



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

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

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

<b>R16774</b>	<b>Jones, Antonio* (Youthful Parole)</b>
<b>C10587</b>	<b>Smith, Mark (Indeterminate)</b>
<b>M54916</b>	<b>Porter, Deshaune (Indeterminate)</b>

The meeting was called to order by Kenneth Tupy, Board Member.

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Alexandria Bryan.

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

10 Members Present      1 Member Absent

The Board heard the case of: Antonio Jones R16774, Mark Smith C10587, and Deshaune Porter M54916.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL for 6/20/2024 & 7/25/2024: KTISON & WDELGADO

Open Session: RSHOFFNER & KTUPY

Meeting was adjourned by: RSHOFFNER & KTISON

Leave.



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

Individual in Custody's Name: Antonio Jones\*

IDOC Number: R16774

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on August 29, 2024, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Antonio Jones R16774.

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

Recording Secretary: Amy Sexton

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

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

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

Mr. Antonio Jones was interviewed on July 17, 2024, by Ms. Shoffner via Webex. Those present for the hearing were Ms. Carolyn Klarquist and Ms. Pamela Rubeo, Mr. Antonio Jones' attorneys. Also present were Ms. Sheena Jones, sister, and Ms. Miranda Jones, mother of Mr. Jones.

Mr. Jones was pleasant, thoughtful, and engaging. Throughout the interview, he was reflective of his past and occasionally became emotional. Mr. Jones is currently 42 years old and resides at Dixon Correctional Center.

In 1998, Mr. Jones was 17 years old when he was charged and convicted of the first-degree murder and kidnapping of Mr. Samuel Freeman and the aggravated kidnapping, attempted first-degree murder, armed robbery, and heinous battery of Mr. Paul Thompson. Mr. Jones was sentenced to a term of 70 years in IDOC and to date, he has served approximately 25 years of his term.

In 2022, Mr. Jones was granted a new sentencing hearing, pursuant to the US Supreme Court case of *Miller v. Alabama*, which mandates that trial courts consider the defendant's youth at the time of crime and the likelihood of their rehabilitation. Following the re-sentencing hearing, Mr. Jones's sentence was reduced from 70 years to 50 years. In addition, the trial court held, following a separate appeal by his counsel, that Mr. Jones was also entitled to sentencing credits he received from activities he participated in while incarcerated.

Based on this holding, Mr. Jones' sentence was reduced to a total of 35 years. His Mandatory Supervised Release date pursuant to this order is August 16, 2037, with a pending discharge date in 2040. However, his story does not end there. His counsel filed an appeal from this order, making a number of challenges to this decision. Most notably, they argued that consecutive sentences for the various crimes were erroneous based on the one-incident one-crime doctrine. The court agreed, in part,



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finding that the 6-year sentence for armed robbery and the 6-year sentence for a heinous crime against Mr. Paul Thompson should run concurrently.

As a result, the Appellate Court reduced Mr. Jones' sentence by an additional six years at 85% for a total of 4.7 years off of his sentence. Based on the most recent timing of this decision, Danville Correctional Center has indicated that they are not prepared to issue a new mandatory supervised release date at this time. The estimated date is late 2032 or early 2033 and would amount to a 30-year sentence or period of incarceration. Counsel for Mr. Jones has indicated that they intend to appeal this decision.

### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

On December 7, 1998, victims Mr. Paul Thompson and his mother's boyfriend Mr. Samuel Freeman had just purchased a new car. Paul asked Samuel if they could take a detour and Sam obliged not knowing that Paul had agreed to purchase guns from co-defendant Mr. Derrick Reynolds.

When they arrived at the pre-arranged location, Paul entered the abandoned building while Sam remained in the car. At that point, Paul was held at gunpoint by co-defendants Mr. Antonio Jones and Mr. Robert Owens. They demanded money and narcotics from Paul. Not satisfied with what they received, they went to the car and forcibly removed Sam from the vehicle, relocating him to the building. Upon searching the car, they found approximately \$2,000 and a quantity of cocaine.

The Defendants then began beating Sam and Paul with their hands and boards as well as burning them with cigarette lighters. The victims were bound and forced into a closet-like area where the torture continued. The defendants urinated on the victims and smeared them with dog feces.

At some point, the defendants left victims bound in the closet at which point they attempted to escape to no avail. The defendants returned with another co-defendant Mr. Joseph Bonds. The torture continued and the defendants determined that the victims had to be eliminated. They told the victims that they were going to drive them to another location and release them. They forced the two victims into the trunk of the car and the four defendants got into the car and drove to a deserted industrial area.

