



STATE OF ILLINOIS
 BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Craig Findley, Chairman

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET: MEETING OF March 23, 2017

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 501 S. 2nd Street, Room 212, Illinois State Capitol Building, Springfield, Illinois, on March 23, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

C82838	Lee Jones
C10727	Ruben Taylor
C90899	Harrison Chancy
C66263	Edward Spicer
C61896	Larry Hamilton
C93447	Willie Robinson
C61253	Ricardo Norals
C68736	Daniel Vanskike
C01341	Walter McCottrell

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>
Mr. John Clough	X	
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	

14 Members Present

The Recording Secretary presented the following minutes for approval:
 Open Session Minutes from **February 23, 2017. (EC-DWD)**. Leave

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



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Inmate Name: **LEE JONES**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C82838**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 501 S. 2nd Street, Room 212, Illinois State Capitol Building, Springfield, Illinois, on March 23, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Lee Jones, IDOC #C82838.

Members present were: J. Clough, E. Crigler, 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 Lee Jones was interviewed for parole consideration at the Dixon Correctional Center on February 8, 2017. Present at the hearing were Board member Johnson and Inmate Jones. Factors considered by the Board include, but are not limited to: inmate's testimony, a review of the file, parole plans, institutional adjustment, nature of the offense, and criminal history.

Inmate Jones is currently 73-years-old, having served 40 years of two 50-100 year sentences for the Attempt Murder and Aggravated Battery with Great Bodily Harm of a Chicago police officer. He subsequently received a sentence to run consecutively of five years and six months for Escape from the Illinois Department of Corrections. Inmate Jones stated that he takes full responsibility for the shooting and expressed sincere remorse for the act as well. He maintains that the firearm went off accidentally and that the shooting was an accident.

Inmate Jones' institutional record is good. He has only received a few minor tickets over the past ten years. He currently works as a sanitation specialist in therapeutic services. Were he to parole, Inmate Jones would like to go to St. Leonard's House in Chicago. St Leonard's House has previously indicated that they would accept him should he be paroled.

Member Crigler requested to know if is parole plan was strong. Member Johnson noted that his parole plan was not strong.

Attorney Charles Scheidel spoke on behalf of Inmate Jones. He noted that that is no dispute that this was a terrible crime, but that he requests that the board consider the section of the Illinois Constitution that requires the Board to consider the seriousness of the offense and



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consideration of restoring the offender as a useful member of society. Mr. Scheidel noted that Mr. Jones could be restored, citing that Mr. Jones worked in various jobs at the facilities. In regards to Mr. Jones 1989 escape, Mr. Scheidel noted that there was no violence and the escape occurred while Mr. Jones was on a work farm. Mr. Jones simply walked off and went to his old neighborhood. If Mr. Jones was to be paroled, he would still have an additional three years for his Escape conviction to serve. Mr. Scheidel made a final plea asking that the Board look at Mr. Jones' ability to be restored to useful citizenship.

Member Shelton asked Mr. Scheidel what evidence could be provided to show that he has been restored. Member Shelton noted that nothing within the presentation shows that Mr. Jones has been restored.

Attorney Scheidel noted that Mr. Jones has a remorse for actions and recognizes that he has cause suffering by his action. Mr. Scheidel also noted that Mr. Jones has done all an IDOC inmate can do to show change: work, cause no major problems, etc. Mr. Scheidel also noted that Mr. Jones is currently in his mid-70s.

Member Shelton asked Mr. Johnson is Mr. Scheidel's assessment was correct and Mr. Jones has caused any problems. Member Johnson responded that it was in fact a fair assessment.

The Cook County State's Attorney noted that Mr. Jones admitted that he knew that the victim was a police officer, but stilled pulled his gun anyway.

Member Shelton requested to know if there was testimony or protest outside of written correspondence.

Recommendation to move to Closed Session to hear protests (DS-CF).
Return to Open Session (DS-PF)

After careful consideration, the Board feels that paroling Inmate Jones at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and bring disrespect for the law.

Motion to deny parole (TJ-DS). Motion prevails by a vote of 14 to 0. Leave.

Motion for a 2-year set (SD-TJ). Motion prevails by a vote of 11-3. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Clough, 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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Inmate Name: **RUBEN TAYLOR**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C10727**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 501 S. 2nd Street, Room 212, Illinois State Capitol Building, Springfield, Illinois, on March 23, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Ruben Taylor, IDOC #C10727.

Members present were: J. Clough, E. Crigler, 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:

Board Member Edith L. Crigler interviewed Ruben Taylor C10727 at Dixon Correctional Center on February 8, 2017. Attending the hearing were Nichole Schult, attorney, Taylor Mullaney (law student), attorney, and Allison Elder (law student), attorney.

Per Inmate Taylor, he and Donald Taylor, his brother, Michael Clark, and Nathaniel Burge left a party in Chicago on August 4, 1972. They went to the western suburbs and randomly picked a house in Barrington, Illinois to rob. Donald Taylor knocked on the front door and when a female answered, he put a gun to her face. They entered the house and put all four victims in the pantry while they took their money, watches, and jewelry. The victim's dog started barking and Donald Taylor threw an object at the dog. One of the victims, Barbara Bounds, jumped up and yelled at Donald Taylor to leave the dog alone. Inmate Taylor thought Ms. Bounds was going to try and take his gun from him and his reflexes took over and he shot her in the chest. After he shot Ms. Bounds, he walked out of the house. He states he was not involved in the death of the other three victims.

The Barrington Hills Police found .25 caliber and .30 caliber pellets and .30 caliber casings at the scene of the four murders. An investigation revealed that the .25 caliber pellets recovered from the Barrington Hills murders matched the weapon of the .25 pellets found in the murder of Ms. Kathleen Fiene, age 16, in Chicago. The investigation also revealed that the .30 caliber pellets recovered in the Barrington Hills murders were fired from the same weapon that was used to kill Michael Gerschenson on May 3, 1972 in Franklin County, Illinois.

The car of victim Michael Gerschenson was recovered burned and a laundry ticket found within the car belonged to a member of the De Mau Mau gang. Further investigation of the De Mau Mau gang and other related murders led to the arrest of Inmate Taylor and his co-offenders.



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Inmate Taylor was arrested when police noticed him and his other co-offenders in a car. Inmate Taylor later confessed to his participation in the murders of the member of the Corbett Family and to shooting Ms. Barbara Bounds with the carbine rifle. After a jury trial, Inmate Taylor was convicted of four counts of Murder and sentenced to 100 to 150 years and 20 to 60 years for Armed Robbery.

Inmate Taylor admits that he was a weak, immature, angry, and confused young man that made a poor decision which resulted in the death of four individuals. His actions many years ago weigh heavily on him and he struggles each day with what he did. He takes full responsibility for his actions and expresses remorse for what he did. He struggles to seek forgiveness and he lives daily with the knowledge that he was instrumental in destroying the lives of his victims and their families. He also acknowledges the shame he has inflicted on his own family.

Inmate Taylor's institutional adjustment has been excellent. His parole plans are to go to St Leonard's House, if accepted there; and then to go to live with his mother in Chicago, Illinois.

Member Johnson requested to know if there were any protests for this case. Member Crigler confirmed that there were protests.

Member Shelton requested to know if Mr. Taylor had information on the other two murders. Member Crigler noted that Mr. Taylor doesn't know about the other two murders as he was not there).

