



STATE OF ILLINOIS
 BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Craig Findley, Chairman

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET: MEETING OF September 28, 2017

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on September 28, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

T76635	James Blottiaux
C50335	Sidney Foster
T52128	Major Morris
C2940	David Woodruff
C90416	James Dumas

The meeting was called to order by Salvador Diaz.

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

13 Members Present

The Recording Secretary presented the following minutes for approval:

Open Session Minutes from **July 25, 2017. (TJ-DWD)**. Leave

Meeting was adjourned (VH-PF). Leave.

Submitted by: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

Inmate Name: **JAMES BLOTTIAUX**

IDOC Number & Institution: **T76635**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on September 28, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for James Blowttiaux, IDOC #T76635.

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, and K. Tupy

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

This case is continued until the October 26, 2017 en banc hearings, per the presenting Board Member's request.

"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— SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

Inmate Name: **SIDNEY FOSTER**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C50335**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on September 28, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Sidney Foster, IDOC #C50335.

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, and K. Tupy

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

A parole assessment interview was conducted with Sidney Foster on August 15, 2017. Mr. Foster was born on December 3, 1942, is currently seventy-four (74) years of age, and was a resident of Big Muddy Correctional Center on the date of the interview. According to the file, Mr. Foster is serving a sentence of 125-250 years for Murder, and a sentence of 2-6 years for Concealment of Homicidal Death (Cook County 74-746). The above sentences are to run concurrently. Factors to be considered by the Board include, but are not limited to, testimony of the resident, a review of the file, the nature of the crime, the sentence for the offenses, institutional adjustment and parole plans.

The file and record would reveal that on or about January 23, 1974 Chicago police officers, after detecting a strong odor and smell, discovered the badly decomposed and dismembered body of 33-year-old Vivian Patterson in the trunk of a car located in a parking lot at 2030 State Street in Chicago, Illinois. Inside the trunk police found the torso, arms and legs of Ms. Patterson wrapped in bed sheets. Ms. Patterson had been shot numerous times in the head. After an investigation, it was determined that the car where the body was found was owned by the Defendant, Sidney Foster, and after further investigation Sidney Foster was arrested on January 27, 1974 and charged with the murder of Vivian Patterson.

Facts established during the investigation and at trial included the following: a) Mr. Foster and Ms. Patterson had been living together for approximately two and a half years prior to her murder. They knew each other through the music business as Mr. Foster was the owner of a small recording company in Chicago and Ms. Patterson was a nightclub singer; b) Ms. Patterson also had four children who resided with her and Mr. Foster. Solomon, the 12-year-old son of Ms. Patterson, testified at trial that Mr. Foster insisted that Solomon call him Mama and that Mr.



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Foster forced him to engage in abnormal sexual conduct and forced him to observe Mr. Foster engage in sexual acts; c) Mr. Foster learned that Ms. Patterson was considering a move to California and was fearful that this would end his relationship with Solomon, d) on or about December 18, 1973, Mr. Foster borrowed a .38 cal. Revolver and six .38 cal. bullets from Edward Thomas, a friend in the music business. Mr. Foster returned the revolver to Mr. Thomas on or about December 31, 1973 and when the revolver was returned it contained two bullets and four empty chambers; e) A medical examiner testified at trial that Ms. Patterson had been shot four times in the head, and a firearm expert testified that a recovered bullet fragment had characteristics consistent with being fired from the same type of .38 cal. revolver as borrowed by Mr. Foster from Mr. Thomas; f) Wilbur Richburg and Marin Morgan testified at trial that Mr. Foster had offered them \$5000.00 to dismember the body of Ms. Patterson. Once this task was completed, they wrapped her body parts in sheets and put them in the trunk of the car.

Mr. Foster was thirty (30) years of age at the time of this offense which took place on or about December 27, 1973. Mr. Foster admitted that he knew Vivian Patterson as a result of their involvement in the music business and that they lived together with her children for about two and a half years prior to her death. Mr. Foster further admitted that he was the owner of the car where the dismembered body of Vivian Foster was found. However, Mr. Foster continues to deny any involvement in the murder and death of Vivian Patterson. Mr. Foster stated that it is his belief that "Jiggy", Wilbur Richburg and Marvin Morgan were responsible for the murder of Ms. Patterson and the dismemberment of her body.