At the second location, the defendants exited the car, took a can of gasoline, and began dousing the car. They opened the trunk and poured gasoline on the victims as well. The victims tried fighting back. Sam, elder of the two victims, jumped out of the trunk and tried to run with his leg bound. The defendants caught up with him and struck him in the head with a tire jack. They struck him until he stopped moving.

The defendants returned to the car and struck Paul with a cement block. Once he was unconscious, Mr. Jones poured gas on Paul and lit both Paul and the vehicle on fire. All four fled the scene.

Miraculously, Paul survived the beating, torture and burning but his body bears numerous scars from these injuries. He has two large crevices in his head, numerous scars, and severe disfigurement from the burns. Victim Samuel Freeman died of head trauma and his body bore evidence of the torture



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from the gasoline.

The indignities and inhumanities suffered by Paul were physical and emotional. He was a long-time friend of defendant Reynolds. Neither victim had ever met any of the other three defendants previously. Paul identified Mr. Antonio Jones in a photo array, an in-person line-up and again at court. For his part, Mr. Jones admitted his participation in the kidnapping, armed robbery, and torture of the two victims.

The other defendants received different sentences. Mr. Reynaldo Reynolds was 27 years old at the time and pled guilty to Aggravated kidnapping and was sentenced to 18 years in IDOC. Mr. Joseph Bonds was 18 years old and pled guilty to heinous battery and was sentenced to 12 years in IDOC. Mr. Robert Owens was 20 years old and was found not guilty.

Mr. Jones did not dispute the official statement of facts. He did not recall facts of the case.

The June 6<sup>th</sup> Appellate Court order states that the re-sentencing hearing in 2022, Mr. Jones “denied actually killing anyone but admitted his participation in the crime. Defendant said his acts were childish.” The court expressly rejected defendant’s entreaty that his acts were childish, noting that “the victims were robbed, beaten, bound, burned, and assaulted with dog feces and human urine.” The sentencing court stated that Mr. Jones had a strong possibility of rehabilitation and lauded his attempts at self-improvement.

### **CRIMINAL HISTORY**

Mr. Jones has no prior criminal convictions.

### **INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT**

Mr. Jones has a total of 15 tickets over his 25 years of incarceration. His last major ticket was September 23, 2022, and involved impairment of surveillance, verbal door screen covered. The incident involved him using the bathroom in the presence of a female staff member. Throughout his history, there were no tickets for fighting, gang affiliation, sexual misconduct or any type of assault or intimidation. There was a 2014 ticket for dangerous contraband which was a verbal. Most tickets were for disobeying orders. Mr. Jones stated that he would disobey an order when he felt oppressed and became angry or upset.

Mr. Jones currently works in the Clinical Service Peer Educator; he assists with HIV education and re-entry programs such as financial literacy. He would like to continue his work with programs that address trauma and domestic violence with the hope of starting his own foundation. He has been offered admission to Olive Harry College to study Psychology and Sociology with the hope of becoming a professor. He has participated in all the programming that Danville offers.

Mr. Jones’ mother stated that she loves her son and is very proud of what he has become. She feels the hurt of the victims’ families. She is sick and disabled her disabled. She also has two sick kids, and one son has passed away.



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**STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE**

Mr. Jones stated that he was a lost child fending for himself. He also said, “it was a normal thing in my world.” He retreated when asked about what kind of acts he previously committed, saying he was involved in fights but never that degree of violence.” Mr. Jones said that they were going to rob Mr. Paul Thompson. He said they were drinking and smoking at the time and things just got out of control. He said Mr. Owens got the gun, but gave it to him.

He confessed to the crime. When asked why he did not plead guilty, he stated that the amount of time seemed like forever. He recalls a minimum of 20 years. He was afraid to accept responsibility and wanted to hide from things. He stated that the other guys were offered pleas in exchange for testimony. They had already accepted, and Mr. Jones was not given the leniency that they were given. He states that he never met Mr. Thompson or Mr. Freeman.

He stated that as a young man he was impacted by poverty, abuse and neglect. The benefit of incarceration afforded him separation from negative influences. He has the blessing of his mother, a love of learning. He learned about himself, attitudes and gained perspective. He genuinely cares about other people. He states that he owes a great debt, and he intends to pay it forward for the rest of his life.