Motion to go into Close Session (DS-EC).
Motion to return to Open Session (DWD-DS).

Member Shelton noted that he hadn't heard the Inmate confirm if he was the first to shoot. Member Crigler stated that Mr. Jones doesn't deny that he was the first to fire.

Attorney Allison Elder spoke on behalf of Mr. Taylor. Ms. Elder noted that she would like expand on the work that Mr. Taylor has done while he has been in prison. The seriousness of Mr. Taylor's crimes is not contested and he takes complete responsibility for his actions. Ms. Elder states that Mr. Taylor is 67-years-old and has spent his time in prison transforming himself. Mr. Taylor has taken all available work opportunities and all education opportunities. Mr. Taylor is a paralegal, has an Optician Certificate, a Bachelor Degree and he has also learned C++, Java and computer programming. Mr. Taylor has held his current job for 27 years and from that job has learned accounts receivable. In addition to his achievements, Ms. Elder noted that she has received letters of support from Mr. Taylor's supervisors and parole officers. Ms. Elder also confirmed that Mr. Taylor has a strong parole plan. Mr. Taylor will reside at St. Leonard's home then move in with his mother. He will also enroll in the Roosevelt University re-entry program. If Mr. Taylor is paroled, he can take responsibility for his health care costs and can also take care of his mother.



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The Cook County State's Attorney spoke in protest of Mr. Taylor's release. She noted that both the 25 caliber gun and the 30 caliber gun were tied this murder. Additionally, the judge from the original case has sent a protest letter and Mr. Taylor's sentence was intended to keep him prison.

Member Johnson noted that Inmate Taylor was charged and probable cause was found in all three murders. Two of the charges were dropped once Mr. Taylor was sentenced for this case due to the overall length of the sentence. Member Johnson noted that he has interviewed Inmate Jones several time. He noted that Mr. Taylor was going through rough times, however most veterans of the Vietnam War did not come back and join Mau-Mau. He noted that Mr. Taylor is a wonderful person, but he can't overcome the events that he participated in and lead. Member Johnson noted that it would be a total disrespect for the law to release Mr. Taylor.

Member Shelton requested to know if there was a risk assessment completed on Mr. Taylor. Member Crigler noted that one was completed, and it show that Mr. Taylor has adaptive skills, social skills and family support.

Chairman Findley noted that while he has never met Mr. Taylor, everyone who has interviewed him is struck by Mr. Taylor and his changes.

The Prisoner Review Board conducted a thorough review of all of the relevant facts and circumstances The Board finds that paroling Inmate Taylor at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and bring disrespect for the law.

Motion to grant parole (EC-DWD). Motion does not prevail by a vote of 6 to 8. Members voting in favor of the motion are Ms. Crigler, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Harris, Ms. Martinez, Ms. 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
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Inmate Name: **HARRISON CHANCY**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C90899**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 501 S. 2nd Street, Room 212, Illinois State Capitol Building, Springfield, Illinois, on March 23, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Harrison Chancy, IDOC #C90899.

Members present were: J. Clough, E. Crigler, 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 Harrison Chancy entered the Illinois Department of Corrections after being sentenced to 100-300 years for Murder; 25-50 years for Armed Robbery, and 5–15 years for Burglary. At the time of his conviction he had previously been twice convicted of Burglary in Will County (probation), Possession of Cannabis (fine), and Battery (6 months in IDOC).

Cook County's Statement of Facts reports that Inmate Chancy was one of three offenders who forced their way into the home of Emmanuel and Lillian Slivinski in Lemont, Illinois on the morning of May 28, 1977. The Slivinskis were held at gunpoint by Inmate Chancy as they were made to sit on their couch. They were also made to wear pillowcases over their heads as two of the offenders, still unidentified to date, ransacked the house.

After Mr. Slivinski began praying in Polish, the offenders began to beat him. Inmate Chancy was heard to say, "***I'm a religious man too, but the man upstairs will not help you today.***" The offenders took cash that the victims had been saving for their 40th wedding anniversary, as well as other property, from the home and the Slivinskis were tied up.

Harrison Chancy shot Mr. Slivinski once in the head, blinding him instantly. The offenders then left with no further injury inflicted upon Mrs. Chancy. *Testimony was heard this date from a relative of the victims that Mr. Slivinski, prior to being shot, had pleaded that his wife not be harmed.*

Mrs. Slivinski managed to free herself and summon help. Mr. Slivinski died of his injuries two months later - August 2, 1977 – paralyzed, and having never regained his sight. Mrs. Slivinski was unable to return to her home for many months following this crime, having to be moved from home to home within the family. *The Board is aware of testimony from family*



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members regarding her fear (until the time of her death) that the co-offenders, having never been identified, would return.

The crimes went unsolved for six months, during which time Mrs. Slivinski was shown as many fifty photographs. Mrs. Slivinski recognized offender Chancy from a 5-photo line-up on November 30, 1977. She subsequently identified him from an in-person line up four months later on April 4, 1978.

Inmate Chancy was convicted during a jury trial. The trial included testimony from the Lemont Police Chief, regarding a pre-trial statement from Inmate Chancy that his memory was jogged by the mention of Memorial Day Weekend, that he got high every weekend on drugs, that it was entirely possible that he could have committed this murder and not remembered that he did it when he was high, and that he remembered that he was high that weekend.

The trial also included testimony from another inmate of the Will County Jail, where Inmate Chancy had been held prior to trial. This inmate said he had been asked by Inmate Chancy to go to court in Inmate Chancy's place in order to defeat the identification procedure. The jailhouse witness also testified that Inmate Chancy admitted involvement in the crime.

During the trial, Mrs. Slivinski identified Inmate Chancy in courtroom. Inmate Chancy was convicted of the charges brought against him. He appealed his conviction and in 1980 his conviction was affirmed by the Appellate Court.

Inmate Chancy, over most of his incarceration, has claimed to be innocent of this crime. In 2006, however, he submitted a Petition for Executive Clemency in which he admitted his guilt, with the caveat that his shooting of Mr. Slivinski was accidental. He cited his acceptance of God and the necessity to *"let go of (his) selfishness and (his) dishonesty."*

In April of 2008, however, Inmate Chancy withdrew his Petition. He renewed his claim of innocence, stating that he admitted guilt out of desperation to be released because his mother was dying of cancer. In 2014, he stated that he was convinced by a "jailhouse lawyer" that such an admission was the only hope of being granted a release before his mother's passing. That explanation is unchanged today. Inmate Chancy's mother died on December 15, 2007. He withdrew his petition on April 2, 2008. According to testimony at his 2017 hearing, he obtained legal assistance in 2008 to work toward his exoneration.

More recently, in April of 2016, and after being reminded of the voluntary nature of the process, Inmate Chancy submitted to a risk assessment. The subsequent interview resulted in two particular notations that are part of that record. In the context of AGGRESSION: *"He stated that he was young when he committed the crime but he does take responsibility for his actions...."* and in the context of ATTITUDES: *"He admits his crime but wants to move forward in a positive direction if released."* Each of these statements appears to be in context of generally positive remarks but their meaning seems clear – and, once again, in conflict with previous assertions. The formal assessment of the risk of recidivism is overall HIGH.



