

PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET: MEETING OF MARCH 10, 2016

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison, Springfield, IL, on March 10, 2016 at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

L10298	DWIGHT JOHNSON
L11790	JOE WILLHITE
C91504	EARL JONES
C82838	LEE JONES
C68712	MICHAEL LEE LETT
C70640	EDWARD MURPHY
C56165	DAVID LOTT
C01657	HENRY DEE
C56150	JOHN TILLER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Findley
Roll call was taken by the Recording Secretary: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mr. Ed Bowers	X	
Edith Crigler	<u>X</u>	
Salvador Diaz	<u>X</u>	
Mr. Gary Duncan	<u>X</u>	
Mr. Donald Wayne Dunn	<u>X</u>	
Mr. Pete Fisher		X
Vonetta Harris	X	
Tom Johnson	X	
Mr. Daryl Jones	X	
Mr. William Norton	X	
Mrs. Aurthur Mae Perkins	X	
Mr. Donald Shelton	X	
Chairman Craig Findley	X	

12 Members Present

The Recording Secretary presented the following minutes for approval:
Open Session Minutes from **December 2015. (DS-GD)** . Leave

Meeting was adjourned (CF – DS). Leave.
Submitted by: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, Recording Secretary

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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET OPEN SESSION— MARCH 10, 2016

Inmate Name: **DWIGHT JOHNSON** IDOC Number & Institution: **L10298**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL on March 10, 2016, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for, Dwight Johnson, IDOC #L10298.

Members present were: Chairman C. Findley, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, V. Harris, T. Johnson, D. Jones, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Perkins presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

Mrs. Perkins stated that Inmate Dwight Johnson was interviewed for parole consideration on December 15, 2015 and then again on January 21, 2016 by Board Member Aurthur Mae Perkins. Inmate Johnson is a 63 year old African American male who is serving a 100-200 year sentence for three counts of Murder and Armed Robbery. The last grade Inmate Johnson was 8th grade so he could get a job and support himself in areas such as maintenance or manual labor. He has contact with his sister, Alma Johnson in Chicago by phone. Inmate Johnson has two children, a son and a daughter. He also has two grandchildren.

On October 18, 1997 at 9:30 am, Inmate Johnson and another male believed to be his brother entered a grocery store on Racine Avenue in Chicago, Illinois and robbed it producing handguns and stating, "This is a robbery". They made the owner of the store, Mr. Barnes and two other customers lie down behind the meat counter. During this time, another customer, Ms. Flo Pitchford came into the store to purchase a newspaper, unaware that a robbery was in progress. She was told to lie down on the floor which she did. Inmate Johnson and his accomplice finished taking money and demanded the guns. According to trial records, as Inmate Johnson was leaving the store he turned and for no reason shot Ms. Flo Pitchford in the head killing her.

Police did not arrest Inmate Johnson until approximately one year later when they were at the Cook County Jail to speak with his brother Fred. They had received information that the person responsible for this robbery was Fred Johnson and his brother "Ike". Inmate Johnson's nickname was "Ike". When Inmate Johnson came to the jail to visit his brother and per the officers, Inmate Johnson looked like the composite sketches given by witnesses. Once Inmate Johnson was in custody they compared his fingerprints to the ones found on a Neki soda bottle and it was a match.

Witnesses in the store had stated the individual that set the Neki soda bottle on the counter was the shooter. Inmate Johnson denied being in the store and then later told the police he was in the store with his brother during the robbery, but his brother was the shooter.

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Mrs. Perkins stated that during her interview with Inmate Johnson he admitted that he was in the store and took part in the robbery and shot Ms. Flo Pitchford. However, he it was an accident. He stated he was merely trying to scare the individuals in the store so they would not attempt to follow them.

Inmate Johnson admitted he had a gun given to him by his brother. He said his brother and another individual named, "Red" were all in on the robbery. He was not aware until one year later that someone was shot. He said he would never intently shoot anyone. He also stated that he takes all responsibility for what happened. He said he was very sorry for what happened and wanted to apologize to all the people he hurt because of this robbery. He at first wanted to say the prints on the bottle were his brother's because he could not recall having a soda pop on that day. Inmate Johnson stated he is a changed person that is why he is willing to accept all responsibility for what happened in the store that day.