Open Executive Session: RSHOFFNER & WDELGADO

Close Executive Session: CTERRONES & RHEATON

**DISCUSSION**

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Ms. Carolyn Klarquist, Mr. Antonio Jones’ attorney, stated that resentencing judge stated that he didn’t deserve any more than the minimum sentence. She stated that his aggravated kidnaping charge should run concurrently. The state’s attorney can still appeal if they chose to. His release date is still 2037. He does have a right to appeal. She stated that Antonio’s childhood faced adversity, physical violence, and sexual violence in his daily life. He was present when his brother and cousin died in a house fire. He has seen at least two people murdered. He was living in a crack house and at the time of this offense he was homeless. He is very intelligent. His parole plan states that he wants to go to Saint Leonard’s. She stated that Saint Leonard’s was impressed by Mr. Jones, and they can provide the psychological support that he needs for his re-entry. She stated that Mr. Jones is the only one still in custody from this crime. At his resentencing hearing, he did state that he did commit this murder. He takes full responsibility for this crime. He is now 43 years old. She stated that he is rehabilitated and that she does not know what else Illinois Department of Corrections can do at this time to rehabilitate him anymore. Further incarceration will not benefit him.

Mr. Antonio Jones stated that he wants to tell the victim’s family sorry for his actions. He stated that nothing he can do will bring them back but because of that he has to live his life with that burden. He stated that he wants to live his life to give and not take away. He stated that he received his GED in county jail and took advantage of every opportunity he has been given. He stated that he is currently a



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clerk in clinical services at Danville Correctional Center. He stated that he volunteers as well. He stated that if he was given that opportunity to be released, he will continue working. The past 25 years he has spent in prison has been the most difficult but restorative time of his life. He stated that he was in the most dysfunctional point of his life and has been given the opportunity to rehabilitate.

Ms. Shoffner questioned if Mr. Jones' sentence was always supposed to be served at 85%, how many years was taken off of his sentence, and if he has a current appeal of their decision.

Ms. Carolyn Klarquist, stated that the Murder sentence has been served, but the aggravated kidnapping is running concurrently. She stated that 1,000 days has been taken off of his sentence and that they will be appealing the concurrent charges and how they should've been run.

Mr. Antonio Jones stated that seven years was taken off.

Ms. Terrones questioned how he is embracing therapy due to the horrific life experiences in his childhood. She questioned what he has done therapeutically to address his actions that brought him into IDOC. She said to better understand how you think is necessary to process those situations. She questioned what he is asking the community to assist him with in the community so that he doesn't find himself in a similar situation.

Mr. Antonio Jones stated that he has worked on being aware of things that trigger him and understanding what triggers him and to not allow it. He stated that when he gets to that point he now reaches out to mental health for help in those moments. He will continue to maintain that system that he has in the community.

Ms. Carolyn Klarquist stated that Dr. Gintana has supported him and will continue to help him. She stated that he is now 43, and science tells you that violence and self-control tempers with age. He has had no altercations while in IDOC. He would not be at risk for any violence.

Mr. Antonio Jones stated that he is a peer educator within the facility. He learned when he engages with his peers that they have similar instances in their lives, and they are able to talk about these situations and process feelings and come up with solutions and action plans to deal with those feelings. He stated that every day he is engaged in trauma work and working through his issues. He stated that he shows others in the facility that you can work through the things that you have been through.

Ms. Carolyn Klarquist stated that he does not get paid or get good time for participating in this program. He is being a part of this program on his own.

Mr. Heaton questioned Mr. Antonio Jones about his exit from the Four Corner Hustlers and if there were any consequences. He also questioned his relationship with his sister Sheena and how often they are in contact.

Mr. Antonio Jones stated that his entrance into the gang was never official. His family members were a part of it, and he was just assumed and absorbed into the gang. When he became incarcerated, he



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said that he was separated from the gang because he stated that he felt like his life was over at that moment. He did get threatened but never encountered anyone that used violence. He did leave Menard in 2007 when he engaged in an altercation that was gang related. He stated that his sister Sheena is dear to him; he speaks with her every day. He stated that if he was to be released, he will spend as much time with her as he can. She is a great inspiration to him.

Mr. Delgado looking at his childhood background, in 1998. Tremendous amount of abuse that he suffered. He stated that being in a IDOC you are no longer subjected to those sufferings. A young person's mind at that age with all of those sufferings would make an impulse decision in those situations. He questioned if everyone was older than him in his peer group. He stated that Mr. Jones had dysfunctional behavior from a hurt child at 17 years old and homeless.

