



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
 JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR  
**PRISONER REVIEW BOARD**

Donald Shelton, Chair

**EN BANC MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION— February 29, 2024**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on February 29, 2024, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following individuals in custody:

<b>C56165</b>	<b>Lott, David</b>
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The meeting was called to order by Donald Shelton, Chair.  
 Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Alexandria Bryan.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mr. Jared Bohland	X	
Mr. Matthew Coates	X	
Mr. William Delgado	X	
Ms. Julie Globokar	X	
Ms. Darryldean Goff	X	
Mr. Jeffrey Grubbs	X	
Mr. Rodger Heaton	X	
Ms. LeAnn Miller	X	
Mr. Donald Shelton, Chair	X	
Ms. Robin Shoffner	X	
Ms. Carmen Terrones	X	
Ms. Krystal Tison	X	
Mr. Kenneth Tupy	X	

13 Members Present      0 Member Absent

The Board heard the case of David Lott C56165

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL for 2/1/24: RHEATON - MCOATES

Open Session: WDELGADO - LMILLER

Meeting was adjourned by: KTUPY – WDELGADO      Leave.



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION February 29, 2024**

Individual in Custody's Name: David Lott IDOC Number: C56165

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on February 29, 2024, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for David Lott, C56165.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Coates, Mr. Delgado, Ms. Globokar, Ms. Goff, Mr. Grubbs, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Miller, Ms. Terrones, Ms. Tison, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Shoffner, and Mr. Shelton, Chairman.

Recording Secretary: Alexandria Bryan.

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

The basis for the Board's decision, at this time, is as follows:

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

On January 23, 2025, Mr. David L. Lott was interviewed by Ms. Krystal Tison at Shawnee Correctional Center via Webex. Mr. Lott's interview lasted approximately 55 minutes. He was not represented by an attorney and no one else was present for the interview.

Mr. Lott is a 73-year-old male who has been in Shawnee Correctional Center since April 29, 2015. Official records show he has been in custody continuously since 1975.

During the interview, Mr. Lott was polite, and he communicated clearly. He appeared prepared for the interview.

Mr. Lott was sentenced in St. Clair County for the criminal offenses of the murder of two men. He was sentenced to two consecutive terms of imprisonment of 150 to 300 years.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

On July 28, 1974, Mr. Lott and co-offender, Mr. Willie Cotton, followed two persons out of an East Saint Louis liquor store. Several witnesses observed Mr. Lott and Mr. Cotton get into the car with the two victims. Both victims were killed by gunshots.

Mr. Lott's co-offender made admissions and thereafter Mr. Lott also made admissions. The murder weapon was recovered and was a forensic match to a slug recovered from the body of one victim. A St. Clair County jailer testified at Mr. Lott's trial that Mr. Lott said he shot one because he was old and the other because he begged him not to harm him.

At Mr. Lott's trial, two men testified that they had been robbed by Mr. Lott and the co-offender



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the night before the murders. The first was a cab driver who testified they robbed him and then the co-offender shot at him. The second witness was a man who was in his vehicle in a parking lot at a nightclub. During this robbery, the co-offender struck the victim with the butt of a gun, knocking out two teeth. Then, Mr. Lott pointed a gun at the victim as Mr. Lott and the co-offender drove away in the victim's car.

### **CRIMINAL HISTORY**

In addition to his indeterminate sentences for the two murders, he was later sentenced on March 20, 1981, to 4 years, for aggravated battery to a correctional officer.

### **INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT**

Mr. Lott's disciplinary record reflects that he was involved in gang related violence. He stated that he was affiliated with the Vice Lords when he was young, but it means nothing to him now as it is just a bunch of young kids. There is no current evidence of gang affiliation as evidenced by not receiving any Institutional Discipline Referrals since 2013.

Prior to 2013, he had 269 discipline referrals which included numerous violent or disruptive behaviors, including fighting and assaults against correctional officers. His behavior has improved in recent years. No discipline referrals were recorded past the year 2013, possibly consistent with Mr. Lott's advancing age. He explained that at his age and where he is, he feels safe and does not have to fight. He says he is an old man now and wants a better life.

### **STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE**

At his interview, Mr. Lott said he has problems remembering the details of the offense. He said he has previously given the Prisoner Review Board this information and he chose not to discuss it during the interview.

The minutes from the March 2023 En Banc session state that he minimized the seriousness of the murders stating the victims were pimps and drug dealers. The minutes also note that he repeatedly stated that the judge and members of the jury were white, and he said he should not have been convicted because the shooting was self-defense.

He states that he thinks about his friends who died all the time. He lived on the same street where they lived. He says there was a definite effect on his family. His parents were distraught. He says he sees life differently now. He looks at young people who are incarcerated, talks to them, and tries to guide them, but they do not respect his advice.

### **PAROLE PLANS**

Mr. Lott's last visits were in 2011. During that year, his niece and his sister visited. He said



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after his mother died; all the visits stopped. His brother is listed as his emergency contact. He said they usually communicate by mail about every two weeks.

He would like to live with his children, although he has lost contact with them. He would not want to live with his brother but if required, he would. He does not have a commitment from family and does not have a viable re-entry plan.

He hopes for the chance to return to the community and be a good citizen. He says he has learned to appreciate life and hopes to see his grandchildren.

If he stays in prison, he would like to go Dixon, where they have a nursing home.

### **OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE**

The State's Attorney from St. Clair County wrote a letter dated November 15, 2021 opposing parole for Mr. Lott. There are no documents in the file supporting parole.

### **ENBANC HISTORY**

Mr. Lott's parole has been denied each time he has come before this board beginning in 1995. His parole eligibility is being considered for the sixteenth time. He received one vote in favor of granting release in 2017.

### **DISCUSSION**

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Heaton stated that Mr. Lott doesn't presently share information that establishes a reentry plan, and that he could possibly need the help of an outside organization. He questioned how the process works for those organizations.

Mr. Shelton stated that he has never suggested any individuals to outside organizations. But the department, Illinois Department of Corrections, and Illinois Prisoner Review Board, has no obligation to do that for them. He stated that anyone has the right to assist with connecting him with an outside organization. He stated that Mr. Lott doesn't seem to know about these outside organizations. The facility would have to help him find housing if he was paroled. He stated that not having a host site isn't an issue in this case. IDOC will make the appropriate host site arrangements for him. If they can't find him a host site, they will violate him at the door until they do find him one.

Ms. Miller stated that facilities usually have posting in the library for these organizations, but that doesn't mean Mr. Lott has seen them.

Mr. Tupy stated that he has previously referred individuals to organizations. He stated that Mr. Lott has had over 10 years without tickets. But he does have issues with getting a host site.



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Ms. Shoffner stated that some petitioners do not have any support with filing their petitions. She stated that having an advocate will provide him with a chance one day. She stated that being able to direct applicants in the right direction will help them.

Mr. Shelton stated that Mr. Lott made bizarre statements last year during his institutional hearing. He stated, "I am a medical examiner, I open up skulls." He stated that it made him question if Mr. Lott had a serious mental illness and would hinder his decision making outside the facility. He stated that his family had a background in mortuary science.

Ms. Tison stated that Mr. Lott had mortician experience.

End of discussion.

**DECISION AND RATIONALE**

Motion to deny parole (KTISON - LMILLER). Motion prevailed by a unanimous vote.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Lott's case, the Board voted to deny parole. The Board feels that parole release at this time would not be in the interest of public safety, as there is a substantial risk that Mr. Lott's parole release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of the offenses and promote a lack of respect for the law.

*"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm. The Board further notes that, pursuant to Illinois law, victim statements are confidential and privileged."*