



STATE OF ILLINOIS
 BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Craig Findley, Chairman

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET: MEETING OF March 1, 2018 (February)

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois, on March 1, 2018 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

C01600	Johnny Veal
C71971	Willie Lewis
C81714	Rudy Bell
C02117	Oscar Curtis
C10475	Raymond Larson
C15189	Frank Morgan
C90056	Virgil Robinson
C61397	Gerald Chatman
C71613	Danny Lillard
C72452	Lee Smith
C56165	David Lott

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Findley
 Roll call was taken by the Recording Secretary: Robynn Davis

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Ms. Edith Crigler		X
Mr. Salvador Diaz	X	
Mr. Donald Wayne Dunn	X	
Mr. Pete Fisher	X	
Ms. Vonetta Harris	X	
Ms. Ellen Johnson	X	
Mr. Tom Johnson	X	
Ms. Virginia Martinez	X	
Mr. William Norton	X	
Mrs. Aurthur Mae Perkins	X	
Mr. Donald Shelton	X	
Mr. Ken Tupy	X	
Chairman Craig Findley	X	

12 Members Present

Meeting was adjourned (CF –BN). Leave.
 Submitted by: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— MARCH 1, 2018

Inmate Name: **JOHNNY VEAL**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C01600**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois, on March 1, 2018 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Johnny Veal, IDOC #C01600.

Members present were: S. Diaz, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, V. Harris, E. Johnson, T. Johnson, V. Martinez, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, D. Shelton, K. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Johnny Veal was interviewed at Stateville Correctional Center on November 29, 2017 for parole consideration. Factors considered by the Board include, but are not limited to: inmate's testimony, a review of the file, parole plans, and institutional adjustment. Present at the hearing were Ms. Sara Garber (attorney for Inmate Veal), Ms. Helen Sinclair (Inmate Veal's mother-in-law), and Mr. Theodore Pearson (friend).

Inmate Veal is serving a 100-199 year sentence for two counts of Murder. He is currently 64-years-old, having served 47 years of his sentence. The victims in this case were two Chicago Police Officers, who were gunned down while doing community service in the Cabrini-Green housing project. The officers were doing a walk and talk program as volunteer work, and were in plain clothes at the time of the shooting. Inmate Veal has consistently maintained his innocence for this crime. However, he does express deep remorse to the victims of the crime and their families. Inmate Veal's conviction was based on accountability, along with evidence showing that he had helped to plan the attack.

Inmate Veal's institutional adjustment has steadily improved, him having not received a ticket since 2012. Inmate Veal has a number of associate degree and some 25 institutional certificates of accomplishment for which he is commended. He has good contact with his family and friends, and he has strong support were he to be paroled.

Chairman Findley spoke to the protests taken on at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office on Johnny Veal. He noted that these were the most grueling and difficult protests he has heard since the Clemency Hearings that he did for Death Row inmates. He advised the Board that 28 people spoke, half of them were members of the victims' immediate families and the other half were police officers who represented the Gold Star Family, survivors of the shootings, and officers on duty at the time of the shooting. One officer on duty described the inmate as dangerous and believed that he was involved in criminal activity in the building. Chairman



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Findley also heard a story from another officer who stated that the inmate burned his own older brother with a flare. Chairman Findley briefly read from a letter describing the atmosphere of Cabrini-Green at the time of the shooting. He noted that all the victims' family members spoke to the fact that they have not been able to overcome their grief from the loss of their loved ones. Chairman Findley also commented that the death of Commander Bower in Chicago just days before fueled the protest hearing. He stated that the Walk & Talk program the victims were working on was a good volunteer program aimed at strengthening community relationships with the police and vice versa. He said that he received many letters from past and present police officers, as well as the Cook County State's Attorney's Office protesting the release of Inmate Veal.

Member T. Johnson commented that this is a tough case that occurred 47 years ago. He stated that in review of the interview with Inmate Veal and the case file, Inmate Veal is much different now than he was at seventeen. He advised that the board needs to consider if Inmate Veal is paroled, would it deprecate the seriousness of the offense, noting that serving 47-50 years is considered a lifetime for some. He also asked to consider if releasing him would harm the law. Member Johnson noted that he struggles with the decision. Inmate Veal was seventeen at the time of the offense, he was involved with a gang. He stated that Inmate Veal is remorseful to the effect of understanding grief, he has phenomenal support and great accomplishments while in prison. The greatest thing that Member Johnson struggles with is that Inmate Veal does not take responsibility, he claims total denial in this case. Member Johnson noted that while this was a circumstantial court case, it was a strong circumstantial case. He noted that a total denial is not in line with the case, as he was at least an active participant in planning the crime.

Member Tupy requested to know the results of the SPIN Assessment. Member T. Johnson advised that he is a moderate risk, it recaps the presentation, and this his recidivism rate is low.

Member Shelton stated that he understands the support for Inmate Veal's petition to parole, but there are some and certain crimes and circumstances where you cannot overlook the crimes, such as with the assassination of a police officer. Member Shelton noted that he cannot support parole for Inmate Veal.

Member Harris requested to know if has received any votes in the past. Member T. Johnson advised that he has no prior votes and that Inmate Veal has received 3-year sets in the past, however he would not support another 3-year set.

Assistant State's Attorney Margaret Hillman spoke on behalf of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. She noted that the criteria for this case has been laid out statutorily. Inmate Veal has been litigated locally and federally. He shows no remorse for his actions in this case. She noted that if Inmate Veal had been sentenced today, he would have received a natural life sentence. She advised that the officers killed and shot at in this case were on a peace-making



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mission. Cook County is asking for a 5-year set to match this case up with George Knight's case.

Attorney Sara Garber spoke on behalf of Inmate Veal. She noted that his case was composed of circumstantial evidence, advising that one detective stated that shots could not have come from apartment 603. She advised that Inmate Veal had four alibi witnesses who were not allowed to be called at trial. She conveyed that Inmate Veal had grown up in Cabrini-Green as a gang member and that he struggled early in life. She understands the political and emotional nature of these crime and this is a hard case. She stated that it is not without precedent for the Board to release a person with multiple victims (2-3 murders) and is asking for no set if the Board does not grant parole.

Member T. Johnson stated that he believes that Inmate Veal is a very different person today. He noted that his alibi was taken up on appeal and reversed. However, he noted that the reason that the case ended up here, is because Inmate Veal never told who the witnesses were, what evidence they could provide, or what they would have said. Member T. Johnson advised that the court upheld and affirmed Inmate Veal's conviction.

Member Shelton asked Attorney Sara Garber what was the basis of the officer who stated that the shots did not come from apartment 603. Attorney Garber advised that this information was presented in post-trial relief testimony.

Chairman Findley noted that he has voted to parole more long-standing inmates, but that he cannot support parole in this case.

Member Martinez stated that Inmate Veal has many accomplishments, but she remembers when this crime occurred and the impact that the crime had on her and the city. She believes that paroling Inmate Veal would deprecate the seriousness of the crime.

Motion to deny parole (DS-PF). Motion prevails by a vote of 13 to 1. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Clough, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Chairman Findley advised that the police officers have requested to prolong this case with a set to match it up with George Knight (May 2022)

Member T. Johnson advised that he cannot vote for a set.

Member Diaz stated that it is hard to believe that Inmate Veal will change due the fact that he has gone this long with his denial of his participation in this case.



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Member Shelton commented that he understood moving the cases together, however he noted that they could be separated next time. He believes that five years is hard to accept and vote for in the case.

Member Martinez mentioned that this process is hard on the victims as they have to come and testify and they continue to suffer. She noted that protests are very emotional and difficult and she understands the request to join the two cases.

Member E. Johnson stated that she took to heart his progress and gains, however the main factor is not his good work, but rather his denial of his involvement in this case.

Motion for a 3-year set (BN-AMP). Motion prevails by a vote of 9 to 5. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Clough, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, and Mr. Tupy.

“The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm.”



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— MARCH 1, 2018

Inmate Name: **WILLIE LEWIS**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C71971**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois, on March 1, 2018 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Willie Lewis, IDOC #C71971.

Members present were: S. Diaz, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, V. Harris, E. Johnson, T. Johnson, V. Martinez, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, D. Shelton, K. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Inmate Willie Lewis was interviewed on November 30, 2017 for parole consideration. Present at the hearing were Mr. Johnson of the Prisoner Review Board and Inmate Lewis. Factors taken into consideration in whether to grant parole include, but are not limited to: inmate's interview, a review of the file, the nature of the crime, inmate's institutional adjustment, and parole plans.

At the time of his interview Inmate Lewis was 74-years-old, having served 41 years of a 500-1000 year sentence for murder; 50-1000 years for 2 counts of attempt murder; 5-15 years for delivery of a controlled substance and 1-3 years for possession of a stolen vehicle. These crimes took place during a drug sale/surveillance when three Chicago police officers witnessed a drug sale going down and charged the inmate whereupon Inmate Lewis, who states he was in fear of his life, opened fire on the officers, killing Officer Crowley.

