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### Statement of Gloria Allred

Today, Rex Heuermann, who thought he had the perfect blueprint and plan for serial murder, pled guilty to the murder of eight young women.

Some of these murder victims were young mothers, just trying to earn a little extra money to support their children. Because many did not have funds to go to college or get a decent job that would help them to provide adequate support for their children, they turned to sex work in order to help their families. It wasn't what they wanted to do, but it was what they felt forced to do because they had no meaningful alternative. Some wanted to help their parents, grandparents, and loved ones. Some just wanted to survive in this difficult and challenging world.

Little did they know that the defendant, Rex Heuermann, did not care about their hopes and dreams or that they had families and friends who loved them. He appeared to care only for himself and executing what he thought was his perfect blueprint for murder.

The evidence gathered and articulated in the prosecutor's response to the defendant's bail application demonstrated that the defendant had a "planning document" utilized by Heuermann to methodically blueprint and 'plan out' his 'kills.'" He also believed he had a perfect plan to avoid collection of evidence against him and to evade capture by law enforcement. However, what he had thought was his perfect blueprint for serial murder did not take into account the courage and the persistence of the murder victims' family members who refused to give up until the murderer of their loved ones was found, convicted, and sent to prison for the rest of his life, without the possibility of parole. Many of the murder victims' family members became the voices of their loved ones, crying out for them not to be ignored and forgotten, and demanding answers and justice for them.

Many of those family members whom I represent are here today. It was bittersweet for them to be in court and hear the defendant plead guilty to the murder of their loved one, and the manner of their death. The truth was important to them, and they heard it today.

Last week they were faced with a difficult question. Did they agree with the Suffolk County District Attorney's decision to agree to accept the defendant's plea of guilty in lieu of trial, or would they have preferred that a trial take place so that they could hear all of the evidence that the prosecutor would seek to admit against the defendant? In a few moments, you will hear their answers to that question.

Family members of Megan Waterman – please come forward and state your name and relationship to Megan Waterman.

Elizabeth Meserve – Aunt  
Liliana Waterman - Daughter

Family members of Melissa Barthelemy– please come forward and state your name and relationship to Melissa Barthelemy.

Lynn Barthelemy- Mother  
Amanda Funderburg - Sister

Family members of Maureen Brainard-Barnes– please come forward and state your name and relationship to Maureen Brainard-Barnes.

Melissa Cann - Sister  
Nicolette Brainard-Barnes - Daughter  
Dyllan Hagggett – Son

Family members of Jessica Taylor– please come forward and state your name and relationship to Jessica Taylor.

Elizabeth Baczkiel - Mother

Jasmine Robinson - Cousin

On behalf of your loved one, do you agree with the defendant having been permitted to enter a plea of guilty instead of being required to stand trial?

All confirmed that they agreed with the defendant having been permitted to enter a plea of guilty.

The defendant's plan to get away with the murders he committed was also unsuccessful because of the many law enforcement officers who participated in this massive investigation. We would like to thank each and every one of you who contributed to bringing the defendant to justice. We deeply appreciate you and your dedication to finding, testing and preserving evidence for this case. The result today would never have been achieved without your hard work and sacrifice. Even if we cannot meet and thank each one of you in person, please know that your efforts on behalf of the families' loved ones are respected and appreciated. We look forward to thanking as many of you as possible at the time of the sentencing.

The journey to justice has been painful for each and every family member who I represent. In conclusion, Melissa Cann, also known as Missy, would like to share her feelings about this day and the almost two decades in which she has sought justice for her sister, Maureen Brainard-Barnes.

Statement of Attorney Gloria Allred  
Representing family members of the victims of the defendant  
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