The parole assessment as completed by the Illinois Department of Corrections would indicate that the institutional adjustment of Mr. Foster has been marginal during his past 42 years of incarceration with numerous disciplinary reports. However, Mr. Foster has only received three (3) IDR tickets in the past three (3) years. Mr. Foster has earned his GED and does not have a current job assignment.

Mr. Foster reported that his parents are deceased, that his sister is deceased and that he has two (2) brothers who are deceased. Mr. Foster stated that he also has another brother but that he is not aware of his whereabouts. Mr. Foster stated that with the exception of a heart by-pass surgery in 2012 and vision issues he is in good health. Mr. Foster further stated that he was never married, has no children and that he is a homosexual. Mr. Foster did not relate or indicate that he had any parole plans. Mr. Foster was pleasant, polite and attentive during the interview.

Member Crigler requested to know if any mental health information was present in the file. Member Norton stated that a psychological evaluation and assessment have been completed, and that the report finds no severe mental issues are present.



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Member Fisher requested to know if there was anything in the file showing that the two men who had dismembered the body were convicted. Member Norton noted that there was no information on those men in the file. He assumed that they may have been granted immunity.

Member Norton noted that people came over to the house while the victim was already dead in the home, including her family members. Inmate Foster told the children that she was killed in an airplane crash. Inmate Foster also made excuses when he was asked about the smell in the home.

Member E. Johnson inquired if the children reported the victim missing. Member Norton advised that the children asked Inmate Foster about her whereabouts, but never reported her missing to the police.

Cook County State's Attorney, Katie Hill, noted that the children were with their father at the time.

Member T. Johnson requested to know if there are still strong protests for this case. Member Norton stated that there were. Member Crigler noted that no one was present at the protest hearings, but there was a letter of protest presented.

Member Norton noted that Inmate Foster was very coherent and cooperative during the interview and appeared to be mentally stable. Member Norton stated that he was troubled by the lack of responsibility taken by Inmate Foster.

After a complete review, and after giving consideration to all factors, the Board remains concerned about the serious nature of this brutal and heinous offense. The board feels that a release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of this crime and offense and would promote a lack of respect for the law.

Motion to deny parole (BN-TJ). Motion prevails by a vote of 13 to 0. Leave.

Member Shelton requested to know if the victim's children were protesting the case. Member Norton stated that there was only one letter from her grandson, but that the file itself is full of family protests.

Motion for a 3-year set (BN-PF). Motion prevails by a vote of 10 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, 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— SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

Inmate Name: **MAJOR MORRIS**

IDOC Number & Institution: **T52128**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on September 28, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Major Morris, IDOC #T52128.

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, and K. Tupy

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Major Morris was convicted of two murders, occurring five years apart. Both victims were girls, either hitchhiking or walking along the roadway, and subsequently picked up by Morris, who was driving.

On September 27, 1973, 15-year-old Roberta Jean Anderson, a high school sophomore, left the rural Oswego residence of friends on foot sometime after 8:30pm. There, she had been helping to complete a Homecoming float. She never arrived home and her body was found three days later at an abandoned rural property, covered by a wagon and some debris. When discovered, her shirt was pushed up above the level of her breasts and her jeans were pulled down on her hips.

Miss Anderson was later found to have suffered sixty-one (61) stab wounds to her neck, trunk, and arms; and to have died of hemorrhagic shock.

Mr. Morris, who was 19 years of age at that time, was considered to be a suspect. He and his wife had moved from the area to Missouri within days of the discovery of Miss Anderson's body.

Articles of evidence were recovered from the now-abandoned local residence that Morris and his wife left. Morris was first interviewed by Will County Sheriff's Detective Jack Watters on October 4th. Detective Watters returned on the following day at Mr. Morris's request, and another interview resulted. At this time, Morris made the statement that he needed help. He added, "*If I killed her I don't know it...I don't know where we were or where he went.*"

Detective Watters inspected Morris's car, noting that the dome light didn't work and the passenger side door and window handles were missing.