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The Board took a detailed look at Inmate Chancy's institutional record, finding the most recent ten years to be good – an encouraging departure from earlier years. His most recent detention in the Segregation Unit was in February of 2007. There has only been one minor violation since that time. After a reduction in charges from one particular discipline report, there remain only four IDRs throughout Inmate Chancy's incarceration that involve violence or the threats of violence, the most recent occurring in 2006. Drug-related violations have not continued past February of 1997.

Inmate Chancy enjoys substantial support from family members, in addition to receiving the unofficial support of current and former staff members of the Department of Corrections, per his submission of documents to the Board. One high-ranking correctional officer gave in-person testimony in advance of the *en banc* hearing this date, reflecting on Inmate Chancy's reliability as Shift Office Porter and his trustworthiness in that capacity. Inmate Chancy has a more than acceptable parole plan.

Member Johnson requested to know there were any protests for this case. Member Shelton noted that not only were there protests, but that there were many protests.

Member Crigler noted that she had voted for Mr. Chancy in the past and will continue to support him. He was an 18-19-year-old kid who was addicted to drugs at the time of the offense. He is off of drugs and has even earned good time while he has been in prison. Member Crigler noted that the board should look at his potential positive parole outcomes.

Member Martinez questioned Mr. Chancy's work experience and problem-solving abilities. Member Shelton noted that Mr. Chancy has been a valuable employee and has had several jobs in the institutions. Mr. Chancy's problem-solving abilities were positive and Mr. Chancy also has good coping skills.

Motion to Move to Closed Session (CF-SD)

Motion to Return to Open Session (DS-PF)

Attorney Tepher spoke on behalf of Mr. Chancy. He noted that he has been representing Mr. Chancy for almost an entire decade. He requested the date of Mr. Chancy's risk assessment. Member Shelton advised that the risk assessment was completed by IDOC on April 8, 2016. Mr. Tepher notes that the past 13 years have been the most difficult for Mr. Chancy. Mr. Chancy knows that there is no way by which he can prove his innocence, as there is no DNA to test and the fingerprint evidence was destroyed by the State Police. Mr. Tepher noted that there is very little benefit to Mr. Chancy maintaining his innocence at this point. Attorney Tepher stated that the defendant was denied parole in 2013 by a vote of 6 to 7 and in 2014 he was again denied parole by a vote of 4 to 10. In 2014 he was given a 3-year set. Mr. Tepher received no information that Inmate Chancy was interviewed for his risk assessment. It is the belief of Mr. Tepher that there is a strong possibility that that assessor simply looked at Mr. Chancy's case and made an assessment.



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Chairman Findley noted that the assessor did not examine Mr. Chancy's case or clemency petition for the risk assessment, and confirmed that an interview of the offender is completed.

Attorney Tepher noted that Mr. Chancy is remorseful. He is unsophisticated and naive, which led to his action that he put forth in his clemency petition. Mr. Tepher asks the board to not view his claim of innocence as a lack of remorse.

Chairman Findley asked Attorney Tepher if there were any issues or admissions in Member Shelton's presentation of Mr. Chancy's case.

Mr. Tepher noted that eight different correctional officers have stated that Mr. Chancy is trustworthy. While this was an extraordinarily serious offense, releasing Mr. Chancy now, as opposed to three years from now make no real difference.

Member Shelton noted that he felt that Mr. Chancy was being manipulative only due to the fact that his story keeps changing.

Mr. Schultz, grandson of the victim, spoke in protest of Mr. Chancy's release. He noted that this has been a nightmare for his family for the past 40 years and that the impact was significant. His family is a strong, faith-based family and they can forgive; however, they cannot completely forgive this case due to the heinous nature of the crime. Coming back every three years is like pulling a scab off of an open wound, and it puts stress on the family. However, they protest every time because the victim and his wife were extremely important. The emotional stress of their loss is hard and continual. Because Mr. Chancy never gave up his accomplices, his family provides constant fear for the family as they know they are still out there. Mr. Chancy made threats to their family and they are unsure how he will react as he comes out of prison. Mr. Schultz asks that the board consider his flip-flop as the admission of his guilt, the threats of retaliation, the fear held by the family, the heinous nature of the crime, and all of the pain and torment that the victim's family has endured for the past 40 years.

Member Shelton noted that this is a very serious crime and he has an issue due to the story changing, but notes that Mr. Chancy has behaved well for the past ten years.

Member Diaz noted that it is not unusual for an inmate to get along with the prison staff and vice-versa, as it happens a lot. Member Diaz noted that he has problems with this case, particularly, Mr. Chancy's failure to take responsibility and his failure to identify his co-offenders. This was a cold-blooded execution and the effect on the victim's family and the community need to be considered.

Member Shelton noted that Mr. Chancy's clemency petition stated that he only killed on person, not both, which ring toward an accidental admission, not a cold-blooded killing.



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The victim's daughter noted that her father had pled for Mr. Chancy to leave his mother alone due to her health and heart condition.

Chairman Findley noted that the Board sets conditions every day, but they have no idea what the inmates are going to do. Recidivism, especially with a violent past, is almost non-existent. Deciding to release offender such as Mr. Chancy is the most difficult decision, especially when the family is still alive. The Board is unable to understand the true pain of the victim's family. For Mr. Chancy the Board would have to accept the risk for his parole and consider if he will do no harm.

A decision to parole Harrison Chancy continues to be difficult, notwithstanding the aforementioned evidence of support, the submission of a good parole plan, and record of improved behavior. A majority of the board members are unable to reconcile the brutal and arbitrary nature of this attack upon the Slivinskis with Inmate Chancy's inconsistent statements of responsibility. Therefore, the Board finds that to release Inmate Chancy at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law.

Motion to deny parole (DS-TJ). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 2. 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 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 23, 2017

Inmate Name: **EDWARD SPICER**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C66263**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 501 S. 2nd Street, Room 212, Illinois State Capitol Building, Springfield, Illinois, on March 23, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Edward Spicer, IDOC #C66263.

Members present were: J. Clough, E. Crigler, 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:

Edward Spicer was interviewed for consideration of parole on February 8, 2017 at Lawrence Correctional Center. He is a 66-year-old African-American male, who has been in the custody of the Illinois Department of Corrections since December 10, 1975. Inmate Spicer is currently serving an aggregated sentence of 410-830 years for Murder/Intent to Kill/Injure (400 years) in St. Clair County, Murder/Intent to Kill/Injure (45 years) in Cook County, Armed Robbery (30 years) in St. Clair County, Attempted Murder/Intent to Kill/Injure (30 years) in St. Clair County, and Murder/Intent to Kill/Injure (400 years) in St. Clair County.

It appears that Inmate Spicer is a habitual criminal. He has no respect for the law, as evidenced by his long and extensive criminal history. He has already been paroled twice within the State of Illinois. At the age of seventeen, Inmate Spicer was arrested in October of 1967 for the crimes of Rape and Robbery and was sentenced to four to eight years in prison for those crimes. Only two years later, he was convicted of Deviate Sexual Assault and was sentenced to one year in Cook County Jail, to be served concurrently with his previous case. Inmate Spicer was paroled in July of 1972 and within two months of his release, he was again arrested for Rape and Armed Robbery. In June of 1974, Inmate Spicer pled guilty to rape and was sentenced to four years. He was paroled in 1975 and within one month of release, he was arrested again for gambling.