Mr. Antonio Jones stated that codefendant was 27 years old.

Ms. Carolyn Klarquist stated that there was no opposition. She stated that hurt people, hurt people. The codefendants testified against him, and they received plea deals. The resentencing judge had to run all of his sentences consecutive, and that is how she interpreted the statute.

Mr. Heaton questioned if with any of their arguments if it is capable to result in his release before 2033.

Ms. Carolyn Klarquist has family to go home to, but he has to focus on himself and that is why he wants to go to Saint Leonard's. They will offer therapy for him and his family.

Mr. Tupy questioned their argument of appealing the 34-year sentence. Appeal based on the old law for juveniles' sentences running consecutive.

End of discussion.

### **DECISION AND RATIONALE**

Motion to deny parole (SHOFFNER-KTUPY). Motion prevailed with an 8-2 vote. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Coates, Ms. Globokar, Ms. Goff, Mr. Grubbs, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Tison, and Mr. Tupy. Mr. Delgado and Ms. Terrones dissented.

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

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



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

Individual in Custody's Name: Mark Smith

IDOC Number: C10587

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on August 29, 2024, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Mark Smith C10587

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

Recording Secretary: Amy Sexton

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

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

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

Mr. Mark Smith was interviewed on July 3, 2024, via Webex at Danville Correctional Center by Board Member Mr. William Delgado. Mr. Smith was coherent and focused. Mr. Smith was quick to inform Mr. Delgado that he was not interested in parole. He was clear of the amount of time that he must serve for his crimes. He indicated that if he is able to leave, the Arkansas Department of Corrections will come get him to serve another life sentence for convictions in that state. Mr. Smith is approximately 75 years old.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

Mr. Smith has three individual cases. He is convicted and serving time for his abduction of Ms. Jean Bianchi who was 27 years old at the time of the crime. Mr. Smith sexually assaulted and stabbed her 17 times. He then threw her body off of a bridge. Mr. Smith noticed that she was still alive, and he returned to her according to file documents. He then held her head under the water. These offenses occurred on or about January 27, 1970.

Mr. Smith's second offense and victim was Ms. Janice Boylyard. They worked at the same chemical company where Mr. Smith saw Ms. Boylyard going down to the basement and he followed her down the stairs. In an unwanted attempt he kissed her, Ms. Boylyard resisted and when she did Mr. Smith grabbed her by the throat and began choking and strangling her until she passed out. Mr. Smith then raped her and tied her panty hose around her neck strangling her to death. This offense happened on or about February 27, 1970.

Mr. Smith's third offense happened on May 27, 1970, just three months after the other two murders. Mr. Smith was convicted of the rape and strangulation to death of Ms. Jean Lingerfeiter. She was 17 years old and a McHenry High School student. Mr. Smith was convicted of rape and murder by





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strangulation and received 199-200 years for this crime. Ms. Lingerfeiter's body was dumped in a lake.

Mr. Smith was also convicted of attempt escape and received another 6-18 years from Randolph County. These sentences are to run consecutively.

### **CRIMINAL HISTORY**

Information in the file also indicates that Mr. Smith admits to raping and murdering more than 3 women in Germany while stationed in there.

### **INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT**

Mr. Mark Smith is in a medium security facility. He currently has a moderate escape risk designation. Mr. Smith does have an "A" grade for lack of disciplinary actions. His most recent ticket he received was for striking another individual in custody in February 2008.

According to the institution Mr. Smith has not received any visits from family or friends since 2019. Mr. Smith indicates that he has no outside contacts as they have all passed away.

### **PAROLE PLANS**

Re-entry plans do not exist.

### **OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE**

Letters in opposition were received from Cook County State's Attorney, McHenry State's Attorney, and Randolph County. There were numerous family members and friends of the victims, and citizens that opposed Mr. Smith's release.

### **DISCUSSION**

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Ms. Nicole Bartell requested a 90 day stay for an evaluation if approved for parole.

End of discussion.

### **DECISION AND RATIONALE**

Motion to deny parole (WDELGADO-MCOATES). Motion prevailed with a unanimous vote.

Motion for a 5-year set (WDELGADO-RHEATON). Motion prevailed with a unanimous vote.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Mark Smith's case, the Board voted to deny parole. The



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Board feels that parole release at this time would not be in the interest of public safety, as there is a substantial risk that Mr. Smith's parole release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of the offenses and promote a lack of respect for the law.