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Detective Watters conducted a third interview on November 27th, during which time he asked Morris what he thought might have happened to the victim. Morris then suggested that the victim had been picked up by a stranger, that she had refused the stranger's advances, and was killed – the essential elements of a confession he gave nineteen (19) years later – however, he continued to deny involvement at that time. Unable to tie Morris to the crime, the case went unsolved for many years.

In the interim, the second victim, 18-year-old Margaret Stirn disappeared without a trace. Miss Stern, a student and a part-time clerk at the College of DuPage, left the campus on foot on **September 15, 1978** after complaining that she was not feeling well. She was known to hitchhike between school and home from time to time.

Miss Stern's remains were recovered on **May 9, 1986**, more than seven (7) years later and within mere feet of where Miss Anderson had been found in 1973. Miss Stern's skeleton, and her intact braces, were all that remained. She was identified through dental records.

In 1992 the Anderson and the Stirn homicide cases were re-opened, as well as the murder of another girl, **15yr old Julie A. Hanson**, of Naperville. Miss Hanson disappeared on **July 7, 1972** – prior to the Anderson and Stirn murders. She had been sexually assaulted and stabbed 36 times; and she had been found in a cornfield approximately two miles from where Miss Anderson and Miss Stern were found.

In 1992 collaborating investigators sought the help of the FBI. An offender profile, dated September 6, 1992, was generated based on all the data from the Hanson and Anderson murders. That profile concluded that anyone developed as a suspect in either of those cases should seriously be considered a suspect in the other.

A warrant was obtained to collect blood and hair samples from Morris for the investigation into the Hanson murder. Investigator Tom Morrison (Will County), Detective Mark Carlsen (Naperville) and Lead Investigator Ed Hayes (Will County) made contact with Morris on **December 3, 1992** and executed the warrant at the Pulaski County Jail in Missouri.

At the conclusion of the evidence collection Morris became emotional asked what would happen if he confessed. He confessed to the 1973 murder of Miss Anderson at that time. Morris's confession was audio-visually recorded.

During that confession Mr. Morris admitted that he was driving and drinking beer when he saw Miss Anderson walking along the roadway. He said he convinced her to get into the car, talked with her, and eventually grabbed her breast; this caused her to hit him. Morris added that she said she wanted to get out of the car, but that he told her he would not let her out, and that he stabbed her repeatedly with a knife that he had been carrying in the car. Morris added that he removed Miss Anderson – who was unconscious, from the car; and that he had sexual intercourse with her while she was "unconscious."



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Inmate Morris did take the stand in his own defense during the Anderson murder trial, alleging that he confessed because he was promised that he would only serve two years. Morris's taped confession was played to the jury during the trial and was viewed again by the jury during its seven (7) hours of deliberation.

In March of 1997, just three months after he was convicted of murdering Miss Anderson, Morris was indicted in connection with Stirn's murder. Morris elected not to go to trial and a conviction was entered following a guilty plea.

The 20-year sentence imposed for the murder of Miss Stirn has been served, and Morris has served 25 years of the 100-200-year sentence imposed for the murder of Miss Anderson.

The Board is reminded, via letter from Lieutenant Ed Hayes (Will County), of Morris's admission to a cellmate at the Pulaski County Jail that he did kill Julie Hanson. During an interview conducted by Investigator Tom Morrison of the Will County Sheriff's Department in 1992 Johnson said he was told by Morris that he (Morris) had sex with the girls after they were dead and that sex after a body was dead was better. The case of Miss Hanson's murder is yet unresolved.

Lieutenant Hayes also advised the Board that Morris, at some point, was sexually abusing one of his daughters – this was learned during the course of the investigations prior to Morris's arrest. Reportedly, that situation was resolved with the addition of an interior lock for the daughter's bedroom door.

Morris enlisted in the US Army in 1981, was discharged in 1985, re-enlisted, and served until his honorable discharge in March of 1989. He has the support of his wife of 45 years, of his daughters, and of friends with whom he served in the Army. His institutional record is excellent. He has served approximately 25 years of his 100 – 200-year sentence.