Mrs. Perkins also shared with the Board that Inmate Johnson has been housed at three different Illinois Correctional Facilities: Stateville (1981-1997), Western (1997-2004), Danville (2004-Current).

Most of Inmate Johnson's tickets are from Stateville and all are within the first few years of his incarceration. From 1981-1989, per a counselor's report in his file, he had accumulated 21 major and 28 minor tickets. He received a major in 1991 for having 6 pieces of metal in his cell. Since tat time it appears Inmate Johnson has done well, receiving 2 major tickets since 2000.

Inmate Johnson has not attempted to get his GED and states he does not want to get his GED while incarcerated and to him it would not mean anything. He did say that if he was to obtain his parole he planned on getting his GED.

Inmate Johnson has maintained a solid work history while incarcerated and says he works as much as possible. He is most proud of his past work in the tailor shop from 1985-1997 where he was able to buy things for his children and send some money home. He is currently at A Grade in Danville.

Inmate Johnson's parole plans are not very stable. He plans to live with his sister, Alma Johnson, or go to a halfway house. Talking with his sister, she would be glad to have him with her but believes a halfway house would be better for him at first and then come live with her.

Mrs. Perkins believes that Inmate Johnson would do well outside of prison and is comfortable with his parole plan.

Motion to grant parole (AMP-GD). Motion does not prevail 1-11. Members voting against the motion were Mr. Bowers, Mrs. Crigler, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Dunn, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Jones, Mr. Norton, Mr. Shelton, 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 10, 2016

Inmate Name: **JOE WILLHITE** IDOC Number & Institution: **L11790**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL on March 10, 2016, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Joe Willhite, IDOC #L11790.

Members present were: Chairman C. Findley, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, V. Harris, T. Johnson, D. Jones, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Crigler presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

Mrs. Crigler stated that On January 2, 2016 inmate Joe Willhite was interviewed for parole consideration at the Dixon correctional Center. He is an 81-year-old African American male who at the age of 42 years old committed the offense of murder and was convicted of two counts of murder and sentenced to two terms of 100 to 300 years to be served concurrently. His maximum out date is in 2127.

The facts of the case are that Inmate Willhite brutally attacked and killed two women in the presence of one of the women's four-year-old child. There was a witness who lived in the building who saw inmate Willhite case one of the victims out of the apartment. Inmate Willhite was also convicted of manslaughter in 968 and received a two to twelve year sentence for that crime. He served 21 months and was paroled, with the sentence being discharged in October of 1977.

It was shared with the Board that Inmate Willhite continues to maintain a very good disciplinary record at Dixon and has been at Dixon Correctional center since July of 1987. He has not received any IDR's since 2004. He has attained a GED, and Associate of Arts Degree and numerous other certificates. He has a deep relationship with God and if parole plans to live with one of grown children who have offered to provide housing.

Inmate takes responsibility for his crimes and is remorseful concerning them and is an elderly sick individual. He is a different person than the one who entered prison and should be commended for his growth and change. For this reason, Mrs. Crigler recommended to grant parole.

Motion to grant parole (EC-DWD). Motion prevails 7-5. Members voting for the motion were Mrs. Crigler, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Dunn, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Perkins, 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 10, 2016

Inmate Name: **EARL JONES** IDOC Number & Institution: **C91504**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL on March 10, 2016, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Earl Jones, IDOC #C91504.

Members present were: Chairman C. Findley, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, V. Harris, T. Johnson, D. Jones, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Johnson presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

According to Mr. Johnson, Earl Jones was interviewed for parole consideration on January 12, 2016 at the Dixon Correctional Center. They reviewed the testimony of the inmate, a review of the file, the nature of the offense, institutional adjustment, the sentence imposed and plans for parole.

At the time of the interview, Earl Jones was 68 years of age having served 40 years of 2 sentences of 50-100 years said sentences to run concurrently. He was found guilty of using a shotgun to blow off the heads of his wife and her two year old daughter. He stated that the reason he killed them was that while away his wife committed adultery resulting in the birth of her daughter.

Mr. Johnson noted that his institutional adjustment has been good since his return to Dixon in 2001. He states his health is ok though he has had a couple of strokes and currently walks with a cane. He has had a long history of mental illness and currently takes psychotropic medications. Were he to be released, he would live with his niece in Chicago, who he says works for the school system. He states he would support himself on the \$250.00/month disability payment he intends to receive. He would like to spent time with his son and grandchildren.