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

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

Individual in Custody's Name: Deshaune Porter

IDOC Number: M54916

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on August 29, 2024, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Deshaune Porter M54916.

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

Recording Secretary: Amy Sexton

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

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

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

On Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, Mr. DeShaune Porter was interviewed by Board Member Ms. Julie Globokar via Webex at Taylorville Correctional Center. The interview began at 9:05am and ended at 11:11am. Also present were Ms. Emma Garner, Mr. Brian Johnson, and Ms. Lia Raves of his legal team at the Illinois Prison Project, and Ms. Amanda Myers, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker brought on by the legal team to offer insight into the case. Mr. Porter presented as a healthy, engaged, articulate young man who expressed himself energetically and positively throughout the hearing.

Mr. Porter is 27 years old and has been incarcerated for twelve years, since August 3, 2012, initially as a juvenile. He is convicted of aggravated criminal sexual assault with force of a victim aged 9-13 and aggravated criminal sexual assault of a victim under 9 years old.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

Mr. Porter had just turned 15 at the time he committed the offenses of aggravated criminal sexual assault against 5 and 12-year-old minor female relatives. Forensic interviews indicated that the victims had been vaginally, orally, and anally penetrated by Mr. Porter and his co-defendant, cousin Mr.



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Demarkus Kidd, who was 16 at the time. Mr. Porter and Mr. Kidd both received two consecutive 10-year sentences at 85% for these offenses. No appeals were filed in Mr. Porter's case, but he did petition for clemency in 2019. In October of 2021, Governor Pritzker commuted Mr. Porter's sentence to parole eligible.

The extent of the abuse that led to Mr. Porter's convictions is disputed. Four additional counts were dismissed in the plea negotiations but were allowed as aggravation in sentencing. The St. Clair State's Attorney's Office provided evidentiary information with their protest of Mr. Porter's release suggesting the presence of additional victims and multiple instances of sexual assault. In the court record of the plea agreement, Mr. Porter "admitted to anally penetrating the 5-year-old victim one time and to anally penetrating his sister 3 times." In forensic interviews, the victims indicated they had been assaulted "multiple" and "numerous" times by Mr. Porter and Mr. Kidd and indicated that Mr. Porter threatened to beat them if they told anyone. One alleged victim indicated that Mr. Porter had sex with her "at least six times at their old house...and about seven times at their new home." The five-year-old victim indicated that Mr. Porter had sex with her at both locations as well but had used a condom at one of the locations. While initially there was concern about as many as seven victims, most of the victim/witness statements and all of the counts originally brought against Mr. Porter were in regard to two victims. Among the evidence submitted by the St. Clair State's Attorney's Office was a transcript of a police interview in which Mr. Porter stated he had sexual intercourse with one of the victims because "she is a fast little girl and that she came to him and asked to have sex...and he did." He initially denied having sex with a second victim, but ultimately disclosed that he had sex with her approximately two or three times when she "approached him and asked him to have sex with her."

Since conviction, in the records available to this Board, Mr. Porter has instead maintained that he only committed the two sexual offenses for which he was convicted, both stemming from in a single occurrence and under the influence of his older cousin in which they took turns penetrating the 5- and 12-year-old victims. In his clemency petition, he stated that on the day of the offense, he and his older cousin were playing house with the younger female relatives and mimicked what they had seen from adults and on TV, including anal and oral penetration. He was so overwhelmed with the guilt and wrongness of what he had done that he approached his mother to disclose the abuse, over the objections of his co-defendant.

In contrast to Mr. Porter's account of disclosure, in the original investigatory report, Mr. Porter's mother indicated that the abuse was discovered when one of the alleged victims was upset with their cousin for not letting her join a group that was gathered in the basement; she overheard the girl threaten to "tell momma what [the cousin] be doing to us." When three of the female minors were gathered, they disclosed that Mr. Porter and his cousin had both been molesting all of them, as well as four other female minor relatives. The children were brought in for medical evaluation and some received forensic interviews. At the time, Mr. Porter's mother stated that when she first confronted him, he denied committing any offenses, and it was only when other family members pulled him aside that he admitted to the offenses. In the information available to this Board, there was some indication of sexual assault against one additional minor child and sexual abuse against another, although these do not appear to have been fully substantiated and did not lead to charges.

## **CRIMINAL HISTORY**



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Mr. Porter has no other known criminal history.

**INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT**

Mr. Porter was born in Florida, and his family moved to Illinois when he was a baby. He has two older siblings and five younger siblings. He never knew his father but recalls his younger siblings' father being the only male figure in his life for a long period of time. He moved often, having to repeatedly start over making new friends. He experienced repeated physical and psychological abuse, and the males in his family also allegedly became violent toward him at the disclosure of these offenses.

Ms. Amanda Myers, Licensed Social Worker, spoke on Mr. Porter's behalf at his interview. She does not possess credentialing specific to sexual offending but has worked with trauma-involved youth, and shared her opinion that Mr. Porter is at a low risk to reoffend. She urged this Board to consider Mr. Porter's developmental age at the time of the offense, which she approximates as closer to that of a 12-year-old than his chronological age of 15. Based on the approximately 30 hours she has spent on this case; she believes Mr. Porter suffered from low self-esteem at the time of the offense and a particular susceptibility to the influence of other males at the time.

Mr. Porter has had an overall positive institutional adjustment. Within the juvenile system he completed several courses culminating in the completion of his high school diploma. He describes himself as happiest in the classroom. He has taken some coursework with Lake Land College and earned several certificates, including from anger management, Lifestyle Redirection, Thinking for a Change, and prayer and religious activities. He has also held several work assignments, including janitor, floor maintenance, and inside grounds cleanup. He enjoys both writing and singing music. He self-reports progress in his emotional awareness and mental preparedness, feeling a sense of purpose, being grounded in faith, and having greater tools to articulate himself, in contrast to his timidity and fears in childhood.

Mr. Porter only had two documented infractions within IDOC as an adult at the time of his file review. Both were categorized as minor, both in 2023 at Taylorville. In July, he received a verbal reprimand for an altered hot pot and altered porn magazine, and in December he received a verbal reprimand for room hopping. His attorney stated the magazine was soft pornography that was approved by IDOC, but which had a tear with tape on it, which was the disallowed alteration; the hot pot had a hole on the bottom. He indicated he received the ticket for unauthorized movement when someone had left their badge in the dayroom, and he had gone to return it. As a youth, one ticket appeared on his record for fighting in 2014, ten years ago.

Since transferring to Taylorville, he's leaned into a peer led music program that has helped build understanding and connectedness across social lines. In a letter of support, another individual in custody referred to him as the captain of the basketball team. Several individuals in custody wrote letters of support, describing Mr. Porter as mature beyond his years, dedicated to making others smile, dependable, giving, and ambitious, and bringing an "awe inspiring" intensity to everything he does. One individual described him as "exuding love." Mr. Porter describes leaning into his faith, waking up each day grateful because he knows "the opportunity is well considered," and indicates he tackles each



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day because he is “able to impact, make change, do something positive, live, express myself, be that light, that positive role model.”

Mr. Porter has been housed at IYC-Harrisburg and IYC-Kewanee (before its transition to an adult life skills reentry skills center), Lawrence Correctional Center, and now Taylorville, which is a minimum-security facility. At least at the time of review of his master file, he had not participated in sex offender treatment at Taylorville. His file listed him as a “voluntary withdrawal” from treatment. Mr. Porter gave testimony that he was advised he should resolve any pending court matters before committing to treatment, considering the uncertainty of his release date as prohibitive to treatment; however, the institutional record indicates that he was eligible for the class, and it was Mr. Porter’s decision not to participate.

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

In Mr. Porter’s interview for this hearing, he remained insistent that his crimes of conviction stemmed from a one-time incident and that he was the one to disclose the abuse out of his feelings of overwhelming guilt. When provided with an opportunity to speak to the evidence submitted by the State’s Attorney’s office, Mr. Porter’s attorney suggested the victims may have conflated the extent to which each of the defendants had offended against them. Regarding the police interview in which Mr. Porter initially denied guilt, and then admitted to sex with three minor female relatives, Mr. Porter indicated he was stressed and fearful, and wanted to give officers the responses he believed they wanted.

In the present day, Mr. Porter admits guilt to the crimes for which he was convicted and has consistently expressed remorse for these offenses. Even in his initial police interview, he made references to his deservedness of punishment for what he had done. An apology letter on file with this Board acknowledged the horrific nature of his actions, his feelings of lack of deservedness of his victims’ forgiveness, and his commitment to making amends. He also provided this Board with a letter of reflection about what he learned from sex offender treatment, in which he had participated as a juvenile, including the harms of early exposure to adult concepts, the importance of consent, and how to recognize and address triggers. He shared his shame and the challenges he’s encountered in forgiving himself in feeling that he should have been his victims’ protector.