Approximately two months after his arrest for gambling, he and an accomplice, entered a tavern in Chicago with the intent to rob the location. During the robbery four men were shot as they were lying face down on the ground. Two of the victims died as a result of the shooting. Only a week after the shootings in Chicago, Inmate Spicer and two accomplices went to St. Clair County where two additional men were killed. In his testimony during his interview, Inmate Spicer indicated that he was innocent of the case from St. Clair County and stated that he is



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“ignorant of the facts of the law.” However, he does admit to be guilty in the Cook County double murder conviction. When asked about his prior criminal history, Inmate Spicer indicated that he did not want to say anything. He did appeal the St. Clair County cases all the way to the United States Supreme Court and his case was denied. He just wants, as he says, “to be told that I get paroled or not.”

Regarding his family history, he noted that both of his parents are deceased. Inmate Spicer says that he has three brothers and four sisters. He claims that his brothers and sisters are supportive of him and have contact with him. He stated that he speaks to them regularly on the phone. Inmate Spicer has two sisters and one brother who reside in Chicago, and if released he would live with his brother in Chicago. His brother and his wife have allegedly agreed to having Inmate Spicer reside with them in their home. His final comment was that “[he] doesn’t deserve parole for his crime in Chicago.”

In reviewing Inmate Spicer’s contacts with the Prisoner Review Board, he has been considered better than 20 times before the board and has never received a single vote. The record shows that he has a history of refusal to be interviewed by various board members. Additionally, in the last seven times that Inmate Spicer was considered by the Board, he has received a three-year set each time. At the start of the interview, which Inmate Spicer almost refused to participate in, and during the interview, he appeared to be reluctant to actively engage in the interview and was a bit abrasive in his presentation.

Inmate Spicer’s institutional adjustment has been less than exemplary. He was transferred to Lawrence Correctional Center on March 3, 2010 as the result of a major IDR at Hill Correctional Center for fighting. He received one minor IDR on March 15, 2015 for contraband. Since his last appearance before the Prisoner Review Board, Inmate Spicer has been assigned as a porter in laundry, but currently is unassigned. He has not participated in any institutional programming and has not had a visitor since 2007.

The Board discussed this case during *en banc*. It was determined that parole would deprecate the seriousness of the offenses and promote disrespect for the law.

Motion to deny parole (DWD-TJ). Motion prevails by a vote of 14 to 0. Leave.

Member Shelton noted that the crimes were extremely brutal and that the Chicago victim was 73 and blind. Member Shelton also noted that the co-victim was old and blind as well. Both were beaten and killed because they failed to say where their money was.

Motion for a 3-year set (DWD-TJ). Motion prevails by a vote of 14 to 0. Leave.

Discussion was made for a 5-year set by the board. Member Harris requested to know why a 5-year set was being considered. Member Fished noted that Mr. Spicer said himself that he doesn’t deserve to be released. Member Crigler stated that the board agreed 5-year sets would only be used in cases of extreme circumstances.



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Another motion was a made for 5-year set (DS-JC). Motion does not prevail by a vote of 6 to 8. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Clough, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Ms. 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.”



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Craig Findley, Chairman

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— MARCH 23, 2017

Inmate Name: **LARRY HAMILTON** IDOC Number & Institution: **C61896**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 501 S. 2nd Street, Room 212, Illinois State Capitol Building, Springfield, Illinois, on March 23, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Larry Hamilton, IDOC #C61896.

Members present were: J. Clough, E. Crigler, 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:

A parole assessment interview was conducted with Larry Hamilton on February 8, 2017. Inmate Hamilton was born on March 23, 1954, is currently sixty-three years of age, and was a resident of Lawrenceville Correctional Center on the date of the interview. Inmate Hamilton is serving a sentence of 1250-2500 years for Murder, a sentence of 75-150 years for Attempt Murder, and a sentence of 5-15 years for Attempt Aggravated Kidnapping (Cook County 78-C-0466). All these sentences are to run concurrently. Factors considered by the Board include, but are not limited to, testimony from Inmate Hamilton, a review of the file, the nature of the crime, the sentence for the offense, institutional adjustment, and parole plans.

The file and record reveal that on January 19, 1978, at approximately 2:00 a.m., a vehicle, being driven by Larry Hamilton and occupied by Co-Defendant Willie Robinson and passenger Marcea Holman, was on I-94 near Harvey, Illinois and rear ended a vehicle being driven by Mark Furman and also occupied by his wife Claudia Furman. At the time of this incident, Inmate Hamilton was twenty-three years of age and on parole for a prior conviction of Attempt Murder (Cook County 74-6682). Following the accident, both drivers exited their vehicles to inspect the damages and then both returned to their respective cars. At this time, Claudia Furman made note of the license plate number of the vehicle driven by Larry Hamilton which ultimately proved crucial to solving this crime and offense. A few minutes later, Larry Hamilton and Co-Defendant Willie Robinson exited their vehicle and approached the vehicle occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Furman and with Larry Hamilton walking up on the driver's side of the Furman vehicle and Willie Robinson walking up on the passenger side of the Furman vehicle. Both Larry Hamilton and Willie Robinson began firing shots from their weapons into the Furman vehicle. Mr. Furman sustained eleven bullet wounds and died as a result of these injuries. Mrs. Furman sustained two bullet wounds from the gunfire. She also suffered numerous head wounds after beaten in the head by Willie Robinson with the butt of his gun,



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requiring 75 stitches. During a jury trial, substantial evidence was presented and Inmate Hamilton was found guilty of Murder, Attempt Murder, and Attempt Aggravated Kidnapping. On November 28, 1979, Inmate Hamilton received a sentence of 1250-2500 years for Murder, a sentence of 75-100 years for Attempt Murder, and a sentence of 5-15 years for Attempt Aggravated Kidnapping, with all sentences to run concurrent (Cook County 78-C-0466).

Inmate Hamilton admits that he was the driver of the vehicle that rear ended Mr. Furman car and he further admits that he approached the Furman vehicle and “emptied his gun on Mr. Furman”, but stated that this action on his part resulted because he thought Mr. Furman was reaching toward the floor of his vehicle for a weapon. Inmate Hamilton stated that we would not have “got caught” if Mrs. Furman had not written down the license plate number. Inmate Hamilton did state that he felt remorse for his actions.

The parole assessment as completed by the Illinois Department of Corrections would indicate that the institutional adjustment of Inmate Hamilton has been marginal at best during his past 38 years of incarceration. With the exception of obtaining his GED, Inmate Hamilton has not enrolled in or taken advantage of other programs. Inmate Hamilton has also received numerous disciplinary reports but only three IDR tickets within the past three years. In 1996, and during his current term of incarceration, Inmate Hamilton was convicted of Aggravated Battery/Peace Officer and received a sentence of seven years which is to be served consecutive to the current sentence of Inmate Hamilton (Fulton County 96-CF-242). Inmate Hamilton reported that he is in good health and further reported that he does not have a current work assignment.

Inmate Hamilton stated that his parents are deceased, but that he has four siblings living in the area of Kansas City, Missouri. Inmate Hamilton advised that he was formerly married to Maria Hamilton but that they were divorced in 1981. Inmate Hamilton noted that he has two sons by a prior relationship, Michael who lives in Atlanta, GA and Norris who lives in Springfield, MO. Inmate Hamilton stated that his sons often visit him on his birthday. Inmate Hamilton was pleasant, polite and attentive during the parole interview. Inmate Hamilton did not relate any specific parole plans, but indicated that he thought he should receive favorable parole consideration since he would no longer be a danger or threat to society.