Nevertheless, the Board believes that to parole Mr. Jones at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the offense, bring disrespect for the law and further that Mr. Jones would be unable to comply with reasonable conditions of parole.

Motion to deny parole (TLJ-EC). Motion prevails. Leave.

Motion to continue to max (DJ-DS). Motion prevails. 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 10, 2016

Inmate Name: **LEE JONES** IDOC Number & Institution: **C82838**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL on March 10, 2016, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Lee Jones, IDOC #C82838.

Members present were: Chairman C. Findley, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, V. Harris, T. Johnson, D. Jones, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Jones presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

Mr. Jones stated that on October 14, 1977, at approximately 1151 La Salle Street, Officer Jackson was driving his unmarked squad car on a vice prostitution detail. In the car with Officer Jackson were Officer Al Williams, Officer Rudolph Winston, and two prostitutes who were just arrested. All were in civilian dress. As the car turned onto La Salle Northbound, the officers saw a silver Lincoln almost striking their car as it went by. The silver Lincoln which the inmate was driving stopped at 1151 North La Salle, in the left lane. Officer Jackson pulled his car along the inmate's car, between it and the parked cars. The inmate then began to yell to Officer Jackson, "You almost hit me." Officer Jackson responded, "I did not." This continued two times more and finally Officer Jackson asked, "What are you going to do about it?" The inmate said, "This," and raised and pointed his weapon at Officer Jackson and fired, once sticking him in the head. The inmate sped off North on La Salle.

Officer Karl Manuel who was in another unmarked car at the scene observed this and gave chase calling out the plate and description. The inmate was stopped at Broadway and Sheridan about 20 minutes later. Seized from the car was a .357 magnum Python revolver with two live and two expended .38 caliber armor piercing rounds, all of which had the inmate's print on it. The inmate had stopped prior to being stopped by police and called his common law wife, asking her to report the car stolen. Also recovered in the victim's car was the expended bullet which ballistically matched the gun recovered from the inmate.

Officer Jackson, as a result of this case, was confined to a wheel chair with total paralysis of the right side. He had 5 operations on his brain.

There are constant protests on this case on the part of several Police unions serving the Chicago area. Due to the intentional nature of the crime, the Board determined that to grant parole at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the offense.

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Motion to grant parole (DJ-CF). Motion does not prevail 4-8. Members voting against the motion are Mr. Bowers, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Norton, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Shelton, and Chairman Findley.

Motion for a 3 year set (SD-TLJ). Motion does not prevail 4-8. Voting against the motion were Mrs. Crigler, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Dunn, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Jones, Mr. Norton, Mr. Shelton, 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 10, 2016

Inmate Name: **MICHAEL LETT** IDOC Number & Institution: **C68712**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL on March 10, 2016, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for, IDOC #.

Members present were: Chairman C. Findley, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, V. Harris, T. Johnson, D. Jones, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

Mrs. Harris stated that Inmate Michael Lee Lett, age 61, was born on November 4, 1954 to Anna Lou Williams who died almost 2 months after childbirth. At the time of his birth, Inmate Lett's father was already a member of the military service, leaving Inmate Lett and his sister Linda to reside with their grandparents in Washington, Indiana. When his father returned from the military he remarried and began a new family. It was then that Inmate Lett and his sister Linda began their life with their father. Unfortunately, their stay was short-lived because their stepmother rejected to take care of them. The children were returned to their grandparents, but moved from home to home, living with relatives, until their aunt and uncle, Matilda and Joseph Lett during 1962 or 1963, legally adopted them. His adoptive parents and relatives are now deceased. In 2010, his adoptive mother died due to complications of a stroke and dementia and in 2011 his father died due to complications of pneumonia. Thomas Williams, Lett's biological father died on November 2, 2015. The cause is unknown to him.

Inmate Michael Lee Lett was born in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri but was raised in Washington, Ind. Inmate Lett has a sibling; a sister, Linda Walls who died on November 11, 2015 due to complications of diabetes. Due to her religion, she didn't believe in extended life machines. Her cause of death was a rare infection that metastasized throughout entire body. In 1983, inmate Lett's brother-in-law, died from an accidental drowning. Inmate Lett has two nieces and three nephews. Inmate Michael Lett stated that he got married in 2007 and has been divorced for 9 years. He met his wife, Darlene Lett in the visiting room while working as a photographer for Danville Correctional Center. He has no children to date.