Morris discontinued his participation in a sex offender treatment program, during the pre-treatment phase, on the basis that he had already transitioned to a conformist lifestyle prior to his arrest.

There continues to be strong opposition to parole release expressed by the Will County State's Attorney, law enforcement personnel involved in the investigations, and the families of the victims for which convictions have been entered.

The Board continues to be troubled by the unprovoked attacks perpetrated by Mr. Morris upon innocent girls, and of the sex-motivated nature of those attacks. Military record notwithstanding, it is the feeling of this Board that accusations unproven, in addition to those that have been resolved through conviction in court, are such that continued incarceration for the protection of the public is warranted. In addition, it is felt that parole release of this offender would deprecate the seriousness of his crimes.



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Member Perkins requested to know if there was a total of three murders committed. Member Shelton advised that Inmate Morris was convicted for the murders of Ms. Anderson and Ms. Stirn. There is question as to whether he also murdered Ms. Hansen, but there was no conviction for that case.

Member Crigler inquired as to his age. Member Shelton advised that he is 62-years-old.

Member Diaz asked if Inmate Morris has received past votes. Member Shelton stated that he has not received any votes, and that he has only been presented a total of four times.

Member Perkins requested to know how long he had been in jail. Member Shelton noted that he had been in prison for 24 years.

Member T. Johnson requested to know if Inmate Morris has a parole plan. Member Shelton advised that he plans to live with his wife in Missouri. Both his wife and his two daughters appeared on his behalf at the hearing.

Motion to go to Closed Session (DS-JC).
Motion to return to Open Session (EC-DS).

Member Shelton noted that he was courteous and polite. He also noted that Inmate Morris' Army record did not reflect any issue until his conversation with Lieutenant Hayes. Member Shelton advised that Inmate Morris does have a job waiting upon his release.

Member Crigler requested to know if Inmate Morris admitted to the crime. Member Shelton advised that he neither admitted nor denied committing the crime.

Member Crigler also requested to know if Inmate Morris showed any remorse in his interview. Member Shelton noted that he showed some remorse and he did say he was sorry.

Paul Stirns, one of the victim's younger brothers, spoke in protest. He noted that these crimes have had an impact not only on his immediate family, but also the future generations of his family and the community. He stated the people within the community walked arm in arm to search for his sister. Her family is requesting a five-year set so that they can set this aside for 3 ½ to 4 years, before the worrying starts again that he will be let out. Mr. Stirns advised that he was 11 at the time of his sister's murder and his children will never be able to know her and he will never be able to meet her potential children. Mr. Stirns stated that you don't kill two, possibly more, and then change. He is requesting that Inmate Morris is kept, noting that this is the fourth time the family has to do this.

Kelly Sullivan with the Will County State's Attorney's Office noted that Julie Hansen's case is currently still considered a cold case.



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Member Shelton advised that there has been no therapy completed. Inmate Morris requested transfer to Big Muddy for the Sex Offender Program. He attended the pre-screening and then signed himself out of the program. Inmate Morris felt that the program was not necessary.

Member Norton requested to know if a risk assessment was completed. Member Shelton advised that it was completed and it found that he was at high risk overall to reoffender.

Motion to deny parole (DS-TJ). Motion prevails by a vote of 13 to 0. Leave.

Motion for a 3-year set (DS-TJ). Motion prevails by a vote of 11 to 2. Members voting in favor of the motion are: Mr. Clough, Ms. Crigler, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Shelton, and Mr. Tupy.

Motion for a 5-year set (EJ-VM). Motion prevails by a vote of 9 to 4. Members voting in favor of the motion are: Mr. Clough, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, 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— SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

Inmate Name: **DONALD WOODRUFF**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C72940**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on September 28, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Donald Woodruff, IDOC #C72940.

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, and K. Tupy

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Donald Woodruff was convicted of two murders that occurred one day after the other – the first involving the 18-year-old victim, **Tony Fairchild** in Clinton, Illinois on February 14, 1977; the second involving 25-year-old **Richard Ogden** Champaign, Illinois on February 15, 1977. Both murders, as well as a previous Armed Robbery that occurred in Chicago on February 11, 1977 appear to have resulted from the desire to steal a car from the person of the victim. The Armed Robbery in Chicago was not prosecuted, owing to the more serious cases case that arose in DeWitt and Champaign counties.