Since his last parole hearing, Inmate Lewis has received seven minor tickets and had retained his overall positive institutional record. Were he to be paroled, he would like to live with his son-in-law and daughter in Wisconsin, with whom he has maintained regular contact.

After a careful review, it was determined that to parole Inmate Lewis at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and bring disrespect for the law.

Member Diaz advised that he took the protests for this case a little over a month ago. He noted that present were fifteen police officers, representatives of the family, friends, retired police officers, and an active commander. He noted that the protests were very emotional. He spoke with the widow of Officer Crowley who advised that she had also lost a fiancé in the line of duty prior marrying Officer Crowley, making this case extremely hard on her.



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Member Shelton requested to know how old Inmate Lewis was at the time of the offense. Member T. Johnson advised that he was 34 years old when the crime was committed. Member Shelton noted that at the age of 34 he shot at a police officer multiple times, but states he was not trying to kill him. Member T. Johnson noted that Inmate Lewis stated that the officers were not in uniform and did not announce who they were, so the inmate may have believed they were other bad guys.

Assistant State's Attorney Margaret Hillman spoke on behalf of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. She commented that today Inmate Lewis would be sentenced to natural life for this crime. She stated that the police officer was simply doing his job and all evidence in this case contradicts the state of Inmate Lewis. Furthermore, after Officer Crowley's death, Inmate Lewis still continued to shoot at the other police officers.

Member Shelton asked Attorney Hillman if the natural life sentence was based upon the fact that the victim was a police officer or based only on the judge's belief that he knew he was a cop. Attorney Hillman advised that it is based on the fact that he killed an active police officer in the line of duty.

Member T. Johnson noted that the testimony at trial stated that the police officers identified themselves as they came through the door.

Motion to deny parole (TJ-BN). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 0. Leave

Member T. Johnson stated that he does not feel right making a motion for a 3-year set as he will not be on the board in three years.

Motion for a 3-year set (SD-DS). Motion prevails by a vote of 10 to 2. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm."



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— MARCH 1, 2018

Inmate Name: **RUDY BELL**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C81714**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois, on March 1, 2018 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Rudy Bell, IDOC #C81714.

Members present were: S. Diaz, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, V. Harris, E. Johnson, T. Johnson, V. Martinez, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, D. Shelton, K. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Inmate Rudy Bell is a 66-year-old African American male currently serving a sentence of 100-200 years for a 1977 murder, which took place in Chicago. He was on A grade until August 2, 2016, when he tested positive for alcohol. Currently, he is a C grade and is considered a medium escape risk. He has been held at Menard Correctional Center, Stateville Correctional Center, and Pontiac Correctional Center. He was transferred to Hill Correctional Center seven years ago. He has been incarcerated since he was 25-years-old. He has served 40 years in prison. His wife is now deceased, having passed away in April of 2017. His mother still resides in Florida, which is where he hopes to parole to.

On April 2, 1977, the victim had driven to the airport to meet his aunt. His mother, girlfriend, and his girlfriend's child were with him. They arrived back at the victim's home, located at 7948 S. Union in Chicago, at approximately 2:30 a.m. After parking the car in front of his residence, the victim walked to the trunk of his car. The victim's mother, aunt, and girlfriend remained in the car. While standing between his car and home, the victim shouted to the driver of an approaching automobile to turn on the car's headlights. At this point, Inmate Bell, along with his co-defendant Orville Miller and two other offenders, jumped from the approaching vehicle. Inmate Bell and Miller both carried shotguns and both fired at the victim, leaving behind expended shotgun shells. The victim suffered multiple gunshot wounds from two separate 9mm automatic pistols and shotgun blasts.

The victim was transported to St. Bernard's Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The medical examiner's report determined that the cause of death was multiple gunshot wounds.

A later comparison of an expended shell found next to the victim's body determined that it had the same markings as shells recovered from the basement of Inmate Bell's parent's home. The co-offender, Miller, was identified by Audrianna Thomas, an eyewitness, and was arrested on May 7, 1977. Inmate Bell was also identified by the eyewitness, and was arrested on July 13,



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1977. This eyewitness subsequently testified at trial and identified the Inmate as one of the shooters.

Inmate Bell was a known member of a street gang that called themselves the Moorish Americans. The gang was formed by Jeff Fort, after his release from Federal Prison. The gang grew out of an older gang called Blackstone Rangers. Inmate Bell was a gang enforcer and executioner. This gang eventually became known as the El Rukns.

On September 1, 1977, Inmate Bell was in custody on this charge when Rowena James, the sister of eyewitness Audrianna Thomas, was executed by shotgun blasts. Ms. James was the driver of a car containing her mother, her father, and two children. While she was stopped at the traffic signal at 98th Street and Wentworth, a car containing two men pulled up to the left side of the car Rowena was driving. The individuals in the car fired two shotgun shells into the car, striking Rowena in the face and neck, killing her.

It was believed that the sister had been mistaken for her sister, by the shooter, William Doyle, who was also a member of the Moorish Americans. During the investigation of the Rowena James murder, a search warrant was executed on a house at 3939 S. Drexel and a copy of the homicide file for the original victim in April of 1977, T.S., was found in a bedroom at that location. The eyewitness did testify at trial, identifying Inmate Bell and Miller as the shooters. All appeals have been exhausted and the conviction of Inmate Bell has been upheld by the Appellate Court.

Although Inmate Bell denies the case facts regarding him being one of the shooters, he admitted that he was formerly a member, of as he puts it, "the Stones." He first stated that he did not get very high up in the gang, but later in the conversation, he stated that he was considered head of the gang at the time of his arrest. His also said that he has not had any affiliation with the gangs for more than 20 years.

Inmate Bell was 25-years-old, when he killed the victim in this case. At that point in his life, Inmate Bell had already been arrested 30 times. When asked about his prior arrests, Inmate Bell stated he was arrested for minor violations. However, he later stated that he was arrested and charged with a murder at age 23, which was two years prior to his current case. He stated that the murder charges were later dismissed. Records also indicate that Inmate Bells was actually charged with Murder again in 1970 and 1974, and found not guilty in both cases. He was also charged with several weapons violations.

Inmate Bell's disciplinary card indicates that since his admission date of May 19, 1978, he has received a total of 98 tickets. His latest Major Ticket was on August 8, 2016 for drugs and drug paraphernalia. During the conversation with Inmate Bell, he stated that he has not received any tickets since that time. Prior to his ticket in 2016, he has not received a ticket since 2011.



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Inmate Bell state that he is currently unemployed and did not give a reason for not having a job. He has stated that he would like to earn some money to help his family. He says that he currently has certificates in janitorial services and tailoring. He also mentors other in the prison.

He stated that his last visit was from a cousin, approximately two years ago. He explained that it was difficult for the family members to travel from Chicago to Galesburg to visit him. He does talk to his mother weekly and is in contact with his daughter. Inmate Bell is in good health, other than having high blood pressure and glaucoma.

Inmate Bell has an improved parole plan and a loving family that supports and loves him. Inmate Bell also has the support of an organization located within Chicago called Roll Call, which would provide him with housing, counseling, and assist him with various life skills and resources for employment. Inmate Bell can also parole to Tanya House, which will provide a variety of support systems, including education at a community college.

Inmate Bell has had one two-year set and three three-year sets. He has only had one vote for parole. He hired his attorney in 2016 and she has submitted a petition for his parole. His Spin Assessment rates him overall high.

Inmate Bell continues to deny his involvement with this murder and accepts no responsibility for his latest tickets. Inmate Bell has never produced any witnesses at any of his trials or appeals to confirm that he was elsewhere when the murder occurred. He has stated that he was in Milwaukee at the time of the murder.

The fact that he cannot be totally truthful about his involvement with this murder is troublesome. After a complete review, and after considering all factors, a release at this time would be risky to release Inmate Bell and it would deprecate the serious nature of this offense and promote a lack of respect for the law.

Chairman Findley advised that he took the protests on this case, speaking with Assistant State's Attorney Maggie Hillman and United States Attorney William Hogan, who prosecutes members of the El Rukns gang, and family members of the victims. He noted that Hogan spoke about the gang in his protest, but notes the second murder of the eyewitness was done at the behest of Inmate Bell. Inmate Bell's original attorney was convicted of racketeering cases in front of a judge who was also convicted. Hogan noted that the gang was known for threatening and abducting witnesses. He advised that Inmate Bell is dangerous and should not be released. He is requesting that all past protests be considered and asked for a 5-year set.