Mrs. Harris shared with the Board that Inmate Lett was convicted for Aggravated Kidnapping, Murder, and Indecent Liberties with a Child, and Concealment of a Homicidal Death, Theft, and Armed Robbery. The victim was Cathy Jo Harris, 12 years of age. Before the committed offenses of Cathy Jo Harris took place, Inmate Lett had already been declared by Indiana State Law to be a Criminal Sexual Deviate. He had escaped from the Mr. Norman Berry Memorial Hospital in Westville, Indiana six days prior to the aforementioned offense. At the time of the

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arrest, Michael Lett was identified as a white male, 21 years of age, medium complexion with blue eyes, light brown hair, standing 6 feet 2 inches tall with a weight of 210 pounds.

On July 12, 1976, defendant Michael Lett enters a plea of not guilty. The Jury finds defendant Michael Lee Lett guilty of murder, aggravated kidnapping, and indecent liberties to a child, armed robbery, theft and concealment of homicidal death. At the time of the offense, Scott L. Belford, Assistant Public Defender of Newton, IL, represented the defendant. The defendant, Michael Lett made the following comments regarding the present offense: He stated he was about to complete "Phase Five" of the program at Mr. Norman Beatty Hospital, had community employment, a sponsor for parole purposes and would have been paroled upon completion of the program. However, a female patient at the Norman Beatty Hospital got a case of the crabs and accused the defendant and another patient in his unit/ward of having intercourse with her and passing on the crabs.

The defendant stated that he and the other fellow were both tested and came out clean, but the blame was placed on him and he was taken out of the program and placed in a holding pattern and confined to maximum security. The defendant stated that personnel didn't like him and he couldn't have had intercourse with the female because he was granted weekend passes and was on a weekend pass at the time of the alleged incident. On April 13, 1976, the defendant left the facility after dinner by telling security that he wanted to go to the kitchen and get a loaf of bread for his ward. He went to the kitchen, walked out the door, through a tunnel and hid in the personnel lounge until it was safe to leave the grounds. The defendant stated that he contacted his parents and girlfriend and they in turn were going to get him legal advice for him and he planned to turn himself in. On the contrary, he met two fellows on the parking lot, didn't know them; they found a car with keys locked inside, so they broke into the car and took it.

The defendant stated the fellows were with him for one day and they sold him some speed and mescaline and was also drinking and everything from there became a blur. The defendant states that he remembers waking up in the hospital parking lot in Olney, IL around 10 a.m. He remembers buying some crickets at a bait shop and going fishing between Olney and Newton, IL. He stated he drank some beer and took a couple of pills and that it rained off and on that day. He also recalls picking up a hitchhiker, named Mike, and asked where he was going anywhere special so they headed to Florida. The defendant stated he was arrested in Florida and kept in a small room for approximately six days and nearly cracked up in that little place. The defendant states he recalls nothing of these present offenses. Inmate/Defendant Lett, stated when he was shown the victims picture he did recognize her as someone he had seen before.

According to the Examiner's Review, Mr. Lett appears to be unable to adequately control his sexual desires and as of this date has not gained insight into his sexual deviancy. He began having sex with 10-12 year old girls when he himself was approximately 12 years of age and appears to be fixated at that particular stage of sexual attraction. It is of the examiner's opinion that Mr. Lett is a pedophile (sexual feelings directed towards children) and in need of mental treatment for this disorder.

At the age of 14, he propositioned a girl and was given probation; at the age of 14 he broke into a department store and was given probation; at the ages of 15 and 16, he was picked up for curfew;

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expelled from school twice, once for fighting and once for breaking into a locker. He was charged and convicted of rape and sentenced to Indiana State Reformatory, Pendleton. He had a second charge of rape and was committed to the state hospital for treatment under CSD Act (Community Services Act).

Inmate Lett was adjudged a delinquent child in Case Number J69-61-D in Davies County Juvenile Court, Washington, Indiana. At the juvenile house, he was very destructive and damaged property to boats at the Conservation Club, breaking and entering where he was apprehended partially dressed in female clothing and enticing female children for sexual proposes at Sis Clothing Store in Washington, Indiana. On June 11, 1969, the Juvenile Court of Davies County adjudged Inmate Lett to be a delinquent child and entered a Temporary Order of Probation to parents with certain conditions: shall not hang around St. Simons or St. Mary's grounds; cannot roam the streets, shall not have contact with female children and shall abide by a 10:30p.m curfew. The minor shall submit to evaluation at the Evansville State Hospital.