After a complete review, and after giving consideration to all factors, the Board voted to deny parole. The Board feels that a release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of this offense and crime and promote a lack of respect for the law.

The Board considered all relevant information during the *en banc* Session. It was determined that parole at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the law and promote disrespect for the law.

Motion to deny parole (WN-TJ). Motion prevails by a vote of 14 to 0. Leave.



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Motion for a 3-year set (WN-TJ). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 2. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Clough, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Dunn, 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 23, 2017

Inmate Name: **WILLIE ROBINSON** IDOC Number & Institution: **C93447**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 501 S. 2nd Street, Room 212, Illinois State Capitol Building, Springfield, Illinois, on March 23, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Willie Robinson, IDOC #C93447.

Members present were: J. Clough, E. Crigler, 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:

Willie Robinson was interviewed on February 16, 2017 at Menard Correctional Center. The following items were taken into consideration: current status, the inmate's version of events, prior criminal history, institutional adjustment, family history, and parole plans.

Per the program report completed on Willie Robinson, he is a 67-year-old African-American male who is serving a sentence of 1000 years for Murder. Inmate Robinson was admitted to IDOC on November 30, 1979, and his last transfer to Menard Correctional Center occurred on November 5, 1999. Inmate Robinson's last IDR was on August 19, 2003. He is currently working in the clothing room as a tailor, and has displayed a positive adjustment inside the walls of Menard Correctional Center.

In his assessment, it was noted that Inmate Robinson currently has an active federal warrant. He is a maximum security inmate, A grade, with a moderate escape risk and a low aggression score. He is currently housed in general population, maintains a work assignment, and has not been disciplined in the past thirteen years.

According to the file, Inmate Robinson is serving a sentence for Murder (500-1000 years), Attempted Murder (150-300 years), and Attempted Kidnapping (6 years, 8 months–20 years). All sentenced are to be served concurrently. These sentences were handed down on November 28, 1979 in Cook County Court under indictment number 78-C-0466.

On January 19, 1978 at 2:00 a.m., Inmate Robinson was traveling with his codefendant, Larry Hamilton, on Interstate 94 near 146th Street in Harvey, Illinois. The two men were traveling in a 1975 Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham that was registered to Inmate Hamilton's mother. Inmate Hamilton was driving the car when he rear-ended a green 1977 Chevrolet



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Caprice Classic which was occupied by Mark Furman, the driver, and his wife, Claudia Furman. Inmate Hamilton's car rear-ended the Furman's car and shoved their car into the guardrail. The drivers of both cars exited their vehicles and went to inspect the damage incurred by the Furman's car. During this time, Mrs. Furman wrote down the license plate number and the make of the car that rear-ended them.

After a brief period, both Inmate Hamilton and Inmate Robinson approached the Furman's car, pulling out their loaded revolvers and firing at the Furman's car. Mr. Furman was killed and Mrs. Furman was shot and injured from this attack. Inmate Robinson took Mrs. Furman's purse and drug her from the car, telling her "You are coming with us." After the struggle, Inmate Robinson yelled to Inmate Hamilton, "I have to take care of this bitch." Inmate Robinson then took the handle of his gun and hit Mrs. Furman on the head eight times with the butt end of his gun. During this attack, Mrs. Furman was able to look at the clock in the car and notate the time that this incident occurred, 2:15 a.m.

When police arrived, Mrs. Furman was able to provide the police with the information she had, which lead to the arrest of Inmate Robinson and Inmate Hamilton shortly thereafter.

The autopsy showed that Mr. Furman had been shot a total of eleven time. Mrs. Furman was shot twice and required 75 stitches in order to sew up her head injuries. Both of the assailants went to trial and were found guilty by a jury. Both appealed their verdict and both sentences were sustained.

During the interview with Inmate Robinson, he indicated that he has five brothers and six sisters. He noted that he was born in Mississippi and that he has many family members that can provide financial support for him. Inmate Robinson stated, "I never shot the victim." He said that he was in the car and heard a lot of shots being fired at the time Mr. Furman was killed. Inmate Robinson did admit to shooting Mrs. Furman, but stated that he did not grab ahold of her body.

Throughout the interview Inmate Robinson was very calm, but did appear to be indifferent as to the outcome of his parole hearing. His affect was very flat, with no sign of emotion or remorse. While Inmate Robinson did take ownership of shooting Mrs. Furman, he claimed absolutely no ownership in murder of Mr. Furman.

Inmate Robinson's last visit was on January 22, 2015, by his brother, Stanley Robinson, and his sister, Dorothy Haggard. Per the Supplemental Program Consideration from Menard Correctional Center, there were no recommendations regarding the future plans of Inmate Robinson. When asked about his post-incarceration plans, he offered no plans.

Upon considering all the factors: a thorough review of the file, the inmate's version of the committing offense, his institutional adjustment, the nature of the sentence, results of the SPIN Full Assessment, the fact that he has never received a vote for parole, the number of past three-year sets, and the fact that the judge attempted to send a message in the very length of the



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sentence; to consider parole would deprecate the seriousness of the offenses and promote disrespect for the law.

Member Crigler requested to know if the victim was shot eleven times. Member Dunn confirmed that Mr. Furman was shot eleven times and Mrs. Furman was shot two times.

Motion to deny parole (DWD-EC). Motion prevails by a vote of 14 to 0. Leave.

Motion for a 5-year set (WDW-EC). Motion does not prevail by a vote of 1 to 13. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Norton and Ms. Perkins.

Another motion was made for a 3-year set (DWD-EC). Motion prevails by a vote of 14 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 23, 2017

Inmate Name: **RICARDO NORALS** IDOC Number & Institution: **C61253**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 501 S. 2nd Street, Room 212, Illinois State Capitol Building, Springfield, Illinois, on March 23, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Ricardo Norals, IDOC #C61253.

Members present were: J. Clough, E. Crigler, 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:

A parole assessment interview was conducted with Ricardo Norals on February 15, 2017. Inmate Norals was born on December 20, 1955 is currently sixty-one (61) years of age. He was a resident of Shawnee Correctional Center on the date of the interview. Inmate Norals is serving a sentence of 100-200 years for Murder, a sentence of 100-200 years for Attempt Murder, and a sentence of 100-200 years for Rape. All of the above sentences are to run concurrent. Factors considered by the Board include, but are not limited to: testimony of the inmate, a review of the file, the nature of the crime and offenses, the sentence for the crime and offenses, institutional adjustment, and parole plans.

The file and record indicate that on or about November 25, 1974, when Inmate Norals was eighteen (18) years of age, he, Co-Defendant James Brimmer, and a third unknown assailant who has never been identified or charged, gained access to the apartment of thirty-five-year-old Joyce Britt located at 2132 W. Crystal Street in Chicago, Illinois. Pamela Britt, the sixteen-year-old daughter of Joyce Britt, was also present at the apartment. Inmate Norals was known to Pamela Britt and she was able to later identify him to police authorities. During the Attempted Robbery, both Joyce Britt and Pamela Britt were beaten and raped. Sixteen-year-old Pamela Britt was raped by Inmate Norals, Co-Defendant Brimmer, and the third unknown assailant. At the conclusion of the sexual attacks, the mother, Joyce Britt, was shot five times, once above her left eye, once in the right chest and three times in the right abdomen. Joyce Britt died as a result of the multiple gunshot wounds. In an attempt to silence the sole remaining witness, sixteen-year-old Pamela Britt was also shot five times, where she sustained wounds to her neck and legs. Pamela Britt survived this attack by pretending to be dead.