The Assistant State's Attorney noted that Inmate Hill was not charged with the Rico case as he was already in prison for ten years and already had a hefty sentence in Illinois. While there were allegations that the witness recanted her statements, there is no written or signed proof of this allegation. Their office is recommending an extended set do the fact that Inmate Bell shows no remorse and has had numerous arrests.



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Attorney Candace Gorman spoke on behalf of Inmate Bell. She advised that Attorney William Hogan was discharged from the Rico trials due to impropriety and she was surprised that he appears and the protest and at the statement he gave. She noted that Hogan said Bell's cousin was convicted of the murder of the witness's sister, but that was overturned.

The Assistant State's Attorney advised that the conviction was overturn, but he did receive a conviction in a new trial. She noted that there were others who plead guilty as well and that the new conviction still stands.

Chairman Findley requested to know if Attorney Hogan was censured or punished by the ARDC. The Assistant State's Attorney advised that he was not and that he is still an United States Attorney. Chairman Findley asked to confirm that Attorney Hogan was gone for a period of time due to the removal from the Rico cases. Assistant State's Attorney confirmed that he was in deed gone for a period of time.

Attorney Gorman stated that the cousin was found guilty of drug violations, not murder, in the retrial. She advised that Inmate Bell has only had four tickets in the past 10 years and that he has tried for jobs, but not received any.

Member T. Johnson asked if there was any recourse for his case. Attorney Gorman noted that she is looking at the torture commission. He did not confess due to torture, but his statements were used.

Member Norton stated that he had read the submission on behalf of Inmate Bell and had a question regarding a statement that at the 2016 hearing sadly telling as to the lack of attention made by the board at the hearing. Member Norton asked to know what was meant by that. Attorney Gorman advised that at the 2016 hearings there were two cases prior to Inmate Bell's. When his case was called one of the board members questioned if Inmate Bell even had a parole plan, even though it had been previously submitted. She felt that the other two high-profile cases took the majority of the Board's attention.

Member Norton responded that that was a broad brush. He has been on the Board for several years and he has never been at a hearing where he felt as though members were not paying attention or prepared. He noted that there was another comment that the Board only paroled two people in 2017. Member Norton advised that each case is individual in its own nature, so he not sure how it relates to this case. Attorney Gorman replied that it doesn't seem to matter how good a person in while in prison, they may never be paroled by the Board. Member Norton confirmed that that statement is true and that it is part of the statute dealing with these cases.

Member Shelton requested to know if any victims protested this case. Chairman Findley advised that he received two letters, one brief and one long and impassioned. Member Shelton



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requested to know if the victims have come to the hearings. The Assistant State's Attorney noted that they are not in Illinois, which is why they send letters.

Member Fisher stated that in light of the fact that there may be new evidence and an earlier statement of potentially not being guilty in these cases, he would like to hear this case again next year.

Motion to deny parole (AMP-TJ). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 0. Leave.

Member Perkins advised that she will make a motion for a set due to the protests and the request of the State's Attorney's Office.

Motion for a 3-year set (AMP-CF). Motion does not prevail by a vote of 3 to 9. Members voting in favor of the motion are Ms. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, and Ms. Perkins.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm"



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— MARCH 1, 2018

Inmate Name: **OSCAR CURTIS**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C02117**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois, on March 1, 2018 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Oscar Curtis, IDOC #C02117.

Members present were: S. Diaz, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, V. Harris, E. Johnson, T. Johnson, V. Martinez, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, D. Shelton, K. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

On 11-09-17 at 0920 hours, Inmate Oscar Curtis was interviewed at Danville Correctional Center. Present at the Interview were Inmate Curtis and Prisoner Review Board Member Fisher. Inmate Curtis is a 66-year-old male, with a birth date of November 23, 1951. On August 16, 1974, Inmate Curtis was sentenced to 75 to 90 years for the murder of 18-year-old Vivian Shepherd, and 15 years to life for the attempted murder of 16-year-old Mona Richardson. The sentences were set to run consecutive. Inmate Curtis' co-offender Louis Cokes received the same sentence, although his sentences were set to run concurrent.

Both Inmate Curtis and Cokes appealed their convictions and sentences. The Appellate Court affirmed the convictions but vacated the sentences as they did not conform to the statute. On remand, the court resentenced Inmate Curtis to the same sentences he originally received, but ran them concurrently. Louis Cokes was resentenced to the same sentence he had originally received. During the course of the trial, Louis Cokes threatened the life of Assistant State's Attorney William Kunkle. During sentencing Inmate Curtis threatened Assistant State's Attorney William Benson.

On 11-01-98 Louis Cokes died while incarcerated. Inmate Curtis has filed other appeals, specifically a pro se motion for declaratory judgment which was dismissed for no cause 02-24-14. An appeal is believed to be pending.

Inmate Curtis has been incarcerated for approximately 43 years. He is currently A grade, low escape risk since 09-09-15 according to his offender overview. Inmate Curtis has never received a favorable vote. He is coming off a 3-year set from 2014, and received 3-year sets in 2011 and 2008.

During the late evening hours of 10-14-73 16-year-old Mona Richardson and 18-year-old Vivian Shepherd were brutally assaulted by Inmate Curtis and co-offender Louis Cokes in



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Garfield Park in the city of Chicago. Curtis and Cokes picked up the two females in a vehicle driven by inmate Curtis. After driving around for some time inmate Curtis parked the car in Garfield Park near the field house. Inmate Curtis then pointed a gun at the two women and ordered Vivian Shepherd to remove her clothes. She refused stating if she complied Inmate Curtis would kill her anyway. Inmate Curtis had accused both girls of being spies for one of his acquaintances. Inmate Curtis then slapped Mona Richardson and ordered her to undress. She complied by removing her blouse. Vivian Shepherd then asked to go to the bathroom at the field house. She was allowed to go, but Inmate Curtis insisted Louis Cokes accompany her, at which time he had armed himself with Inmate Curtis' weapon.

Upon their return from the restroom, Inmate Curtis took the weapon back from Cokes and put it to Vivian Shepherd's head and pulled the trigger. The weapon misfired and Shepherd was not injured. Inmate Curtis and Cokes then conferred and Inmate Curtis proclaimed that he intended to kill both females. Inmate Curtis then grabbed Shepherd, threw her from the car onto the ground and shot her. Inmate Curtis then grabbed Richardson and threw her to the ground and attempted to strangle her. Richardson stated she observed Cokes stomping on Shepherd's head, and then left her for dead. Cokes then joined Inmate Curtis in his struggle with Richardson. Cokes restrained Richardson while Inmate Curtis recovered a broken bottle then gave it to Cokes. Cokes then attempted to cut the back of Richardson's neck, as she continued to resist, prompting Inmate Curtis to state "this bitch won't die. Give me the MF bottle. I'm going to kill this little bitch before I leave out this park". As Inmate Curtis sought another weapon, Richardson ran to a nearby service station where police were summoned and Richardson was subsequently transported to the hospital.

Both Inmate Curtis and Cokes were arrested the following day as they were both found asleep in Inmate Curtis' mother's bedroom. A .32 caliber handgun was recovered from the table in the bedroom. Inmate Curtis stated he had purchased the weapon a year earlier from an unknown male for 50.00.

The medical examiner determined that Vivian Shepherd died as a result of a gunshot wound to the head (temple portion), in addition to lacerations of the carotid artery and liver. Mona Richardson sustained a laceration nearly completely around her neck.

Inmate Curtis continues to claim his innocence or involvement in this crime. His story of the events of that night has varied greatly. He now states that Mona Richardson shot and killed Vivian Shepherd after arguing and fighting over a drug deal. Curtis stated Mona had the gun. It was her gun. He said she just started firing. He said he saw them fighting and cutting. He stated, "We got outta there. Nothin we could do". Inmate Curtis stated 2 shots were fired, and he thought it was from a .32. When asked about blood on their shoes, Inmate Curtis responded, "we were at the crime scene looking around, saw all the blood and we just got outta there".

Inmate Curtis' main point of contention as far as his claim of innocence is that there was no way that Richardson could have gotten away from him or Cokes, stating "As big as we are".



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He also continues to bring up the fact that Richardson was found to be in possession of 8 packets of heroin at the hospital and was never charged with any offense. He stated there was not mention of any heroin by the police, although it is mentioned in the official transcripts.

Inmate Curtis stated, "From the time we caught the case we knew we had no resources to fight it". He also states that he is remorseful for what happened and stated, "If I would have just told Vivian no and gone on my way". This statement is also contradictory in that they approached and picked up the female victims. He also stated, "If I had resources I would have proved Mona shot Vivian. Mona was pregnant and they weren't gonna send a 17-year-old pregnant female to the penitentiary". He said he also filed for commutation of sentence in last October.

Inmate Curtis states he has high blood pressure and arthritis. He takes blood pressure medication, cholesterol medication and a low dose aspirin. He has a degree in food service and is a cook. His last IDR was in 2015 for insolence which was the result of an argument over someone wanting him to bake cookies without authorization. He has no other accomplishments or certificates of completion listed. Inmate Curtis states he has no contact with any family other than a sister from Georgia who he talks with most every Christmas.