Inmate Lett was admitted to Evansville Hospital for evaluation for approximately one week during 1969 and again from October 19, 1971 to December 1, 1971. September 1971 the Circuit Court of Pike County, appointed two doctors who hold unlimited license to practice medicine in the State of Indiana to exam Inmate Lett and report their findings of criminal sexual deviate behavior by order. Inmate Lett, during his youth was admitted and evaluated to Evansville State Hospital, Central State Hospital, and Dr. Norman M. Beatty Hospital. In April 13, 1976, he left the hospital on his own accord, without discharge, and has been absent was Absent Without Leave since 5:35 p.m.

Motion for Executive Session (VH-CF). Leave.

Motion to Return from Executive Session (CF- DS). Leave.

Inmate Lett has been at Graham Correctional Center since 10/24/07 and is currently working as a housing unit janitor. Since is admission to Graham, he has received two major and three minor tickets. In 2010, he received a major ticket for health, smoking, or safety violation of rules. He received a verbal reprimand for the offense. This is his first IDR in nearly five years. In 2010, he received a major ticket for dangerous contraband and unauthorized property (altered metal sharpened to a point, and he received one month B grade, seven days in segregation, and one month gym/yard restriction. In 2012, he received a major ticket for violation of rules (leaving a hot pot on while out of cell, and he received a verbal reprimand. In 2012, he also received a minor ticket for violation of rules and failure to report (not being on time for mandatory med line), he received 14 days gym/yard restriction. Most recent ticket was a minor for unauthorized movement, violation of rules (wrong wing) and he received a verbal reprimand.

Inmate Michael Lett earned his GED in 1977 and has taken several courses in electronics while housed at Menard Correctional Center. He has also earned certificates in Food Sanitation, Cooking, Drafting/Welding, American History, World History, English Literature, and Social Studies. Inmate Lett wants to purse a degree in drafting but the course have been removed from Graham. His main goal is to finish college. He has been researching Pell Grants for Felons.

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If paroled, he stated he would live with his ex-wife in Champaign, IL however, Mrs. Harris told the Board that a letter of behalf dated March 12, 2007 from his ex-wife Darlene Lett states, “ I am writing concerning my husband Michael L. Lett. I am requesting that if he is granted parole that he be paroled to his parents home in Washington, Indiana. I am filing for divorce so I don’t think it would be a good idea for Mike to be around here.” This was the last letter received on file for the now ex-wife, Darlene Lett.

Inmate Lett stated, “I am disappointed with my life. I’ve caused so much pain and suffering on what I have taken from them: the victim, Cathy Jo Harris, her family, and my family. I have caused a lot of humiliation, pain, and suffering. It’s frustrating and devastating. I can’t change it. If I could go back 45 years, my life would be different. None of this would have ever happened. I understand now why it happened. I do not have questionable feelings of doubt about myself. I wish it were something I can do to make it better. I’ve asked for forgiveness.

I wrote a letter to Ira Maroon, Cathy Jo Harris’ mother, but I was advised not to send it while I was at Danville Correctional Center. I have apologized for what I have done by taking Cathy from her. I am doing everything I can to make myself better and I hope she can forgive me. After writing the letter, I felt purged. There’s not a day that goes by that I don’t think about what I have done. The lives that I have damaged altered. It will always be there, it will not go away.

I am a changed person now. I take full responsibility for my actions. I have become a better person than I was. I want the opportunity to prove that—to live a normal life.

I am not trying to diminish the seriousness of my case and the impact it’s had on people. I am not making light of it. I understand what I have done. I do not take it lightly. I think about it daily. I know I have devastated people and myself. I want to try to heal and do what I can to correct my life as much as I can and have the opportunity to show it.”