Relating to the death of Mr. Fairchild, and prosecuted in McLean County (rather than DeWitt County) after a change of venue, sentences were:

60 – 100 years for MURDER;
30 years for ARMED ROBBERY;
30 years for AGGRAVATED KIDNAPPING;
10 years for THEFT (over \$300);
3 years for POSSESSION OF FIREARM

Relating to the death of Mr. Ogden, and prosecuted in Champaign County, sentences were:

75 – 150 years for MURDER

Upon hearing the guilty verdict in the Fairchild murder case Woodruff threw a shoe at the prosecutor's table and had to be restrained. He physically fought with five or six officers and had to be removed from the courtroom. That event ultimately led to a third conviction:

10 years for AGGRAVATED BATTERY/GREAT BODILY HARM



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A co-offender, Percy Jones, was separately convicted of the two murders. He received the same sentences as inmate Woodruff and, although their trials were separated, an understanding of the actions of either requires an understanding of both.

IN CHICAGO – FEBRUARY 11, 1977

Co-offender Jones robbed Derek Smith at gunpoint of his car, a Buick Century, in Chicago. This occurred outside The Apollo nightclub. Later testimony from this victim established the fact that Woodruff was at one point behind the victim as Smith was being escorted to his car by Jones; that a shotgun being wielded by Jones discharged into Smith's foot and through the car's floorboard as Smith attempted to escape his own car; that Jones drove off with the victim's car; that Smith then observed Woodruff to be watching the event from inside a white van parked nearby; and that the next time the whereabouts of the offenders is known they are together in Champaign, Illinois.

The Appellate Court, in their review of the convictions, described the belief of Woodruff's involvement in this event as part of a "*A fair synopsis of the facts...*"

During inmate Woodruff's 2017 hearing at Stateville he continued to deny that he was involved in the robbery, saying, "I was in a lounge," that he identified as Apollo 3. During a taped statement by Woodruff recorded in 1977 by the State Police, Woodruff acknowledged arriving at the nightclub with Jones in a white van driven by Jones. He also acknowledged watching Jones interact with "some short guy," as well as being told by Jones that they had to go – a story devoid of references to the robbery.

IN CHAMPAIGN, GENERALLY

Testimony from numerous witnesses established the presence of Woodruff and Jones in Champaign for several days - the weekend - leading up to the murder in Clinton. They used a vacant house owned by an associate of Jones, a house with no running water, for the price of \$15. While in Champaign they both drove the stolen car from Chicago. According to a store employee, they both made repeated purchases of liquor from a store across the street from AVENUE AUTO SALES on University Avenue.

MURDER OF TONY FAIRCHILD – MONDAY FEBRUARY 14, 1977

On Monday, Woodruff and Jones apparently went looking for another car. They drove to Clinton, about 40 minutes west of Champaign where they spotted a white Pontiac Trans Am parked outside a Kroger grocery store. When the driver, **Tony Fairchild, age 18**, came out of the store they confronted him. Fairchild quickly locked his keys inside the car so they wouldn't be able to take it. Fairchild was then taken at gunpoint into the stolen Chicago car.

Fairchild was driven to a country road outside of town where he was shot in the head with a shotgun, nearly decapitating him. Fairchild's body was found at about **3:07pm** in a ditch not far from the Clinton Nuclear Power Plant, where he worked.



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Fairchild's car was not taken but it was discovered to have had a window broken out. Later, a coffee can filled with US coins and an 8-track cassette player were determined to be missing from the car.

Between 3:30pm and 4:00pm, Woodruff walked up to the east walk-up teller window of the Commercial Bank in Champaign and presented a coffee can that was filled with change to be counted and converted to currency.

During Woodruff's post-arrest taped statement he claimed that Jones was the person who took the coins into the bank - but it was Woodruff who was identified by a local attorney, who spoke for several minutes with Woodruff while Woodruff waited for the coins to be counted.