Following a bench trial, Inmate Norals was found guilty of Murder, Attempt Murder, and Rape. On or about April 8, 1976, Inmate Norals was sentenced to 100-200 years for Murder,



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100-200 years for Attempt Murder, and 100-200 years for Rape, with all the above sentences to run concurrent (Cook Co. 75-731). Inmate Norals continues to maintain his innocence and continues to deny any involvement or knowledge about the crime or events involving the crime. The letters of protest from the State's Attorney of Cook County and opposition to the possible parole of Inmate Norals was noted and taken into consideration.

Inmate Norals reported that he was in good health and has received his GED during his period of incarceration. His institutional adjustment has shown improvement in recent years as Inmate Norals has only received seven disciplinary reports since 2000 and has not received any disciplinary reports since 2014. Inmate Norals does not have a current work assignment but has previously worked as a janitor.

Inmate Norals advised that he has never been married and does not have any children. His parents are both deceased and his closest relatives are his two brothers and two sisters. The last time Inmate Norals had a visitor was his niece in 1999. Inmate Norals did not have any specific parole plan but advised that if he were to be granted parole he could maybe reside with his sister.

After a complete review, and after giving consideration to all factors, the Board determined that parole at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the law and promote disrespect for the law. The Board continues to be concerned by the serious and senseless nature of and exceptional brutality of this crime and offense and by the continued refusal on the part of Inmate Norals to accept any responsibility for his actions.

Motion to deny parole (WN-DS). Motion prevails by a vote of 14 to 0. Leave.

Member Johnson requested to know when the co-defendant Brimmer was up for re-hearing in order to spare the victims.

Motion for a 5-year set (WN-TJ). Motion prevails by a vote of 11 to 3. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Clough, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Ms. 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 23, 2017

Inmate Name: **DANIEL VANSKIKE** IDOC Number & Institution: **C68736**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 501 S. 2nd Street, Room 212, Illinois State Capitol Building, Springfield, Illinois, on March 23, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Daniel Vanskike, IDOC #C68736.

Members present were: J. Clough, E. Crigler, 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 Daniel Vanskike C-68736, is a white male who was born on January 13, 1955. His birth name is Kenneth Rae Hilliard and he is currently 62 years of age. Inmate Vanskike was born and raised in Decatur, IL. Inmate Vanskike was taken from his birth parents at the age of two. He was adopted by Denzel Henry and Helen Martha Vanskike at the age of five. After the adoption, his parents changed his name to Daniel Lee Vanskike. Both of his adoptive parents are deceased. Inmate Vanskike never met his biological parents, nor has he had any connection with his siblings from his biological parents. He has one brother who was adopted by another family, now deceased and a sister whom he has never met. He is currently married to Celeste Vanskike and they have been married for 20 years. His first marriage was to Kathy Diane Brimm and they divorced in 1977. Inmate Vanskike has two daughters with whom he has no communication with. Inmate Vanskike has been in custody since September 9, 1976 and is currently serving 40 years.

In January and April of 1976, at the age of 20, Inmate Vanskike was convicted of Aggravated Kidnapping (30-60 years), Burglary (5-15 years), Aggravated Battery (2-10 years), Attempted Rape (5-15 years) for the first offense. For the second offense, Inmate Vanskike was convicted of Aggravated Kidnap (3 years, 4 months-10 years), Rape/Deviate Sexual Assault (50-75 years), Aggravated Battery (1-10 years). Note: Case 76-CF-237 is consecutive to case 76-CF-236 which went to trial first. I will use the initials of the victims name while presenting this case. **(Victim 1)** S.W (76-CF-236), Sue Winick, 18 years of age, was out with a male friend on the evening of April 27, 1976. Around 9:00 p.m., she returned home to her apartment. In the early morning hours, around 1 a.m., she woke up to see someone kneeling over her. At first she



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thought it was her roommate, then suddenly her covers were being removed and a man started to feel her body, she began to scream. He put a knife to the victim and threatened to kill her.

S.W.'s immediately recognized the assailant to be her neighbor, Daniel Vanskike. He then put a rope around her neck, drawing it tight and placing panty hose into her mouth. The victim, S.W. was unable to breath so Inmate Vanskike removed the panty hose from her mouth as long as she promised not to scream. He ordered her out of the window that he climbed through, jumped into his car and drove away. The victim also recalls, that Inmate Vanskike had helped her get into her apartment several days prior as she was locked out and said that she needed to get better locks. They drove along Greenswitch Road, Inmate Vanskike pulled to the side of the road, ordered her to remove her blouse. He fondled her, S.W. told Inmate Vanskike that she was on her menstrual cycle and couldn't have sex with him. She promised to meet him at the Maid-Rite sandwich shop on Monday.

Inmate Vanskike told S.W. that he had come from Texas and recently raped several women and had not been caught. He also said that she should be glad his partner is not with him otherwise she would have been raped and killed. S.W. stated that Inmate Vanskike blamed her for the abduction and rape because he had been able to watch her undress through her bedroom window for several weeks. S. W. said he had taken \$15 from her purse. The automobile ran out of gas at the location off Greenswitch road and Inmate Vanskike walked backed to the apartment, carry her on his back part of the way because she had no shoes. Once there he returned \$10.00 to her, telling her he needed \$5.00 to get gas for the car. He made her give him the blouse which was bloody and he said he didn't want her roommate to see it.

After Inmate Vanskike had left, S. W. awakened her roommates and called the police. S. W. lived in apartment #102 and Inmate Vanskike lived in #110 with his wife, Cathy. (2) Victim S. G. (76-CF-237) , Susan Grandon, 22 year old female lived at Moundford Terrace Apartments in Decatur, IL . On February 13, 1976, in the evening, she went to a basketball game at the Warrensburg High School and stopped on the way home to visit briefly with her parents. When she arrived home, she removed two boxes from the car and went toward the door of the apartment, carrying boxes. As she approached the outer door, an assailant struck her on the back of her head with a monkey wrench rendering her unconscious.

Inmate Vanskike lifted her up and she began to scream- he placed his hands over her mouth, threatened her to keep quiet while dragging her to the car. S.G.'s car was a 1967 Plymouth Belvedere. He got into the back seat, forced her to drive with his hands around her throat. He soon took over driving to a side road, Greenwitch Road in Decatur. He assured, S.G. that he understood how she felt while trying to relieve her tears. He made threats of killing her, but said that would be pointless. Eventually, he removed her blouse and forced her to disrobe completely. He also took off his clothing and asked S. G. to perform oral sex and vaginally raped her. After the sexual assault, both got dressed and he drove her to her car to the Moundford Apartments. He told her that he had been identified before by women he had raped but not charged and that reporting to the police would cause her more trouble than him. At the



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apartment complex, he parked on the north end of the buildings, explaining he did not want to be seen by anyone else.

Having repeatedly tried to call S. G., her boyfriend, John traveled to her apartment and found her crying and bleeding from a laceration on her head. She told him she had been abducted and raped. The two went immediately to Decatur Memorial Hospital where she was treated and where she gave her first statement to the police. Inmate Vanskike was picked up by authorities and gave a full confession to both incidents of both women. Additionally, he confessed to several burglaries including at least one residential burglary. He also admitted to unrelated incident in which the abduction attempt had been reported earlier in Decatur on West Prairie Street. He denied abduction but said he had knocked the female down to rob her of her purse but a man was approaching and he had to run to get away. When asked about the other crimes he might have committed, he said he had killed at least four people in Texas while there in the Army at Fort Bliss.