Mrs. Harris concluded by stating her recommendation. Inmate Michael Lee Lett has served nearly 40 years for the Murder, Indecent Liberties with a child, Aggravated Kidnapping, Armed Robbery, Theft, and Concealing Homicidal Death of Cathy Jo Harris. The victim was 12 years of age. She was leaving the local grocery store when Inmate Michael Lett snatched her and threw her into his vehicle and drove off: leaving her groceries lying on the parking lot. He took her off to an abandoned road. She never screamed or put up a fight. She didn’t even cry. In fact, she cooperated only so she could home to return to her family. Unfortunately, that never happened. Innocent, pure, Cathy Jo Harris was stabbed to death in the heart after Inmate Michael Lett raped her: dying instantly. Inmate Lett drug her lifeless body out of his vehicle and left her on the side of the road and proceeding to Naples, Florida where he was found because some identified his vehicle from the grocery store parking lot after he kidnapped Cathy Jo Harris.

Inmate Michael Lett states that he is a changed man and that he has asked for forgiveness. He also stated that there was a letter in his file from the Cathy Jo Harris’ mother stating that she is no longer pursuing or fighting his parole due to religious aspects. Inmate Michael Lett states that the letter has since been removed.

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Mrs. Harris further states, "It is not in the position of this Board to place judgment on anyone who has committed heinous crimes, however public safety is our priority as well as to determine the level of rehabilitation and the probability that an offender will reoffend". The Board does not doubt that Inmate Lett has had a long time to think about the nature of his offenses and the huge loss one family has suffered. Institutionally, he has received some tickets both major and minor. He has earned his education, pursued certificates to make him useful on the outside.

Unfortunately, Inmate Michael Lett's parole plan is weak. He has no family: they're all deceased. His ex-wife last letter was in 2007 and she stated she did not want him to return to her hometown. It is Ms. Harris' opinion that to parole Inmate Michael Lee Lett at this time, without a solid parole plan, would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect to the law.

Motion to deny parole (VH-DS). Motion prevails. Leave.

Motion for a 3 year set (VH-TLJ). Motion prevails 11-1. Members voting in favor of parole are Mr. Bowers, Mrs. Crigler, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Dunn, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Jones, Mr. Norton, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Shelton, 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 10, 2016

Inmate Name: **EDWARD MURPHY** IDOC Number & Institution: **C70640**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL on March 10, 2016, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Edward Murphy, IDOC # C70640.

Members present were: Chairman C. Findley, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, V. Harris, T. Johnson, D. Jones, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Norton presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

Mr. Norton stated that a parole assessment interview was conducted with Edward Murphy on December 9, 2015. Mr. Murphy was born on March 12, 1958, is currently fifty-seven years of age and was a resident of the Shawnee Correctional Center on the date of the interview. Mr. Murphy is serving a sentence of 75-100 years for Murder. Mr. Murphy is scheduled to exit DOC on or about the 23rd of March of this year.

Mr. Norton stated that the file and record would indicate that on or about May 17, 1975, Edward Murphy and two Co-Defendants accosted a fourteen year old boy by the name of Stanley Beck who was on his way to visit his mother. The victim was forced into a laundry room on the fifth floor of a housing complex located at 5201 South Federal, Chicago, Illinois. The victim was beaten with a blunt instrument, his skull was crushed, he was stabbed repeatedly and suffered mutilation to his scrotum and then a bag of trash and garbage was placed on his body and set on fire. Mr. Murphy and the two Co-Defendants were found guilty of the offense of Murder following a jury trial and on or about February 25, 1977, Mr. Murphy was sentenced to 75-100 years in the penitentiary.

Mr. Murphy acknowledged his involvement in this crime and did not dispute the basic facts of the case.

The institutional adjustment of Mr. Murphy has been good. His last IDR was on May 24, 2014. He is currently in good health and has taken advantage of educational training and has received his GED. Mr. Murphy advised he was married in 1988 but divorced in 1990 and has no children. Mr. Murphy advised that his closest relatives are his father, two brothers and three sisters. Mr. Murphy stated that if granted parole his parole plan would be to reside with his father in Chicago and seek employment. Mr. Murphy was polite, courteous and attentive during the parole assessment interview.

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The Board continues to be concerned by the senseless and exceptional brutality of this crime. The board feels that a release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of the crime and promote a lack of respect for the law, and therefore believes he should be continued to his maximum parole release date.

Motion to deny parole (WN-EB). Leave.

Motion to continue to Max (WN-EB). 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 10, 2016

Inmate Name: **DAVID LOTT**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C56165**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL on March 10, 2016, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for David Lee Lott, IDOC #C56165.