Inmate Curtis said he would like to go into the food industry if released. He wants to cook. Soups and cheesecakes are his specialty. He said they were kind of his specialty so he's heard. He stated he has no real family contact so he would have to be released to work release or a shelter. In essence, Inmate Curtis has no specific or organized parole plan.

Member Fisher noted that when Inmate Curtis committed the Murder and Attempted Murder, he was just released from parole, 4 months, for a Manslaughter charge.

The continued denial by Inmate Curtis of his involvement in these crimes is troubling. His statement over the years has changed as to the events from that night, and to his involvement. Additionally, he has no parole plan set in place. Granting parole would certainly deprecate the seriousness of his crimes, and show disrespect for the law.

Member Norton requested to know the outcome of the SPIN Assessment. Member Fisher advised that Inmate Curtis is overall moderate and that his overall aggressive shows concern.

Chairman Findley requested to know if Inmate Curtis has received votes in the past. Member Fisher stated that he has not.

The Assistant State's Attorney advised that the Manslaughter charge was originally a Murder charge to begin with. Inmate Curtis had robbed and killed a 63-year-old store clerk.

Motion to deny parole (PF-AMP). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 0. Leave.



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Member Fished stated he will ask for a 3-year set due to Inmate Curtis' failure to take responsibility, the fact that he doesn't seem to want to better himself, and due to his lack of parole plan.

Motion for a 3-year set (PF-EJ). Motion prevails by a vote of 8 to 4. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Shelton and Mr. Tupy.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm."



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— MARCH 1, 2018

Inmate Name: **RAYMOND LARSON**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C10475**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois, on March 1, 2018 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Raymond Larson, IDOC #C10475.

Members present were: S. Diaz, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, V. Harris, E. Johnson, T. Johnson, V. Martinez, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, D. Shelton, K. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Inmate Larsen was interviewed on December 7, 2017 at Pontiac Correctional Center. Present at this interview were Inmate Larson and Board Member Diaz. The offender is serving a sentence of 100-300 years for Murder, 4-12 years for Deviant Sexual Assault, and 2 years for Armed Robbery. Inmate Larsen has spent 41 years within the Illinois Department of Corrections, and a total of 14 years at Pontiac Correctional Center in the Protective Custody Unit. Inmate Larsen has received no disciplinary tickets for the past twelve years.

Raymond Larsen's Criminal History

A *sequential* profile:

1. Oct. 1968: Pled guilty to Burglary and Auto Theft, received 5 years' Probation
2. May 1969: Arrested for Rape, reduced to Battery, received 6 months in Corrections
3. January 17th, 1970:
 - Broke into an apartment, stabbed female victim on shoulder and breast, fled.
 - Knocked on a second apartment, bull rushed the female victim, began choking her, she broke away, he fled.
4. Jan. 1970: Entered another apartment through a window. Threatened the female occupant with a knife. She distracted him, he remained in the apartment for over six hours, then robbed her. **

He was arrested and identified by the victims of these crimes. He was sentenced to 2-8 years in the IDOC for each offense, with the sentences to run concurrently

**While at the Joliet Reception Center serving part of his sentence, he was released on a 3-day furlough, the date was May 12th, 1972.

At Joliet he clearly impressed corrections staff, so much so that he was assigned to work as the Captains Clerk, and to assist the Coordinator of the Jaycees Re-entry Work Program.



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When asked as to why he was furloughed, Inmate Larsen shared that it was for employment purposes.

May 14th, 1972: Two days into the furlough, at 3am in the morning, he broke a window on an overhead door and entered into the Elmwood Park Ford Dealership building. He drove a 1972 station wagon through the overhead door, parked the wagon and returned to take a 1971 green Mustang.

Three days later on May 17, 1972: He entered the home of a female occupant, robbed her, sexually assaulted her, and took two rifles from the home. The victim would later identify him as her attacker.

On the same day (5-17-72) at approx. 3pm Frank Casolari, a 16-year-old sophomore at Prosser High School, had returned home, rode his bike and went fishing at a pond in the Schiller Woods Forest Preserve.

According to the statement of facts, Inmate Larsen admitted that he went to the Schiller Woods with the stolen rifles looking for something to shoot. He saw a kid standing in the woods fishing approximately forty feet away and shot him in the stomach. The "kid" fell to the ground screaming in pain, Inmate Larsen kept shooting until Frank Casolari was silent.

Attempt to cover the crime scene: Inmate Larsen dragged the victim's body into some shrubbery, bushes, took off the victims clothing and started to burn them. People walking in the forest preserve caused Inmate Larsen to leave the area in the stolen Mustang.

Interview Question: What was it that prompted you to shoot the young guy? Inmate Response: "I had been drinking, playing my radio loudly, he told me to lower the radio, threatened to call the police, he persisted, challenging me. " "No good reason, other than self-defense".

May 18th 1972: Frank Casolari's body was discovered in the Schiller Woods, naked but for his socks. Subsequent autopsy revealed he had been shot 23 times. A nearby beer can delivered Inmate Larsen fingerprints.

May 19th, 1972: At approximately 3:53 a.m., police officers stopped a green Mustang in the parking lot of the Schiller Woods, with the occupants being Inmate Larsen, his brother, and a 14-year-old female. The inmate was charged with the murder of Frank Casolari and with the Deviate Sexual Assault of Mrs. Suchey.

At the bench trial, Inmate Larsen was found guilty. He appealed the sentence on the grounds that his sentence was too excessive. The Appellate Court affirmed this conviction and upheld the sentence. In addition, the Supreme Court of Illinois affirmed and upheld his conviction and Supreme Court of the United States denied his writ of certiorari.



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Inmate Larsen's adjustment has been very good. He is residing in the protective custody unit due to assisting correctional staff prevent a potentially dangerous staff assault, and is to be very much commended. Were it not for the crime spree while on an approved furlough which resulted in one death and several victims, a recommendation for parole consideration would be plausible.

Member Diaz noted that a psychiatric evaluation was completed, but that Inmate Larsen received a generic assessment. He also reviewed the SPIN Assessment for Inmate Larsen. Member Diaz advised that it showed that he was at high risk, although he received good marks for his attitude and protectiveness.

Member Diaz stated that if felt like Inmate Larsen was giving him information that the Board Member wanted to hear.

However, when taking into account the missing rationale for his criminal behavior, the fact that his reason for taking a life appears simply reactionary, continues to pose a risk for me. The lack of insight past the present prevents me from presenting Inmate Larsen for parole at this time. To parole Inmate Larsen at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the crime and promote disrespect for the law.

Member Shelton stated that it felt like Inmate Larsen was all over the place. Member Diaz responded that there is something about Inmate Larsen that makes him a spree offender and he may be high-risk to reoffend.

Chairman Findley noted that he interviewed him years ago and at that time Inmate Larsen stated that he was a devout Buddhist. He also stated that due to his faith he is alright with remaining in prison as long as it takes for release.

Chairman Findley advised that he took the protests for this case. He noted that there were seven victim letters received and read three passages from the letter to the Board.

Motion to deny parole (SD-CF). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 0. Leave.

Motion for a 3-year set (SD-BN). Motion prevails by a vote of 10 to 2. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Diaz, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Shelton, and Mr. Tupy.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm."



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— MARCH 1, 2018

Inmate Name: **FRANK MORGAN** IDOC Number & Institution: **C15189**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois, on March 1, 2018 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Frank Morgan, IDOC #C15189.

Members present were: S. Diaz, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, V. Harris, E. Johnson, T. Johnson, V. Martinez, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, D. Shelton, K. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

An institutional hearing was conducted on December 13, 2017 for parole consideration for Inmate Frank Morgan, C-15189. During the interview and the presentation at en banc, the following factors were considered after serving 47 years thus far:

Inmate Morgan was convicted of Armed Robbery (10-20 yrs.; concurrently to 70-1186 and 1187); Burglary (5-15 yrs.); Armed Robbery (2 counts) (10-30 Yrs.); Murder (100-199 yrs.); Armed Robbery (4 counts) (20-60 yrs.); Aggravated Battery (3 yrs. Consecutive) in Cook and Livingston Counties. At the time of the offense, Inmate Morgan was on probation for armed robbery when he went on a crime spree on the Southside of Chicago. After committing a string of armed robberies, and burglary with his co-offender, Walter McCalvin, Inmate Morgan personally shot and killed Hobart Scott, a patron at the Bamboo Room hotel bar, while he was robbing Mr. Scott. On April 11, 1970 at the age of 17, Inmate Morgan and co-offender Walter McCalvin began their spree when they broke into the apartment of Michael Kroll at 7300 South Shore Drive in Chicago. When they entered the apartment of Michael Kroll, the apartment was empty and they began to rummage through the apartment seeking money. When Mr. Kroll, a Captain in the U. S. Army Reserve, returned home from a drill at 6:30 p.m., Inmate Morgan and McCalvin who were armed with a .22 caliber and a .32 caliber revolver comforted him. They announced a robbery and told Mr. Knoll that they would kill him. They held him at gunpoint and cut his neck with a knife, and took all of his clothing and money from the premises. Mr. Knoll was forced at gunpoint into the bathroom, forced to strip, bound and gagged: left in a bathtub filled with water. The two left his home taking currency, a radio and television as well as trying to steal his car.