### **PAROLE PLANS**

Mr. Porter’s parole plan has previously been to reside with family, at his aunt’s or mother’s. His parole plan was recently updated, with his intention to receive housing and services from the Illinois Department of Corrections Sex Offense Services. He plans to enroll in the Intensive Community Reintegration Program (ICRP), in Springfield if available or in northern Illinois if necessary. The program is designed to provide support and treatment for those who have committed sexual offenses and are navigating the challenges related to being on the sex offender registry. Once this programming is complete, Mr. Porter plans to return to East St. Louis to be with his family.

Mr. Porter shared his passion for music, and his desire to lean in on having a positive influence on others. To the extent allowable, he would like to be involved in mentorship programs, and to raise



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awareness of the harms of early exposure to alcohol, drugs, and sex. He has previously expressed a desire to attend Lakeland College for an associate degree in science or music, with additional interests in business communications, math, psychology, and criminal justice. He wants to work while attending school, possibly obtain a CDL, and a friend has offered to help with obtaining his license and employment in that area.

Mr. Porter's mom, brother, aunt, cousin, best friend, and sisters – including one of the victims of the present offense, and the mother of the second victim – have all expressed support for him to come home, along with a pastor who has worked closely with his family. Nine individuals, including his support team from the Illinois Prison Project and several relatives, attended a “behalf” hearing to express their strong support for Mr. Porter and his release. In both letters and testimony, those who have spoken in behalf have offered help with housing, employment, counseling, and emotional support. His mom testified that she still has his birth certificate and other legal documents to facilitate his reentry. They describe the void that his incarceration has created, their belief in his deservedness for a second chance, and the positive presence that he has maintained in their family even while incarcerated. The Illinois Prison Project has offered to connect Mr. Porter with their social workers to navigate the compliance aspects of his adjustment. NAMI and TASC are also on record as offering their support. Sarah Brown-Foiles, IDOC Manager of Sex Offender Services, wrote a letter outlining the support that IDOC would offer in his reentry process.

### **OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE**

The St. Clair County State's Attorney's office has written with vehement opposition each year since 2021, expressing their belief that Mr. Porter's sentence appropriately reflected all aggravation and mitigation and that the actual offenses were far more violent and repeated than acknowledged by Mr. Porter. They state that four additional counts were dropped as part of a plea agreement that expressly allowed them to be considered as aggravation in sentencing. They have provided this Board with supplementary medical and investigative documents as evidence of the factual basis for the aggravation that was considered at sentencing.

No other protest is on file.

### **ENBANC HISTORY**

Mr. Porter has been considered at en banc each year since 2021. In his first hearing, a motion was made to grant parole, which was denied with a 5-9 vote. In 2022, a motion to deny parole passed by 6-5. In 2023, parole was denied 12-0. Mr. Porter has never received a multi-year set.

Open Executive Session: MCOATES-KTUPY

Close Executive Session: MCOATES-KTISON

### **DISCUSSION**

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:



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Ms. Lia Raves, Deshaune Porter's attorney, stated that they are not contesting the sexual assaults. The guilt weighs heavy on his heart every day. Both sisters believe that Deshaune should be allowed out. She stated that their household was extremely violent, and there was a lot of yelling. This was a trauma response. Out of sheer fear of being beaten. He was beaten throughout his childhood by two uncles. When he was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade he was testing at a 4<sup>th</sup> grade level. She stated that research shows that when parents question children they use suggestive questions that then lead to inaccurate answers. Children are extremely impressionable. She stated that parents are not trained professionals on questioning children.

Ms. Amanda Myers, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, stated that she has questioned family and Mr. Porter. She stated that he has a trauma response of pleasing people to keep himself safe. In those moments of violence, he stated that he would do or say anything to make the violence stop. It risks those facts of incorrect confession and memories. Professionals suggest for parents to not question children because their questions use techniques that are suggestive and bias and don't allow children to account the situation fully.