Members present were: Chairman C. Findley, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, V. Harris, T. Johnson, D. Jones, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Norton presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

A parole assessment interview was conducted with David L. Lott on January 20, 2016. Mr. Lott was born on August 2, 1950, is currently sixty -five years of age and was a resident of the Shawnee Correctional Center on the date of the interview. According to the file, Mr. Lott is serving two consecutive sentences of 150-300 years for two Murder convictions and an additional consecutive sentence of four years for an Aggravated Battery conviction in 1980 resulting from an attack of a correctional officer while Mr. Lott was a resident of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

Mr. Norton stated that the file and record would indicate that on or about July 28, 1974 David L. Lott and a Co-Defendant by the name of Willie Cotton shot and killed two men by the names of Walter McDowell and Rosco Gilmer In the parking lot of a package liquor store in East St. Louis, Illinois following a financial dispute with two alleged drug dealers. Mr. Lott was found guilty of the two Murder offenses following a jury trial and on or about November 26, 1975, Mr. Lott was sentenced to two consecutive terms of 150-300 years in the penitentiary.

Mr. Lott acknowledged his involvement in this crime, admits that he was the “shooter” and does not dispute the basic facts of the case. Mr. Lott stated that this was a gang and drug incident as they were all drug dealers and that he was protecting his turf.

The institutional adjustment of Mr. Lott over the years has been quite poor and negative. Mr. Lott has received many IDR’s including infractions for fighting and staff assaults. In 1980, and while a resident at the Pontiac Correctional Center, Mr. Lott received an additional four year consecutive sentence in Livingston County for Aggravated Battery resulting from his attack on a correctional officer. The behavior of Mr. Lott has shown some improvement in recent years as his last IDR was on January 21, 2013. Mr. Lott reported that he is in good health except for his vision, due to glaucoma. He advised that due to his poor vision he does not have a current job assignment and does not participate in an education program. Mr. Lott reported that he is a high school graduate and that he had a year of training at a mortuary school. Mr. Lott advised that he

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was born and raised in East St. Louis, Illinois. He advised that his parents are deceased but he has two brothers and two sisters. Mr. Lott further stated that he was never married but that he is the father of four children, with two daughters and one son still living. The last visit of Mr. Lott was on December 1, 2011 by his niece Keena Flie.

Mr. Norton stated that Mr. Lott was polite, courteous and attentive during the parole assessment interview. Mr. Lott stated that he did not expect to ever be granted parole and that he does not have any parole plans but that if he were to ever be considered for parole he would perhaps try to live with relatives in Bakersfield, California.

Mr. Norton moves to deny parole. The Board continues to be concerned by the senseless nature of this crime and that at this time a release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of this crime and offense and promote a lack of respect for the law.

Motion to deny parole (WN-TLJ). Motion prevails. Leave.

Motion for a two year set (WN-AMP). Motion does not prevail 5-7. Members voting against the motion are Mrs. Crigler, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Dunn, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Jones, Mr. Shelton, 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.”

PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET OPEN SESSION— MARCH 10, 2016

Inmate Name: **HENRY DEE**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C01657**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL on March 10, 2016, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Henry Dee, IDOC # C01657.

Members present were: Chairman C. Findley, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, V. Harris, T. Johnson, D. Jones, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Jones presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

On August 17, 1971, 52 year old Arthur Snyder and his wife, 46 year old Edith Snyder lived in a small one-bedroom apartment at 5412 1/2 North Kenmore in Chicago. Mr. Snyder had been a cab driver for 25 years for Yellow Cab Company, where he worked the evening shift. In the early morning hours of August 17, 1971, Arthur Snyder stopped at home to inquire of his wife if she wanted anything from the store before he returned the cab to the garage. When he arrived at home, the inmate, Henry Dee and James Sayles, who was armed with a loaded revolver, set upon him. They forced their way into his apartment.

Once inside the Snyder home, holding both victims at gunpoint, the inmate and Sayles hogtied, gagged and blindfold Arthur Snyder with strips of cloth and an electrical cord, leaving him on the floor in the kitchen. They then took Mrs. Snyder into the bedroom where they proceeded to blindfold, gag and bind her with strips from her bed sheet. The offenders then left the victims in those positions while they ransacked the apartment, looking for anything of value. After taking a coin collection, currency, a Polaroid camera, identification and credit cards belonging to the victims, they proceeded back to the bedroom where they raped Edith Snyder while bound and gagged. The offenders then took a claw hammer and using both sides of the head of the hammer, beat and ripped Edith Snyder's face, skull and body apart.