MURDER OF RICHARD OGDEN – TUESDAY FEBRUARY 15, 1977

The following day co-offenders Woodruff and Jones went to Avenue Auto Sales, which was across the street from where they had been purchasing liquor, in Champaign. There, they encountered the Assistant Sales Manager, **Richard Ogden, age 25**, who was alone in the business. They obtained the keys and the title to a white/green '73 Oldsmobile Cutlass on the lot. Mr. Ogden was moved to a small bathroom that also functioned as a storage area, where he was fatally shot in the back of the head with a shotgun. There were two vehicles missing from the lot following the murder. Both were white/green Oldsmobile Cutlasses. One of them was abandoned a block north of the business.

Included in the Champaign County trial transcript is a document that identifies a latent fingerprint recovered from inside the office as that from Donald Woodruff. During Woodruff's 2017 hearing he denied involvement in this murder with the claim that he was at a store while Woodruff was inside the dealership office.

At trial, there was testimony from two women who saw Donald Woodruff drive erratically onto a parking lot two blocks west of Avenue Auto Sales in a white/green car, then immediately northbound from the parking lot. Both women had previously met Woodruff and they identified him particularly. Those observations occurred between the time of Mr. Ogden's last living contact with a client and the discovery of his body by another customer.

ARRESTS – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1977

During the course of the investigation into the Armed Robbery being conducted by the Chicago Police Department, information was developed as to the possibility that the offender's might be in route to Peoria. The Peoria Police Department was notified.

On Thursday, February 17, 1977, the car stolen from Chicago was spotted by a Peoria police officer and stopped. Jones, who was driving the car and alone, was arrested. During the course of that arrest the key to a room at Best Inns of America in East Peoria was recovered.



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Officers learned from the second shift desk clerk that Woodruff entered the lobby on Wednesday, February 16, 1977, at approximately 1:00pm. Woodruff came into the hotel and paid cash for ten (10) days in advance.

One of the officers who went to the Best Inns observed Woodruff drive onto the parking lot of the hotel in one of the stolen cars from Avenue Auto Sales. When Woodruff parked the vehicle, and walked into the lobby he was arrested. A tow truck was summoned to tow the car while an officer stood by. When the operator of the tow truck entered the car in order to put the transmission in neutral he spotted a pistol in the car. The pistol turned out to be from Avenue Auto Sales in Champaign.

When registering into Best Inns, Woodruff registered to a Chicago address. He also registered a '71 Chevy Monte Carlo, although he was not driving one. The license plate he recorded for the ledger actually did register to him at the Chicago address, but on a '68 Pontiac LeMans. Clearly, Woodruff did not wish to establish a record of his association with the cars that he and Jones were using.

Also, recovered from inside the car was a functioning 8-track cassette player, believed to be the player from Tony Fairchild's car and 8-track tapes identified as belonging to Tony Fairchild. An employee of the hotel testified that he installed the 8-track player into the car at Woodruff's request.

The Board takes note that the recovery of the Chicago victim's car from Jones and the recovery of the Avenue Auto Sales car from Woodruff is indicative that Jones drove one of the cars from Champaign and Woodruff drove the other.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Inmate Woodruff's institutional record is extensive. The Board was informed of 125 discipline violations beginning in 1998, however, there were over 270 violations prior to 1998. Many of the violations have been violent, staff and inmate assaults, many incidents of arson, disobeying direct orders, and insolence.

There has been a sudden cessation of discipline reports, after May 20, 2015. Inmate Woodruff attributes this to the influence of a correctional officer at Pontiac Correctional Center. Inmate Woodruff was transferred from Pontiac Correctional Center to Stateville on October 7, 2015.

INTERVIEW / SUPPORT / PAROLE PLANS

Inmate Woodruff was interviewed at Stateville Correctional Center on July 7, 2017, in the presence of counsel. He denied involvement in the unprosecuted Armed Robbery in Chicago. He reminded the Board member that he was not "the shooter" during the murders. He reported acceptance at St. Leonard's Residential Program, and has the support of sisters and other members of his family.



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RISK ASSESSMENT

The recidivism risk assessment tool utilized by the Illinois Department of Corrections suggests a MODERATE Full Assessment Risk and a HIGH Full Assessment Protective.