Inmate Vanskike was born Kenneth Ray Hilliard. He was adopted by the Vanskikes at the age of 5 and his name was changed. His adoptive parents are both deceased and he describes their relationship as emotionally distant, never receiving love. He resented his adoptive mother because he perceived that she required his adoptive father to beat him and if not she withheld sexual relations until he was sufficiently punished. He realized sex could be used as a weapon says this contributed to him becoming a serial rapist. He realizes that was distorted thinking. He also states that he grew to hate adults because was separated from his biological family. He wanted to know his family.

On September 7, 1976, Daniel Lee Vanskike was sentenced for the following crimes of Agg. Kidnapping (30-60 years), Burglary (5-15 years), and Agg. Battery (2-10 years); all sentences to run concurrent. Case # 76-CF-237 Att. Rape, (5-15 years) and Agg. Batt. (3-4 years), Agg Kidnapping (10 years), Rape(50-75 years), and Sexual Devianted Assault (50-75 years), all sentences to run concurrent.

On April 20, 1978, while incarcerated, Inmate Vanskike stabbed another inmate in the chest with a knife of a sharpened wire. The resulting charge of Armed Violence (20 years) was vacated on 6/20/89. The charge of Attempt Murder was dismissed prior to trial. Eventually, the entire conviction was voided when a Federal Court overturned the conviction for a "double enhancement" issue and the state did not retry the case.

Institutional Adjustment:

- Licensed ordained Minister
- Mentors
- Studies the bible
- No IDR's since 2005
- Sex Offender Programs consistently meeting weekly
- Completed GED in 1979



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- Associates in General Studies
- Certificates in Vocational Training, Construction, Paralegal, Certified Commercial Custodian

SPIN ASSESSMENT:

A psychiatric evaluation was requested 1-19-17 and 3/24/17

The results of the SPIN are as follows:

- The attitude domain suggests concerns with identifying values, beliefs or sentiments that promote either pro-social or anti-social behavior. However, Daniel Lee demonstrates a desire to live in a law-abiding manner.
- He indicates an awareness of harm to the victims
- He blames the harm that was caused to the victims on his parents treatment of him.
- Adaptive skills : appears to vary good at manipulation
- He able to provide basic needs for himself; survival, living independently, positive community adjustment
- No health concerns, some mental health indicators due to emotional abuse from parents.

SPIN Assessment indicates moderate risk level

If granted parole, Inmate Vanskike plans to live in Kentucky with his wife, Celeste: attend counseling through church; classes for Anger Management, and Sex Offender Counseling. He has a job lined up for Berry's sandwiches and subs.

Member Shelton requested to confirm that Mr. Vanskike had been married for 20 years. Member Harris noted that he had been married for 20 years and had met his wife in the institution. Member Shelton also requested to know if Mr. Vanskike had also been ordained for 20 years as well. Member Harris confirmed that he had been.

Member Perkins requested to know the age that Mr. Vanskike was at the time of the offense. Member Harris replied that he was 20 at the time of the offense.

Member Crigler requested to know he had other rapes in Texas and he admits to being a serial rapist. Member Harris stated that he admitted to being a serial rapist and that he has admitted to killing at least 4 people.

To parole Inmate Vanskike at this time would not only deprecate the seriousness of the offense, but promote disrespect for the law, given all the information provided, the nature of the offense, the risk assessment, letters of behalf and protest, institutional adjustment, and parole plans and under careful consideration to public safety.

Motion to deny parole (VH-CF). Motion prevails by a vote of 14 to 0. Leave.

Motion for a 3-year set (VH-AMP). Motion prevails by a vote of 14 to 0. Leave.



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“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
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Inmate Name: **WALTER MCCOTTRELL** IDOC Number & Institution: **C01341**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 501 S. 2nd Street, Room 212, Illinois State Capitol Building, Springfield, Illinois, on March 23, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Walter McCottrell, IDOC #C01341.

Members present were: J. Clough, E. Crigler, 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 Walter Lee McCottrell, C-Case 01341, is an African American male, age 68, who was born on February 22, 1949 to Samella McCottrell and father, Linwood McCottrell in East St. Louis, IL. Both parents are now deceased. Inmate McCottrell's mother died in 2003 of dementia and his father died in 1988 of a heart attack. Inmate McCottrell has three brothers and one sister who are all deceased. He was the youngest of all of his siblings. At the age of seventeen, Inmate McCottrell married Martena McCottrell who was pregnant with their child. Inmate McCottrell dropped out of school in the 11th grade to find work. He attended Assumption High School in East St. Louis.

After Inmate McCottrell dropped out of high school to get married and help support his family, he obtained work through odd jobs such as walking horses and stocking groceries. This is the first time that Inmate McCottrell has been heard by the Illinois Prisoner Review Board due to his escape from Statesville Correctional Center in 1976. While incarcerated, Inmate McCottrell met Jane Ann Swim. The two met at the California Medical Facility during her work with the chronic schizophrenic population. She is a retired teacher and Program Director for the Oakland Unified School District. They married in 1990. In a letter of support written from Inmate McCottrell's wife Jane, says that Walter is a dedicated husband and father to her daughter from a previous marriage who has Down Syndrome.

Inmate McCottrell's first conviction was in St. Clair County in 1966 for Rape (50-100 years), Rape and Armed Robbery (25-50 years), Robbery (8-10 years), and Burglary (8-10 years), all sentences to run concurrently. Inmate McCottrell was discharged from his 8 to 10 year sentences. This is Inmate McCottrell's first EnBanc hearing for the State of Illinois. On October



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28, 1976, Inmate McCottrell escaped from the Minimum Security Unit at Statesville Correctional Center in Joliet, IL.

On February 22, 1966, Inmate McCottrell entered the home of Earl Cutler, an Insurance Banker in Belleville, through the patio door and began to search the home. Inmate McCottrell was familiar with the family because he would assist his brother in landscaping and lawn maintenance. Ms. Florence Roth, 65, the housekeeper of the Cutler family, heard a noise. When she saw Walter McCottrell at the bottom of the stairwell, she screamed and ran into a bedroom. It was then that Inmate McCottrell chased her up the stairs, grabbed her, tied her hands and forcibly raped her. After the Burglary and Rape Inmate McCottrell ran home and was arrested four hours later. Inmate McCottrell stole six dollars' worth of quarters and a watch. At the time of the arrest, Inmate McCottrell was seventeen years of age. After he was released on bond for the rape of Florence Roth, on February 22, 1966, he committed a second Armed Robbery/Rape. The victim was Mary Swedo, of whom he threatened while armed with a dangerous weapon and took \$99.13. Inmate McCottrell was also convicted of the rape and robbery of a 45-year-old woman in East St. Louis, who was employed as a sales clerk. The attack occurred in May while he free on bond awaiting trial on the first rape charge. His sentences ran concurrent for each offense. Inmate Walter McCottrell is currently on parole in California after serving 39 years in San Quentin for Robbery, Kidnap/Robbery and Assault w/Deadly Weapon and Possession of Weapon by ex-felon. He has served a total of 51 years of incarceration combined.