Proceeding a few blocks north to the Country Club Hotel at 6930 S. Shore Drive in Chicago the second robbery occurred. The two entered the hotel by climbing through the second-floor window. They began going to different rooms to commit burglaries. The apartments they entered were all vacant and nothing of value to take. Ultimately their search



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brought them to apartment 419, which was occupied by the manager of the hotel and his family. They jimmed the lock on the door to the apartment and entered with guns. Inside, they confronted Susan Hamilton who was there alone with her children. They threatened Mrs. Hamilton at gunpoint and proceeded to ransack the apartment looking for articles of value. Mrs. Hamilton was taken to the bedroom occupied by her two children, where both the inmate and the co-offender raped her. Mr. Don Hamilton was a collector of rifles and shotguns. The co-offender found Mr. Hamilton's rifles and 12-gauge shotgun; loaded them and waited for Mr. Hamilton to return. When Mr. Hamilton arrived at the apartment, Inmate Morgan and co-offender, Walter McCalvin threatened him. Mr. Hamilton was struck across the face and forced to turn over his wallet. For more than 45 minutes the Hamilton family was terrorized. Later, Walter McCalvin took Mr. Hamilton down to the lobby to get more money, but could not get into the safe. Soon a hotel desk clerk, James Lee, was robbed of \$20. Dr. Itze, a foreign speaking doctor, was hit across the face with the shotgun fracturing bones in his face and knocking out his teeth and was also robbed of his money. Two other hotel guests, Gilbert Law and Thomas Baker, entered the lobby and were threatened to turn over their wallets. All of the victims were forced into the Bamboo Lounge; instructed to place their money on the bar and lie on the floor. One patron, Hobart Scott, surprised at the robbery, hesitated in complying with the inmate and co-offender's demands. Inmate Morgan, for no apparent reason, shot him in the chest. Mr. Scott lie bleeding to death on the floor, while they continued to rob all of the victims and fled the scene.

Four days later, Inmate Morgan and co-offender McCalvin were arrested. The surviving victims identified both the inmate and co-offender in a line-up. Prints found in the Hamilton apartment and at the Bamboo Room Lounge matched the inmate and co-offender. After admitting to these crimes to Chicago Police and Asst. State's Attorneys in a court reported statement, they also admitted to twenty-five prior burglaries, armed robberies and sexual assaults of women on the South Side of Chicago.

Inmate Morgan proceeded to two different jury trials: one for the armed robberies, burglary, rape, and murder that occurred at the Country Club Hotel, and one for the Armed Robbery of Mr. Kroll. During this trial for the armed robbery of Mr. Kroll, the inmate made verbal outbursts and in general acted with utter contempt for the court. He and his co-offender threw items at the judge and the jury and had to be subdued. Inmate Morgan also tried to flee the courtroom with co-offender and had to be physically restrained by court bailiffs. When the trial resumed, the inmate and the co-offender were chained together because they indicated that they would not comply with the court's order and behave in a proper manner. They also made threats on the personal safety of the State's Attorneys who prosecuted the case. On September 22, 1971, Inmate Morgan and the co-offender Walter McCalvin, were taken back to Cook County Jail where they fought with guards and again had to be physically restrained. During the fight with jail personnel, the inmate and co-offender broke glass and windows and hit several jail officers. As a result, awaiting trial, both the inmate and co-offender were kept the isolation to prevent further outbreaks.



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The first jury found Inmate Morgan guilty of the murder, armed robberies and burglary at the Country Club Hotel, but not guilty of the rape of Susan Hamilton. (According the transcript on April 17, 1970, Inmate Morgan's recorded statement given to Asst. State's Attorney, Joseph Dinatale, Detective Jerry Springer, Homicide Sex Unit and Detective Richard O'Connell, Homicide Sex Unit, he explained vividly the charge of rape in question on the night of April 11, 1970. He stated and was clarified by the Asst. State's Attorney and Homicide Detectives that Mrs. Hamilton asked the gentlemen repeatedly if they wanted her to go into the bedroom. Their response initially was to remain in the living room and keep quiet, but in Inmate Morgan's words that she continued to ask the offenders if they wanted her in the bedroom until finally they said yes and proceeded to have intercourse with her several times.) The jury did not recommend the death sentence. On March 18, 1971, Judge Phillip Romiti sentenced Inmate Morgan to 100 to 199 years for the murder of Hobart Scott, 15 to 30 years for the armed robberies of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton, 5 to 15 years for the burglary that occurred at the apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton and 20 to 60 years for the four additional armed robberies in the hotel: all sentences to run concurrent. The second jury found Inmate Morgan guilty of the Armed Robbery of Mr. Kroll. On September 20, 1971, Judge Richard J. Fitzgerald sentenced him to 10 to 20 years for the Armed Robbery and imposed the sentence to run consecutively.

Additionally, on July 9, 1983, while serving this sentence at Pontiac Correctional Center, Inmate Morgan struck a Correctional Officer, Paul Balzak, breaking his nose. He was charged with Aggravated Battery under Case No: 83-CF-154. He pled guilty in Livingston County to Aggravated Battery and was sentenced to three (3) years in the Department of Corrections. The sentence was consecutive to Case No's: 70-1185 and 70-1186.

Inmate Frank Morgan's institutional adjustment has been characterized as poor. Inmate Morgan was recently in segregation for "Intimidation of threats, Violation of Rules and Insolence." He talked often about his due process and stealing of his artwork. He also contended that they are held him against his rights and that he is past his day for day for the Murder conviction of Hobart Scott. He stated that the Chief Administrator has violated his constitutional rights. He also stated that he has filed 3 grievances.

He is classified as a CM, which means maximum-security offender with moderate escape risk. He left segregation on 11-12-17, and is currently on C grade as well as loss of contact visits. If granted parole, he states that he plans to live with his brother, Lawrence Morgan, who resides in Chicago and wishes to open an art studio.

Member Shelton requested to know the outcome of Inmate Morgan's SPIN Assessment. Member Harris noted that his spin assessment showed that he is an overall high risk and high risk to reoffend.

The Assistant State's Attorney made noted that Inmate Morgan was on probation at the time he committed the Robbery.



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Member Harris noted that Inmate Morgan shows no remorse for the crime and she recommends that a psychiatric evaluation be completed.

After careful review of the trial testimony, witnesses, statement of facts presented by the State's Attorney of Cook County, and Inmate Morgan's failure to show any remorse, or information from his perspective regarding the brutal death and multiple robberies and assaults of the victims aforementioned. It is unreasonable for the Prisoner Review Board to consider parole for Inmate Frank Morgan at this time. To do so, would deprecate the seriousness nature of the offense and promote disrespect for the law.

Motion to deny parole (VH-DS). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 0. Leave.

Motion for a 3-year set (VH-DS). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 0. Leave.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm."



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— MARCH 1, 2018

Inmate Name: **VIRGIL ROBINSON**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C90056**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois, on March 1, 2018 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Virgil Robinson, IDOC #C90056.

Members present were: S. Diaz, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, V. Harris, E. Johnson, T. Johnson, V. Martinez, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, D. Shelton, K. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

In attempting to arrive at the Board's decision, the following factors were considered: nature of the instant offense, the institutional record, his post incarceration plan (if any), and a review of his file.

The record indicates Inmate Robinson has the following sentences: Murder (200-600 years) 1-2-79 in Cook County; armed Robbery (4-6 years) 10-25-77 in Cook County; and, Aggravated Battery (4 years) 5-15-85 in Will County.

Inmate Robinson is currently a resident of the Menard Correctional Center and is 66 years of age, having been born on March 16, 1951. He entered the Illinois Department of Corrections on January 5, 1979. The offender is currently unassigned, partly because he has an extensive history of staff assaults, inmate assaults, dangerous disturbances, and fighting. Although he has been incarcerated for more than 39 years, and he still denies guilt in the murder.

On September 21, 1977, Inmate Robinson was on trial for robbery of a cab driver. He was granted bond for the offense. While he was on bond, he attempted to kill the cab driver that had testified against him, but instead Inmate Robinson killed another person he thought was the cab driver. Inmate Robinson left his palm prints on the door facing of the victim's apartment. When the primary witness appeared in court against him, Inmate Robinson told his friend in the court room that he had killed the wrong man.