OPPOSITION

Both the DeWitt County and Champaign County State's Attorney's continue to oppose the parole of inmate Woodruff, as do family members of the victims.

CONCLUSION

It is the opinion of a majority of the members that Donald Woodruff's involvement in these brutal unprovoked crimes, his lengthy history of serious institutional infractions, and a less than favorable risk assessment continue to make him a poor risk for parole and would, yet, deprecate the seriousness of the crimes for which he stands convicted.

Attorney Mark Hersh spoke on behalf of his client, Inmate Woodruff. He noted that Inmate Woodruff received a total of six votes last year, not the four that were mentioned. He noted that it is important to remember that when these horrific crimes occurred that Inmate Morris was only 19-years-old. Inmate Woodruff went off the rails and got caught up with the wrong guy. He noted that Mr. Jones was the shooter in the two murders. Inmate Woodruff is legally responsible and has been serving his time, even though Jones was the leader. Attorney Hersh stated that there is no excuse for these crimes, but Inmate Woodruff has completed 40 years of hard time for his part. If Inmate Woodruff is released, he wants to succeed on the outside and get a job. In regards to Inmate Woodruff's disciple, Attorney Hersh noted that it is the biggest and best argument against his parole, however, Inmate Woodruff had a tough adjustment. It should be noted that Inmate Woodruff's co-offender has already been paroled.

Member Norton requested to know if Inmate Woodruff had a prior Aggravated Battery. Member Shelton confirmed that he had one the same year, but that there is no conviction information in the file, it was just noted in the rationale from last year. Attorney Hersh noted that he never found information on the McLean County Aggravated Battery charge, although it may have been part of the spree. Member Shelton confirmed that the charge does not show up on the McLean County website.

Member Norton requested to know if he was sentenced on the DeWitt County charges for 60-100 years first and then the Champaign County charges for 75-150 years second. Member Shelton confirmed that this was accurate.

Attorney Hersh stated that he believes that the cases are to run concurrent as the Champaign County judge rejected the recommendation to run the case consecutively. Member Shelton advised that this research shows that the cases are to run concurrent.

Member Norton advised that in looking at the file, the face sheet shows that the Champaign County case is consecutive to the DeWitt County case.



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Member Fisher noted that in Inmate Woodruff's prison record prior to 1998 shows a total of 230 tickets, spanning over eleven pages.

Member Crigler advised that Inmate Woodruff has a bigger-than-life personality, but that he is respected by the Stateville Correctional Center staff. Member Crigler states that she believes that he was arrested by accountability and was not the shooter.

Member E. Johnson requested to know if Inmate Woodruff has shown remorse. Member Shelton advised that he did show remorse in both his petition and his interview.

Member Fisher noted that there were protests to be presented.

Motion to go to Closed Session (PF-TJ).

Motion to return to Open Session (DWD-VH).

Member Diaz requested to know where he will live. Attorney Hersh advised that he will parole to St. Leonard's and that he has family in both Chicago and Maryland. Member Diaz also requested to know where Percy Jones is residing. Member Shelton advised that he is in Galesburg.

After a review of the file, Member Norton presented the Board a newspaper article noting that the judge added 75-150 years to Inmate Woodruff's prior case. Member Norton advises that this confirms that his cases run consecutive, not concurrent. Attorney Hersh noted that that was a fair point, but also advised that if the judge had run the case concurrent, Inmate Woodruff would have been eligible for parole in 11 years.

Member Martinez disclosed to the board that she currently works on another board with Attorney Mark Hersh, but during that interaction, she never made any mention of this case.

Motion to deny parole (DS-TJ). Motion prevails by a vote of 9 to 4. Members voting in favor of the motion are: Mr. Clough, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Shelton, and Mr. Tupy.

Motion for a 3-year set (PF-TJ). Motion does not prevail by a vote of 6 to 7. Members voting in favor of the motion are: Mr. Clough, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Johnson, 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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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

Inmate Name: **JAMES DUMAS**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C60416**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on September 28, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for James Dumas, IDOC #C60416.