On October 28, 1976, the same day as Lieutenant Houston told Inmate McCottrell that he had to transfer back inside "the wall", he took the keys to the transporter truck and drove down the back road leading to his escape. He parked the car and saw a young man, George Best, 24 with his infant son. He states that he told the young man that he had escaped from prison and asked George for a ride. Inmate McCottrell entered George's vehicle and headed toward Chicago. They made a few restroom stops along the way. One particular stop was in Calumet City; as Inmate McCottrell got out to use the restroom, George drove off. Shortly after, Inmate McCottrell approached an African American truck driver; he offered to pay Inmate McCottrell \$120 a week to assist him in unloading trucks. Inmate McCottrell traveled with him for about 6 months and decided to tell him the truth about his escape. After he told the truck driver the truth, the truck driver said that he could no longer allow Inmate McCottrell to travel with him. The truck driver left for Texas and Inmate McCottrell stayed in California.

Inmate McCottrell was imprisoned in California at San Quentin Correctional Center on three separate cases. The first case occurred on January 16, 1977 when he robbed a hotel desk clerk and elevator operator, shooting each of them repeatedly. The second offense occurred on February 6, 1977, when Inmate McCottrell reportedly robbed a cab driver and shot him five times; resulting in the victim now being a paraplegic. Finally, Inmate McCottrell was arrested in Santa Clara County on May 13, 1977, shortly after committing the instant offense. He was convicted by a court trial of Kidnapping for Robbery. He received a prison term of Seven years to life. In San Diego, he pled guilty to two counts of 1st degree Robbery with a Five to Life enhancement for the use of a firearm. In this case, he was sentenced to Fifteen years to Life with a Five to life enhancement for the use of a firearm. Inmate McCottrell is serving a concurrent



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sentence in both counties, with the Santa Clara County case controlling for a term of seven years to life. Inmate McCottrell served a total of 39 years for these concurrent sentences. Inmate McCottrell was granted parole by California Board of Parole Hearings on April 5, 2016.

Christina J. Allbright, Attorney at Law in Eureka, CA, represents Inmate McCottrell. She has submitted letters to the board in regards to the release of Inmate McCottrell. Her letter contends that Inmate McCottrell received credit for time considered served, after serving 50 years combined for his offenses. She is asking for a sentence calculation sheet. Additionally, James Gomerick, an attorney in St Clair County, also represents Inmate McCottrell. Mr. Gomerick also contends that Inmate McCottrell should have received time considered served after serving 50 years for the combined offenses. And that he should be released to return to California to serve his lifetime parole.

UCL Uncommon Law, Executive Director Keith Wattley submitted a packet on Inmate McCottrell's parole eligibility and also stated that he was an excellent candidate for parole and has shown remarkable rehabilitation in the California prison system and while being granted parole. On November 26, 2016, a letter summarized that Inmate McCottrell's case provided supporting documents: an Illinois Circuit Court order crediting his time served in California towards his Illinois term, his psychological evaluation supporting his release and the EnBanc decision. According to Inmate McCottrell's SPIN Assessment, he is at Moderate Risk.

Inmate McCottrell has had stellar institutional adjustment in the State of California, San Quentin Correctional Facility. He has done tremendous work in the following:

- Canticle Farms Restorative Practices Program
- The Bread Project Boot camp- Hands on Training
- Psychological Internship Training Program at San Quentin Mental Health
- Project Last Chance
- Straight Life
- California Medical Facility Institutional Photographer
- REMEDIATION PROGRAM
- Performing the Heimlich Manure to saving a Correctional Officer's life. February 25, 1992
- Letters of support from Correctional Officers, Sargent's, Law Firms, Mental Health Facility, family, and friends and inmates.

SPIN ASSESSMENT: Indicates the following:

- No disciplinary reports since 1976 –The escape from IDOC and was convicted in California in 1977 but was paroled in 2016
- Due to his age, he does not have present aggression
- Formal substance abuse is not an issue or concern for Walter McCottrell
- Married and stability is still present in relationship. His wife is his best friend and he hopes to live his remaining days with her in California
- Adaptive skills: McCottrell having the ability to confront his problems, get along with others and make effective plans for the future



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- Stability- basic survival needs have been met. McCottrell has demonstrated strength and no identifiable problems. He can draw an income that is reasonably adequate to support independent living. He has a stable house with spouse and family.
- No medical concerns or mental health problems.
- SPIN Assessment indicates Statistic Risk of Moderate

If granted release, Inmate McCottrell will return to California to complete his lifetime parole sentence and live with his wife, Jane Swim and daughter, Natasha Swim, at the family residence in Oakland, California. Inmate McCottrell also indicates that his family is prepared to relocate to Illinois if he has to serve the remainder of his prison term in Illinois. Inmate McCottrell was readmitted to IDOC on August 26, 2016. He is currently housed in the High-Risk Maximum Security Unit, being confined for 23 hours per day.

In the interview, I found Inmate McCottrell to be very polite, easy to talk to, and very articulate. He was very candid about the poor decisions that he made as a youth and the same poor choices that he made during and after the escape. Inmate McCottrell was very remorseful and was often apologetic about the crimes he committed and the lives that will be forever damaged or haunted by what he did. In Inmate McCottrell's words, "He wanted to change his life and his way of approaching life by becoming a better person and mature man that learned how to utilize his time to impact the lives of others. He realizes that he crime that he committed was deserving of the time that he spent in prison, but not that he has served 50 years, he is ready to spend the rest of his life with his wife and daughter and become as asset to society by continuing his dedication to the Remediation Program and the Last Chance Project to help troubled youth to get involved with positive and supportive programs to assist them with career readiness, education, trades, and counseling services. He has received tremendous letters of support from the San Quentin Correctional Facility and everyone that he has encountered. Although there is no excuse or justification for what Inmate McCottrell has done there are certain mitigating factors to consider; in the last ten years, the United States Supreme Court has reaffirmed the significance of youth in multiple areas of criminal law. The Court has cited three significant differences between juveniles and adults that support their reasoning for assessing culpability differently between the two. First, the Court found that teenagers lack maturity and have an underdeveloped sense of responsibility, leading them to act recklessly, impulsively, and are high risk-takers. Second, the Court found that adolescents are particularly vulnerable to outside pressures and influences. Finally, the court recognized that a teen's character is not as well formed as that as an adult, meaning their traits is less developed.

He has served a total of 50 years for the offenses he has committed. In fact, a letter from the Honorable Judge O'Gara, and Attorney Jim Gomerich was presented with a Court Order form that states according to 730ILS/55-4.5 that Inmate McCottrell was given credit for time served from November 17, 1977 to August 25, 2016. Inmate McCottrell has been placed in positions of trust. He is respected by staff and outside supportive services. He was recognized by the facility for coordinating the "Straight Life" program, the Remediation Program, his participation in "Project Last Chance" and being well respected by his peers and one of his most recognizable talents was



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saving the life of Sargent Davis by performing the Heimlich maneuver. He is very supportive of his wife and their daughter who has Down syndrome.

Member Crigler requested to know if the girl that Mr. McCottrell shot in the head died. Member Harris noted that she did not die and that he was not charged with Murder.

The Board considered all relevant information during the *en banc* Session. It was determined that parole at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the law and promote disrespect for the law.

Motion to grant parole (VH-DWD). Motion does not prevail by a vote of 3 to 11. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Dunn, Ms. Harris 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.”