Inmate Robinson does admit guilt to the armed robbery offense, and he does admit he has an extensive criminal history. Prior to murdering Mr. Taylor, he was arrested 26 times. He has used at least eight aliases. According to Inmate Robinson he was first arrested when he was about 17-18 years of age.



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Per the last review of en banc records, 5 years ago he had received 46 inmate assault tickets, and 11 staff assault tickets. Since that time, he has received an additional 10 tickets, and 8 of them were major tickets.

Inmate Robinson still does have some family contact. His mother, Ellen Robinson is 90 years of age, and lives in Chicago. If released he would plan to live with his niece in Alabama. On August 18, 2017, he was visited by his niece and his mother.

During the interview, Inmate Robinson was very calm, polite and attentive. He did indicate he had hired an attorney to represent him, and to prove that the palm prints left on the door of the apartment of Mr. Taylor, were not his palm prints. Also, he has always, and still does, deny the murder.

After reviewing all available data, and interview of Inmate Robinson, and in reviewing of his extensive criminal history, and his continued poor institutional adjustment, and his lack of any real parole plan, it is difficult to recommend parole for Inmate Robinson. At least one positive thing that could be attributed to Inmate Robinson is that for the first time in many years, he did not receive any IDRs during 2017.

Member Tupy requested to know the results of the SPIN Assessment for Inmate Robinson. Member Dunn advised that Inmate Robinson was found to be at a high risk to reoffend.

The Board continues to feel to parole Inmate Robinson would deprecate the seriousness of the crime and promote disrespect for the law. The Board feels as though he is an at-risk candidate for parole.

Motion to deny parole (DWD-AMP). Motion prevails by a vote of 11 to 0. Leave. (Member S. Diaz was absent for the voting on this case)

Motion for a 3-year set (DWD-AMP). Motion prevails by a vote of 9 to 2. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, and Mr. Tupy. (Member S. Diaz was absent for the voting on this case)

“The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm.”



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— MARCH 1, 2018

Inmate Name: **GERALD CHATMAN**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C61397**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois, on March 1, 2018 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Gerald Chatman, IDOC #C61397.

Members present were: S. Diaz, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, V. Harris, E. Johnson, T. Johnson, V. Martinez, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, D. Shelton, K. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

In 1957, Inmate Chatman committed nine (9) separate attacks upon women in Chicago. He raped seven (7) of those women. In eight of the attacks he threatened the victim with a knife. Six of the attacks took place with children present; and in two of those cases Inmate Chatman held a knife to the throats of the victims' children in order to compel the victims' submission. Each of the attacks, except one, occurred at the victims' residence. Inmate Chatman does not dispute these facts.

Records reflect those attacks as follows:

1) Wednesday, September 11, at age 17

- Inmate Chatman appeared in a doorway before holding a knife to the baby of a 21yr old woman.
- The woman screamed, whereupon, Inmate Chatman punched her, knocking her unconscious. Inmate Chatman then fled.

2) Monday, November 4, at age 17

- Inmate Chatman knocked on the door of a 19yr old woman before asking for a man who was not there.
- Inmate Chatman then held a knife to the victim's chest and sexually assaulted her.

3) Friday, November 8, at age 17

- Inmate Chatman knocked on the 30-year-old victim's front door posing as the paperboy.
- After gaining entry to the home, Inmate Chatman held a knife to the victim's two daughters before sexually assaulting the victim.

- Inmate Chatman was later convicted in this case, but not before committing six (6) more assaults. His conviction was reversed by the Illinois Supreme Court and remanded for a new trial, whereupon, Inmate Chatman pled guilty and received a 10 – 20yr sentence.



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4) Friday, November 15, at age 18

- The 28yr old victim, who was hanging up clothes in her back yard, was summoned back to the house by her daughter. Evidently, Inmate Chatman had knocked on the front door and asked to speak with the victim, and was let in by the victim's daughter. Inmate Chatman threatened the victim with a knife before sexually assaulting her.

5) Tuesday, November 19, at age 18

- Inmate Chatman knocked on the victim's front door, purportedly soliciting subscriptions to the Sun-Times and the Tribune, before entering the residence. This victim convinced Inmate Chatman that her husband would arrive at any time and that he (Inmate Chatman) would not get out alive if her husband found him there. Inmate Chatman left.

6) Wednesday, November 20, at age 18

- The 22yr old victim was sexually assaulted in her 2nd floor apartment with an infant and a 1-year-old child present.
- Inmate Chatman threatened her with a knife before forcing her to dis-robe. The assault was interrupted when a neighbor knocked on the victim's door and Inmate Chatman left, walking right past the neighbor.
- *Inmate Chatman was convicted in this case, however, the Illinois Supreme Court remanded the case back to the Circuit Court for re-sentencing. Inmate Chatman ultimately received a 40 – 60 year sentence.*

7) Sunday, November 25, at age 18

- The victim's children were present when she was sexually assaulted by Inmate Chatman, who had initially come into her bedroom to ask if she took the Sun-times. - - .
- Inmate Chatman is reported to have left after speaking briefly with the victim, however, he returned and threatened the victim at knifepoint before sexually assaulting her.

8) At age 18

- The victim responded to a knock on her door but did not open the door until she believed Inmate Chatman had gone.
- Inmate Chatman had asked for the victim's husband by name. When she opened the door to look out Inmate Chatman stuck his foot into the doorway and produced a knife. The victim's children, including an infant, were present while she was sexually assaulted.

9) Thursday, November 29, at age 18

- Inmate Chatman abducted a 19yr old pedestrian off the street, claiming to have a gun in his pocket.
- Inmate Chatman led the victim into an alley and then into the basement of a building before slapping and sexually assaulting her.



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Inmate Chatman was arrested on Tuesday, December 3, 1957, and convicted in the two cases as previously stated. He remained in custody nearly 18 years.

Inmate Chatman was granted parole following a hearing before the Parole and Pardon board on June 4, 1975. He paroled to a paid placement in Peoria, Illinois. Within 53 days of the hearing that resulted in parole he committed the first of four additional sexual assaults:

1) Sunday, July 27, 1975

- The 21yr old victim had just arrived by bus to Peoria and was looking for a taxicab when Inmate Chatman grabbed her from behind. He punched her with fists, called her a “white bitch,” and assaulted her orally before raping her – never removing his clothes.

2) Saturday, September 13, 1975 (44 days later)

- Inmate Chatman attacked the 20yr old victim in her apartment in a secured building.
- An unknown person buzzed the victim’s apartment from the front of the building. When the victim asked who was there the response she heard was muffled. She released the building’s lock. When she then answered a knock at her apartment door, Inmate Chatman made entry.
- Inmate Chatman forced the victim out of her apartment and to different areas of the building before sexually assaulting her in the basement.

3) Sunday, September 21, 1975 (8 days later)

- The 23yr old victim had just arrived to her apartment when Inmate Chatman appeared behind her, burst through the door, brandished a knife, and demanded money.
- After taking \$41 from the victim Inmate Chatman directed the victim to undress and forcibly had intercourse with her.

4) Monday, September 22, 1975 (the next day)

- The final victim found Inmate Chatman waiting on her porch as she was returning from taking out her garbage.
- Inmate Chatman asked to use the victim’s phone but quickly produced a knife and forced the victim and her 3yr old child back into the apartment.
- Inmate Chatman assaulted the victim orally before raping her.

On September 25th, three days after the assault, the last of his victims saw Inmate Chatman going into the Renaissance Community Center, his placement, and flagged down police. He was later taken into custody and, ultimately, identified by all four of the Peoria victims.

He was convicted in two of the Peoria cases, receiving a 50–150yr sentence for deviate sexual assault in the first of these convictions. He received a 50-150yr sentence for sexual assault, as well as a 10–30yr sentence for robbery in the second conviction. His parole for the crimes in 1957 was revoked.



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Inmate Chatman has been in continuous custody for 32 years, since his 1975 arrest, becoming eligible for parole consideration again in 1983. Although he advised this Board in 2005 that he had participated in sex offender counseling, institutional records indicate that he has not, in fact, participated in such counseling. Records indicate that he was transferred to Big Muddy River Correctional Center prior to 2005, at his own request, for the purpose of participating in the sex offender treatment program there. However, he decided after speaking with some of the other program participants that he would not participate in the program. To date, there has been no such program participation.

Inmate Chatman assures the Board that his previous criminal behaviors were the result of impulses that he could not control at the time but which he can now control. He acknowledges that he did in fact sexually assault multiple women in 1957, as well as 1975, and that he did threaten women and their children at knifepoint during the commission of some of the crimes. Asked about his failure to participate in structured therapy, Inmate Chatman's response is that he has analyzed himself.

The Illinois Department of Corrections assesses inmate Chatman to be a high risk to re-offend.

