

**Cellblocks To Mountaintops  
Video 7B: Yellow Fire Hydrant  
Transcript**

***LOWER THIRD:***

Oregon State Penitentiary  
Salem, Oregon

**Unidentified cross talk outside prison**

**Nastasha Pickens**

**Anthony's wife:**

I'm, super anxious. I already know I'm gonna cry because I'm already ready to cry.

**Venetia Mayhew**

**Anthony's Attorney:**

I love this, I'm just pure happy. Yeah. There's no complicated emotions here.

**Professor Melissa Buis:** Yeah. This is just super exciting and wonderful. And I'm, you know, it was hard to sleep thinking about all that he has in store for him. So we're just here to tell him how much we love and support him. Yeah?

**Woman:** Oh, here we go.

**Prison Guard:** Good luck to ya.

Anthony Pickens: What's up baby? [Anthony comes out, and hugs Natasha]

***TEXT CARD:***

Anthony is granted clemency  
by Oregon Governor Kate Brown after spending 24 years in prison

**Anthony Pickens:** Alright

**Student:** I think this is your phone. I'm not sure...

**Anthony Pickens:** Oh, I forgot, I'll figure out how to work it later.

**Anthony Pickens:** Thank you, Governor Brown. I really, really appreciate it. Like, this is amazing. Well, I gotta give her that thanks. Because she showed me an act of mercy. Like she didn't have to do it. She actually looked at my situation, looked at my transformation, and took it serious. So I appreciate that.

**Anthony Pickens:** It's over around the corner by the fire hydrant, I don't even know where that's at.

**Student:** Yeah. We got to go wave at them, right?

**Anthony Pickens:** Oh, you know, where is it?

**Student:** Yeah.

**Anthony Pickens:** Okay. Are we walking or are we driving or are we going to foot it?

So this fire hydrant, Sterling Cunio, several years ago, he used to go up to the chapel, which is right up there where he works. Look out at this fire hydrant and, like, do a visualization exercise, imagining himself outside of this prison. And so it's like an abstract hope that, ---because most of us are serving like life, life without, 20, 30 years and so, long periods of time. And so it's just amazing to be able to get out here and actually touch the fire hydrant. And I think some of my guys is up there right now waving, you know, my guys right there and they showin up. And so they're going to get their moment too, man. I don't know how much they can see me, but man, argh, argh [posing]! love y'all, man.

**[At Sassy Onion Restaurant]**

**Anthony Pickens:** Uh oh, I'm talkin about actual silverware. Yeah. everything. We got plastic, and we don't get forks.

**Anthony Pickens:** (mumbling as he reads the menu) Hmmm....

**Family at Restaurant:** It's the water. All right. I'm sorry.

**Anthony Pickens:** Hmm French toast.

**Family member:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Anthony Pickens:** Yeah, that's gonna work [rubs hands]

**Family member:** I think I know what you're. Yeah. I was thinking.

**Anthony Pickens:** Yeah, eggs and hashbrowns and toast with some Tabasco sauce. You ever had it?

**Family member:** What's this? It is hot sauce.

**Anthony Pickens:** Is it good?

Family member: (shrugs)

**Waitress:** And how would you like your eggs?

[**Anthony Pickens:** Scrambled

**Waitress:** And what kind of toast would like white, wheat...

**Anthony Pickens:** Wheat.

**Waitress:** Wheat? Okay.

**Anthony Pickens:** [Takes a bite of eggs] Voila!

**Anthony Pickens:** In prison, they said it was wheat bread, but it was just some dyed bread that looked brown. So this looks like. Let me see. [takes a bite of bread]

**Anthony Pickens:** And it got flavor! That's crazy. I didn't know bread have flavor. [laughs]

[In car]

**Family member:** Okay.

**Anthony Pickens:** All right. All right. Old lady. You got shorter too?

**Nastasha Pickens:** I'm not shorter. You did not get taller.

**Anthony Pickens:** Yes, I did got taller as soon as I walked out I got taller.

**Nastasha Pickens:** Yeah, I hear you.

[At Home]

**Anthony Pickens:** Oh! That is comfortable. Let me see [bouncing on sofa] Oh, oh! Oh, man! Ain't nothing that comfortable in prison.

**Nastasha Pickens:** Oh.

**Anthony Pickens:** I'll be on what they call post-prison supervision for the rest of my life. And then in 2024, it'll go inactive. What that means is that I won't have to check in with my parole officer or get permission to travel. And so I'm looking forward to that.

**Anthony Pickens:** Bam, bam. Hey it's me. It's me.

**Anthony Pickens:** I will be working with the Oregon Justice Research Center doing document management for attorneys. So I'm looking forward to getting that actual paycheck that's more than \$50 a month. I've heard stories about people getting out and their beds, being too comfortable to sleep initially, so I don't know how that's going to work, but we will find out. Aaah... time to go to bed.