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, and K. Tupy

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

A parole assessment interview was conducted with James A. Dumas on July 20, 2017. James A. Dumas was born on September 9, 1943 and is currently 74 years of age and was a resident of Shawnee Correctional Center on the date of the interview. James A. Dumas is serving a sentence of 100 to 150 years based on his conviction for murder and armed robbery. Factors considered by the board include, but are not limited to, testimony of the resident, a review of the file, the nature of the crime, the sentence for the offense, institutional adjustment and parole plans.

The file and record would reveal that while parole for a criminal offense in the state of Indiana, James A. Dumas traveled to the state of Illinois and on August 21, 1975, James A. Dumas and an unknown accomplice committed an armed robbery of a Shell gas station located at the intersection of Bowman and Main Street in Danville, Illinois. During the arm robbery James A. Dumas shot and killed the gas station attendant who was a 15-year-old boy, David Grindstaff an honor student and on the verge of receiving his Eagle Scout award. The record would also show that this armed robbery provided James A. Dumas and his accomplice the total sum of about \$25. According to the record James A. Dumas and his accomplice already had the money and we're on their way out of the gas station when James A. Dumas shot and killed 15-year-old David Grindstaff who was serving as a gas station attendant. It should be noted that the accomplice of James A. Dumas in the murder and armed robbery has never been identified or brought to justice. James A. Dumas was 31 years of age at the time of this offense.

James A Dumas was found guilty of the offenses of murder and armed robbery following a jury trial in Vermillion County, Illinois case number 75 CF 212 . On January 30, 1976 James A. Dumas was sentenced to 100 to 150 years in the penitentiary.



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James A. Dumas denied any involvement relating to the murder and armed robbery for a considerable amount of his time. However, in more recent years James A. Dumas has admitted his involvement and guilt as a result of his actions. James A. Dumas expressed regret and sorrow and requested that his feelings of regret and sorrow be conveyed to the victims family. James A. Dumas further stated that he only intended obtain money at the time of the crime and that he did not intend to cause anyone any personal harm and that the of David Grindstaff happened accidentally as a result of the gun going off by accident. A letter from James A. Dumas in support of parole and the numerous current and past letters of protest in opposition to the possible parole of James A. Dumas were noted and taken into consideration. In recent years the institutional adjustment of James A. Dumas has been excellent and he is not received an IDR since 2009. James A. Dumas is in relatively good health and has taken certain educational vocational training during his incarceration.

James A. Dumas stated that his parole plan would be to live with his cousin Sharicka Carter in Rantoul, Illinois and he would go into business for himself as a tailor.

After a complete review of the file and giving consideration to all factors, the Board continues to be concerned by the senseless nature of this brutal crime. A release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of the crime and promote a lack of respect for the law.

Member Crigler requested to know Inmate Dumas' criminal history. Member Clough advised that he has prior thefts and arrests for drug use.

Member Diaz requests to know if he has received any past votes. Member Clough advised that Inmate Dumas received five votes last time and no votes the time before. Member Diaz requested to know who last presented the case. Member Clough advised that it was last presented by Member Harris.

Member Shelton advised that there is a large community protest for this case. He noted that the owner of the gas station comes out of guilt.

Member Perkins advised that she took the protests on this case and that a three to five year set is requested, so that there is more time between hearings.

Member Norton stated that Inmate Dumas says that the gun went off by accident, but the Statement of Facts tells a different story. Inmate Dumas show the victim in the back of the head. Member Norton also noted that Inmate Dumas has not given up his co-defendant to date.

Member Shelton requested to know if Inmate Dumas stated that he was high. Member Clough states that he did not and Member Clough noted that he believes that Inmate Dumas knew who was with him.

Member Norton requested to know if a risk assessment was completed. Member Clough advised that the risk assessment was overall low.



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Member Harris noted that the victim was show in the back, not in the back of the head. She believes Member Norton was referring to Calvin Madison's case.

Motion to deny parole (JC-PF). Motion prevails by a vote of 8 to 5. Members voting in favor of the motion are: Mr. Clough, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, and Mr. Tupy.

Motion for a 5-year set (AMP). There is not second, motion fails.

Motion for a 3-year set (AMP-PF). Motion prevails by a vote of 7 to 6. Members voting in favor of the motion are: Mr. Clough, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, and Mr. Tupy.

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