The Board is dubious of inmate Chatman's ability to comply with the terms of parole, and continues to find that parole would deprecate the serious nature of the crimes, due to the following factors:

- 9 attacks resulting in 7 rapes in 1957;
- 4 more rapes while on parole in 1975; following nearly 18yrs in custody and less than 2 months after parole release;
- Failure to participate in structured therapy following an institution transfer for the purpose

Member Harris noted that she interviewed Inmate Chatman last year and Inmate Chatham advised that he did not have sexually deviant behaviors, he just chose not to control himself and rapes are his way of controlling women.

Motion to deny parole (DS-PF). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 0. Leave.

Member Shelton advised that he is requesting a set for Inmate Chatman due to the number of victims and due to the failure of Inmate Chatman to take responsibility for his actions.

Motion for a 3-year set (DS-BN). Motion prevails by a vote of 10 to 2. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Diaz, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Shelton, and Mr. Tupy.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm."



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— MARCH 1, 2018

Inmate Name: **DANNY LILLARD**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C71613**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois, on March 1, 2018 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Danny Lillard, IDOC #C71613.

Members present were: S. Diaz, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, V. Harris, E. Johnson, T. Johnson, V. Martinez, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, D. Shelton, K. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Danny Lillard was interviewed for parole consideration by a member of the Prisoner Review Board. Considered in a review of his case were his interview, his institutional adjustment, his criminal history, the incarcerating offense, his accomplishments while incarcerated and parole plans. Inmate Lillard was present, along with his attorney Arden Long.

Inmate Lillard turned 65 on January 9, 2018 and is currently serving a 100-150 year sentence for Murder. He received a concurrent sentence of 10-30 years for Robbery. His projected release date is October 30, 2042. He has served 40 years within the Department of Corrections.

The facts of the case are on December 2, 1976, after taking his grandmother to the store, he got a crowbar off of her porch and went across the street to a gift store. Upon entering the store, he demanded money from Mrs. Hoffman, the owner of the store. She gave him the money, at which point he began beating her with a metal crowbar. He struck her approximately 17 times, breaking both of her arms and crushing her skull which resulted in her death at the scene. He then took approximately \$100.00 dollars and a radio. When I asked him why he killed her he stated that " he got scared." Inmate Lillard was 24 years old at the time of the crime. Mrs. Huffman was 57-year-old women running her gift shop. Inmate Lillard said he had a drug problem and needed money to support his drug habit. He stated he used cocaine, angel dust and weed. In the risk assessment, Inmate Lillard said his drug problem was not that serious. However, a 24-year-old male had no fear of a 57-year-old woman other than the fact she could identify him in the robbery.

Inmate Lillard was on probation for burglary at the time of the crime and knew he would go to prison for his armed robbery.



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Inmate Lillard has had strong family support and had three brothers and three sisters. His sister helps him out with money for commissary purchases. He is grade A and a low escape risk. He is currently assigned to general population. He stays in contact with family through letters, phone calls and visits. His institutional adjustment has been positive. He has received a total of 23 IDR since being incarcerated in 1977 in 40 years. His last IDR was on March 30, 2011 for unauthorized movement. He indicates remorse for killing Mrs. Hoffman and stated that to the sentencing Judge. He states he is a changed person and found God.

The Board also receives numerous letters of protests from the victims' family members as well as members of the community. The Board has hundreds of letters of protests. The board has letters on file from the Vermillion County States Attorney's Office.

Inmate Lillard's spin assessment is overall low with moderate Dynamic and static risks. Of some concern is the fact that Inmate Lillard has no parole plans. He has vague references to staying with family member who live in California and Georgia and one possible host site in Illinois. The Board has received a letter from his brother in California stating he can live with him. However, there is no evidence that Inmate Lillard would be accepted into Interstate transfer or would be accepted by California or Georgia.

Member Shelton advised that he took protests hearings for this case at Danville Correctional Center with four members of the victim's family. Member Shelton noted that he thought very highly of Inmate Lillard's family. The Inmate had gone into the store the day before and jewelry and wanted to take the jewelry now and pay for it later. The victim was scared of Inmate Lillard. Member Shelton noted that he previously had this case and Inmate Lillard had noted that he had a heroin addiction, however he said that he was not on drugs at the time of the offense, which are contradicting statements. The family was astute in documenting information on this case and forwarding to the Board. The family believes Inmate Lillard should remain in custody.

Member Tupy noted that Inmate Lillard seemed to be changed from the time of the offense and currently has strong family support. Member Tupy noted that this case was premeditated, as Inmate Lillard could have taken the money and leaving, but he killed the victim instead. Member Tupy noted that he is torn about this case. He advised that his SPIN Assessment shows that Inmate Lillard was at very-low risk and had great institutional adjustment.

Attorney Arden Lang spoke on behalf of Inmate Lillard. She noted that her fact sheet does not show any information about the SPIN Assessment. Three family members of Inmate Lillard accompanied her to the hearing and she advised that all were support of him, were willing to help him find a job and willing to assist with his reentry into society. She stated that Inmate Lillard has developed tremendous skills in dealing with his anger. She also noted that Inmate Lillard admitted that he was not on drugs the day of the crimes, however he had just come out of treatment and was still a drug addict. She stated that from day one, Inmate Lillard had admitted



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his guilt and expressed remorse for the crime he committed. She also advised the Board that there was a member of the victim's family who was at the hearing and supported Inmate Lillard's release from prison as well.

Member Shelton advised that Inmate Lillard had stabbed another inmate while in prison and was found to have a shank in his cell. Member Shelton noted that this charge was not an aberration, as even though it was a long time ago, it shows a pattern of violence.

Member Norton requested to know the outcome of Inmate Lillard's military services. The family members of Inmate Lillard advised that he was not in the military.

Member Diaz inquired as to Inmate Lillard's age at the time of the crime. Member Tupy responded that he was 22 at the time the crime was committed. Member Diaz also requested to know where his family is from. Member Tupy advised that his family reside in Danville, Illinois.

The granddaughter of the victim spoke to the board on behalf of Inmate Lillard. She stated that her family has preached forgiveness. She said that Inmate Lillard looked her in the eye and apologized to her and she has forgiven him.

Member T. Johnson asked if other members of the victim's family are protesting his release. The granddaughter noted that they are in protest and that they say they are in fear that he will be released.

To parole Inmate Lillard at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the crime and promote disrespect for the law.

Motion to deny parole (KT-DS). Motion prevails by a vote of 9 to 3. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Shelton and Mr. Tupy.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm."



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— MARCH 1, 2018

Inmate Name: **LEE SMITH**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C72452**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois, on March 1, 2018 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Lee Smith, IDOC #C72452.

Members present were: S. Diaz, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, V. Harris, E. Johnson, T. Johnson, V. Martinez, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, D. Shelton, K. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Lee Smith was interviewed for parole consideration on January 24, 2018. The following factors are to be considered, but not limited to, his own testimony, file review, institutional adjustment, family, health considerations, and post incarceration plans.

Inmate Smith is a 77-year-old male that entered IDOC on December 1, 2000. His projected release date is September 24, 2497. He was convicted of the offense of Murder/Intent to Kill/Injure with the offense date of September 21, 1976. He was sentenced to no less than 500 years, nor, more than 1000 years.

On September 21, 1976, Inmate Smith murdered Mrs. Olga Danaher in the living quarters of a small motel located in Bradley, Illinois where she and her husband, Robert, owned and operated. The victim was stabbed numerous times, hands bound behind her back, and disrobed below her waist.

In the past six years, while being incarcerated at the Pinckneyville Correctional Center, he has not participated in any programming. He is housed in an ADA cell and claims to be disabled. He suffers from limited functioning after brain surgery was required to repair a subdural hematoma. After the surgery he had to relearn how to walk and feel himself. Today, he still has a great deal of difficulty writing, and his vision is impaired. Also, he is prone to seizures and suffers from lingering headaches. He also indicates he has high blood pressure.

Inmate Smith's criminal history is rather lengthy. He was first incarcerated as a juvenile when he admitted to stealing a vehicle, and he was admitted to the California juvenile system. His last arrest as a juvenile was for the robbery of a grocery store. In 1962, at the age of 22, Inmate Smith entered the California Correctional System for the next 11 years, after being



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convicted of armed Robbery. While in prison, he assaulted a correctional officer and received an additional one to three years. He was paroled in 1973.

Inmate Smith does have a family, even though he has not any visits in the last six years. He and his first wife had one child, and she had four children of her own. He stopped all visits in 2005.

His institutional adjustment has gone very well. He has received five major and one minor ticket during his incarceration. He has been unassigned for all but seven months of his incarceration. The last ticket was on October 15, 2015. He has a low aggressive score.

