAW, ERROR OF FACT OR NEW INFORMATION PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 15, SECTION 2042. THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR HAS AUTHORITY TO REVIEW THE BOARD'S DECISION AND AFFIRM, MODIFY, OR REVERSE IT PURSUANT TO PENAL CODE SECTIONS 3041.1 AND 3041.2.

**MARY REESE****W72019****11/09/2021****DECISION PAGE 17**

**CERTIFICATE AND DECLARATION OF TRANSCRIBER**

I, Eman Abdulaziz, am a disinterested party, and have no interest in the outcome of the hearing. Further, I certify this transcript is a true, complete, and accurate record, to the best of my ability, of the recorded material provided for transcription of proceeding for:

In the matter of the Parole    CDC Number: **W72019**  
Consideration Hearing of:

MARY S REESE

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN

CORONA, CALIFORNIA

11/09/2021

2:13 PM

Signed: *Eman Abdulaziz*

Transcribed by: Eman Abdulaziz

Conduit Transcriptions

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