Having beaten Edith Snyder to death in her own bed, they then proceeded into the kitchen, where Arthur Snyder lay bound and gagged. They literally beat Arthur Snyder's brains out, leaving the hammer deeply embedded in Arthur's skull. Following the second murder, the offenders then stepped over the lifeless body of Arthur Snyder and went the kitchen stove, where they turned on all of the gas jets in the oven, hoping to blow up the apartment and thereby destroy any evidence of their crimes. To further this scheme along, they returned to the bedroom, where they set fire to the mattress upon which lay the dead body of Edith Snyder.

The offenders then left the apartment, using Arthur Snyder's cab as a means of escape. At approximately 2:30 am on August 17, 1971, two Chicago Firemen responded to an alarm at the

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Snyder's apartment. A neighbor had seen flames coming from the 30-unit apartment building and called the fire department. When the firemen arrived, they had to break down a door to enter. Once inside they observed the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Snyder. First, they found Edith Snyder's body on the bed, which was in flames. The firemen extinguished the flames and could see that she was deceased. They noticed that her hands were bound behind her back, her mouth was gagged and her eyes were blindfolded. Her legs were spread apart and her nightgown was about her hips fully exposing the lower part of her body. The firemen could smell a strong odor of gas and went to the kitchen. There they found the gas jets on the stove had been turned on. They also found the body of Arthur Snyder. His hands and feet were bound behind his back with an electrical cord. A claw hammer was embedded in his skull. A considerable amount of blood splatter surrounded his body. Additional emergency personnel responded to the crime scene and the bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Snyder were removed to Weiss Hospital. There they were pronounced dead upon arrival. Their bodies were transported to the morgue.

While this double murder was being investigated, police officers learned that Mr. Snyder was a cab driver with Yellow Cab Company. He normally returned his cab between 2:00 and 4:00 a.m. however, on this early morning; he had not yet returned his cab. Coincidentally, on the Southside of Chicago in Washington Park police officer observed the inmate Henry Dee and his co-offender driving a yellow cab without any headlights on and both men were in the front seat of the cab. As the officers approached the cab, the men fled. They were quickly caught. Inmate Dee had a revolver in his waistband. Inmate Dee also was in possession of silver certificates and coins, which were later determined to be collector's items. A search of co-offender James Sayles revealed several pieces of identification belong to Mr. Arthur Snyder and a Polaroid camera. Neither man could account for their being in the cab therefore, the arresting officers notified Yellow Cab Company. It was then they learned that the cab belonged to Arthur Snyder who had recently been the victim of a homicide. Moreover, although neither the inmate nor his co-offender appeared injured in any way, what appeared to be blood splatter was observed on both offenders' clothing. Their clothes and shoes were inventoried and examined. The camera recovered from co-offender Sayles was shown to the victim's son-in-law who identified it as Mr. Snyder's camera. He also identified a Bulova wristwatch, which was found on co-offender Sayles as belonging Mr. Snyder. Both the inmate Dee and his co-offender were arrested and charged with the murders and armed robbery of both Mr. and Mrs. Snyder.

The Prisoner Review Board conducted a review of all the relevant facts and circumstances. The Board determined that to grant parole at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the offense.

Motion to Deny Parole ((DJ-DS). Motion prevails. Leave.

Motion for a three year set (DS-EB). Motion prevails 10-2. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Bowers, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Dunn, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Johnson. Mr. Jones, Mr. Norton, Mrs. Perkins, and Mr. Shelton.

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

PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET OPEN SESSION— MARCH 10, 2016

Inmate Name: **JOHN L. TILLER** IDOC Number & Institution: **C56160**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL on March 10, 2016, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for, John Lee Tiller, IDOC #C56160.

Members present were: Chairman C. Findley, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, V. Harris, T. Johnson, D. Jones, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Duncan presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

Motion to grant parole (DWD-DS). Motion carries 9-2-1. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Bowers, Mrs. Crigler, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Jones, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Shelton, and Chairman Findley. Ms. Harris abstained from the vote.

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