Ms. Lia Raves stated that chaotic, violent, and traumatic circumstances lead to inaccurate reporting's. Mr. Porter is extremely remorseful and is grateful of the victims and family for them forgiving him. She stated that he has entirely transformed. The offense happened one month after finishing 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade version of him was highly impressionable, and immature. He grew up in IDOC and was faced with adversity and negative situations at every turn and he has found his voice while in IDOC and learned how to make better decisions. He was taught how to handle his childhood traumas. In juvenile detention he earned his GED, and once in IDOC he took advantage of every program he had available to him. He went the first 11 years without any tickets. He is an honorable student and has earned credits towards his associate degree. He actively seeks leadership and mentorship roles. He has taken advantage of every group that Taylorville has to offer. He has taken his rehabilitation seriously since he has been incarcerated. The sex offense services team within IDOC will assist in his housing and counseling while transitioning into the community. Mr. Porter's family would like to assist him in housing upon his release, but all agreed to assist him with the program that IDOC has to offer.

Ms. Amanda Myers states that she is certified for Juvenile Sex offenses. Many aspects of his offense show that it is rare for him to reoffend. Research shows that juvenile sex offenders should receive different treatment than adult sex offenders. He did receive this when he was in Juvenile Department. She stated that he has consistently been engaging in treatment. He is now able to make firm boundaries and speak up for himself. She stated that she spoke to all of his family, and they have healed and are all ready for him to come home. She stated that his mother is now in a loving marriage and has been in a calm setting for over 5 years now.

Ms. Globokar stated that he has an unsatisfactory participation in sex offender classes at Taylorville Correctional Center. The facility stated that they offered this treatment to him, and he was the one to choose to disengage in the program.

Ms. Lisa Raves stated that this is because of his parole eligibility and that he was advised not to take it any longer.



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Mr. Coates stated that Mr. Porter is one of the most remarkable people he has ever talked to. He was able to understand and articulate the environment that he is from and the decisions that were made. He stated that once he went to Juvenile Detention Center, he had to grow up. Once in IDOC he took every opportunity to better himself. His version of events appeared to be different than what was presented by the state's attorney. He believes that he understands the impact of his crime to the victims. He understands the harm that he has committed. He stated that in recent years he stated that he wants to use his story to help other kids that come from similar environments. He stated that he does not think that he would be a risk to public safety.

Ms. Goff stated that she has worked with youth for over 25 years. She stated that she is focused on the family preparedness. She questioned how the family plans to support and provide him a safe environment when his victims are all engaged and involved with the family. She stated that there would be no victim contact.

Ms. Lia Raves stated that the family wants to have him in their lives, but the greater goal is that he is released, out and happy. But the victims are aware that they will not have contact. The family has spoken about and are aware that family events will not have everyone. Both family and Mr. Porter are participating in counseling separately. The way he interpreted IDOC was that he could not take the sex offender programing because he was participating in these hearings for the possibility of parole.

Ms. Terrones questioned why he was participating in his treatment and when he signed that refusal. She stated that he has taken ownership of two charges but has not taken ownership of the others.

Ms. Amanda Myers stated that he was in two years of sex offender treatment and moved through each phase that was offered.

Ms. Globokar stated that August 2022 was his end date for the sex offender treatment. There was some indication regarding another relative and his statement to the police were less detailed. She stated that it would've been a very stressful circumstance. She stated that there are other circumstances that show that there are more than just the two incidents that he was charged with.

Ms. Goff questioned who would be doing the therapy for the family.

Ms. Lia Raves stated that the family is receiving services from Resilience.

Mr. Tupy read the State's Attorney's opposition letter.

Ms. Amanda Myers stated that she had a conversation with the mother of the 5-year-old victim that the state's attorneys letter addressed. The mother stated that she thinks that she is in a good space with him coming home.

Mr. Tupy stated that he requested a letter from the victims instead of the mothers speaking for the victims.





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Mr. Delgado stated that Mr. Porter's institutional adjustment seems to look good on paper per IDOC. But he was also sanctioned for a pornographic magazine. He stated that with someone with a sex crime that it would not be appropriate for him to have a pornographic magazine in his possession.

Ms. Lia Raves stated that the ticket was solely based on the alteration to a magazine. Third party vendor sells those magazines. The tape was the alteration and that is what he was sanctioned for.

Ms. Nicole Bartell stated that she is requesting a 90 day stay for an evaluation.

End of discussion.

**DECISION AND RATIONALE**

Motion to deny parole (JGLOBOKAR-KTUPY). Motion prevailed with a 6-4 vote. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Delgado, Ms. Globokar, Mr. Grubbs, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Tison, and Mr. Tupy. Mr. Coates, Ms. Goff, Ms. Shoffner, and Ms. Terrones dissented.

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

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