In interviewing Inmate Smith, he made some interesting revelations. First of all, I think for the first time, since he has been incarcerated he admitted guilt, and said, "I take full responsibility for the murder". He indicates he has no excuse for doing it, but does indicate he was fearful. When the murder occurred, he was going through the end of his relationship with his wife, and his family. He indicated he had been drinking when he committed the murder. He indicates this was a "cold case file", because he committed the murder on September 21, 1976, and was not arrested until December 13, 1999.

He indicates he had been staying at the motel, and became unable to pay. He left the title to his car with Mr. and Mrs. Danaher. When he returned to get the title to his car Mrs. Danaher refused to relinquish it, and the altercation ensued. He indicates that he tried to make it appear, that it was a sex crime, but really that was not true. He concluded by saying, 'that about everything that I said at the trial was a lie'. He really does not expect to be paroled, but rather he expects to die in prison.

During the entire interview, Inmate Smith was very contrite and forthcoming with his total and complete confession of guilt. He became emotional, when he indicated Mrs. Danaher had done nothing to deserve her fate. He concluded by saying, "all I want is to apologize to her entire family, and especially to her kids, and ask for forgiveness from her family".

Member Dunn noted that there were several revelations that came from the interview with Inmate Smith. Member Dunn noted that Inmate Smith admitted his guilt in this crime and stated that there was no excuse for his behavior. Inmate Smith also commented that this was not a sex crime and that everything he said during the trial was a lie and that he expects to die in prison. Inmate Smith just wanted to apologize and ask for forgiveness.

Member Shelton stated that Inmate Smith was a regular of the hotel and that the victim was both afraid of and suspicious of him. Member Shelton also noted that at the time of his arrest, Inmate Smith had served time for other cases. Inmate Smith now claims responsibility, however until now he had claimed that he and the victim had an intimate relationship. Member Shelton commented that the victim's family was forced to hear these false allegations in court at



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that the parole hearings. Inmate Shelton also added that the victim's husband was working on an addition to the hotel, so he was always there.

The daughter of the victim spoke in protest to releasing Inmate Smith. She noted beside the fact that Inmate Smith stated he was having an affair with her mothers, he also accused their father of the crime at trial. She stated that her father was concerned about a mistrial and being accused of the crime by the police.

Member Dunn noted that the SPIN Assessment for Inmate Smith showed that he was at high-risk for re-offending and noted that he had received various letters of protest for this case.

Member E. Johnson commented that daughters of the victim worked to help solve this crime, which is one of the reasons it took so long to prosecute.

Motion to deny parole (DWD-DS). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 0. Leave.

Motion for a 3-year set (DWD-AMP). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 0. Leave.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm."



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— MARCH 1, 2018

Inmate Name: **DAVID LOTT**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C56165**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois, on March 1, 2018 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for David Lott, IDOC #C56165.

Members present were: S. Diaz, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, V. Harris, E. Johnson, T. Johnson, V. Martinez, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, D. Shelton, K. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

An institutional hearing was conducted on January 21, 2018 for parole consideration for inmate David Lee Lott, C-56165. During the interview and the presentation at en banc, the following factors were considered after serving 47 years thus far:

Inmate Lott was convicted of Murder, 2 counts, in St. Clair County. He received 100-300 years for each case. In addition, he was convicted of Aggravated Battery/Great Bodily Harm and sentenced to four years in Livingston County. Inmate Lott was sentenced on November 26, 1975. On the evening of July 28, 1974, Walter McDowell and Rosco Gilmer were at a package liquor store in East St. Louis, Illinois. The defendant and his co-defendant, Willie Cotton, were also present. The defendants left shortly before the victims and were seen by witnesses getting into the victims' car. Minutes later, a witness testified that they heard a single gunshot followed by two or more gunshots. The victims (Walter McDowell and Rosco Gilmer) bodies were found dead, lying in the street a short distance from the liquor store. The causes of death for both victims were as follows: Walter McDowell suffered two gunshot wounds to the upper part of his body; Rosco Gilmer was shot once in the neck. The bullet removed from the body of Rosco Gilmer was traced to a gun belonging to Inmate Lott and property belonging to Walter McDowell was linked to Willie Cotton, the co-defendant.

After the arrests, it was alleged that Inmate Lott told a jailer that he shot the passenger because he was old and shot the driver because he begged him for his life. He later admitted the Robbery and Murder to Detective Terry Delaney. During trial, Marcel Holton, the proprietor of Lulu's Package Liquor Store, testified that the victims, Walter McDowell and Rosco Gilmer, and the defendants were in his establishment until around 10:00 p.m. on July 28, 1974. The defendants left shortly after entering and the victims followed. Also, three persons sitting on a porch near the store saw the victims enter their car and stopped to allow the defendants to enter the backseat on the passenger's side. Ezell Holton, an employee of the liquor store, testified



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during trial that Inmate Lott returned to the store around 12:30 a.m. He was sitting at the end of the candy counter and his coat was pulled up. Holton testified that he saw a gun in his right hip pocket and he pulled it out of his pocket. He (Holton) described the gun as a .38 revolver, short barrel with a brown handle. Linda Carter testified that she lived with Inmate Lott during the latter part of July 1974. She stated that she was given a gun by Inmate Lott who instructed her to give it to her brother if the "police came around". Linda stated that she took the gun to her sister's Brenda Carter's home shortly after Inmate Lott was arrested. Brenda Carter identified the gun as the one that had been brought to her by her sister, Linda Carter. She further testified that sometime after her sister had brought the gun to her house, police for questioning picked up that Linda. Brenda stated that she then called Inmate Lott's father and she gave him the gun that was being questioned. During the investigation, the murder weapon was recovered from a subfloor at Inmate Lott's father's home.

Sergeant Joseph Bresser, a firearms identification expert, testified that the slug recovered by State Police Detective Terrance Delaney on July 29, 1974 near the scene where the bodies were discovered and the slug recovered from the body of Rosco Gilmer were "definitely" fired by the gun recovered from the residence of Inmate Lott's father. The State called two men who had been robbed by Inmate Lott and Cotton the night before. One victim testified that the defendants forced their way into his car about 4:00 a.m., the morning of July 28, 1974 in East St. Louis, Illinois on the parking lot of a nearby club. He was hit in the face with a pistol; knocking two teeth out while Cotton drove the vehicle to a nearby service station and forced the victim out of the car. As Cotton drove away in the vehicle, Inmate Lott pointed a gun at the victim. The State also called a cabdriver who stated he was "flagged down" about 2:00 a.m. by the defendants on a street in East St. Louis and they took his billfold and moneychanger. Cotton forced him out of the cab and fired a shot at him.

Inmate Lott's institutional adjustment is considered to be A-grade, minimum security, and low risk to escape. His last disciplinary ticket was in January of 2013. If granted parole, he plans to live in California with his uncle, whom he has had no contact with, or he can live with his brother, who lives in Centreville, IL. He would like to work for Serenity Funeral Home or Officer Funeral Home. In 1968 and 1974, he states that he worked as a Mortician. Inmate Lott's final words in support of parole to the Prisoner Review Board are as follows: "I was 21 years of age. I was young and didn't know better. I through my life away and grew up with a good family. I am a changed man. Drugs cost me my life and now I hate drugs. I refuse to accept the prison mentality."

After careful review of the case file: the one-on-one interview with Inmate Lott who presented himself respectfully and kind and being very open about the case and the path that has haunted his life. Inmate Lott does not have stable parole plans, heretofore, consideration for parole for Inmate Lott at this time would deprecate the serious nature of the offense and promote disrespect for the law.



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Chairman Findley requested to know who had voted in favor of parole in the past. Member Harris advised that Member Crigler had voted in favor of parole.

Member Shelton requested to know what charges Inmate Lott received. Member Harris responded that he received two counts of murder and was sentenced to 100-300 years for each count.

Member Perkins inquired as to how long Inmate Lott has been incarcerated. Member Harris stated that he has been incarcerated for 44 years.

Member Diaz requested to know the outcome of the SPIN Assessment. Member Harris noted that the SPIN Assessment showed an overall low-risk, and low-risk to reoffend.

Member Harris stated that Inmate Lott did not talk much about the offense to her, and stated that he took the wrap for a friend. She also noted that Inmate Lott stated that it does not matter what is said in the interview as it will be turned around to the Board. She commented that Inmate Lott showed no real remorse and that he has no real parole plan. She did advise that in the 1980s Inmate Lott wrote a threatening letter to a family member who dated Inmate Lott's ex.

Member E. Johnson inquired if he had admitted to the crime in the past, but now denied it. Member Harris responded that he did not, he just did not talk much about it.

Member Shelton requested to know if the threat was discussed. Member Harris stated that Inmate Lott said that he was young and dumb at the time.

Motion to deny parole (VH-AMP). Motion prevails by a vote of 11 to 1. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Diaz, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Shelton and Mr. Tupy.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm."