



STATE OF ILLINOIS
 JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION- October 31, 2024

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on October 31, 2024, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following individuals in custody:

R56471	Robinson, Terrance (Youthful Parole)
C77579	Drabing, Michael (Indeterminate)
L01404	Pitts, Eddie * (Indeterminate)

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

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Amy Sexton.

<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: Terrance Robinson R56471, Michael Drabing C77579, and Eddie Pitts L01404.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL for 8/29/2024: HEATON-SHOFFNER
 OPEN EXECUTIVE SESSION: 1st HEATON 2nd TUPY
 CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION: 1st TERRONES 2nd TUPY

Leave



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PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

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

Individual in Custody's Name: Terrance Robinson

IDOC Number: R56471

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on October 31, 2024, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Terrance Robinson R56471.

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

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. Terrance Robinson was interviewed on August 28, 2024, by Ms. Terrones via Webex. He was accompanied by counsel Ms. Leah Raves from the Illinois Prison Project and Mr. Blake Altman from Greenberg Traurig, LLP. Also present were his fiancée Ms. Letivia McBride, sister Ms. LaTonya Robinson, Forensic Psychologist Dr. Kim, retired correctional officer Ms. Cynthia Robles, and Mr. Chad Schultz.

Mr. Robinson was prepared to communicate and expressed gratitude for the opportunity. He presented clearly and demonstrated a positive attitude throughout the interview. He was well prepared to participate on his own behalf and there were no apparent physical challenges evident. He expressed himself appropriately with a positive, humble, and redemptive spirit. Mr. Robinson affirmed all of the information in the petition was accurate.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The defendant, Mr. Terrance Robinson and co-defendant had a gun in their possession and decided to look for someone to rob. They saw the victim pull into a gas station and make a purchase at the window. They approached him and asked the victim for a ride, and he agreed. They got into his car and directed him into an alley. There, according to the co-defendant, the defendant pulled his gun, argued with the victim, and admittedly fired at the victim when he refused to turn over his money. When the defendant was confronted with an admission made by the co-defendant, Terrance admitted involvement, admitting that he only shot, once, into the victim's arm. He claimed another person picked up the gun and fired the fatal shot. At the trial, however, he denied firing any shots but admitted he was present during the shooting and was there to commit a robbery.



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CRIMINAL HISTORY

This is the only criminal case for Mr. Terrance Robinson.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Robinson has only had one institutional ticket in his 23 years of incarceration. This is tremendous demonstration of good decision-making. The ticket was for health, smoking, and safety violations on June 30, 2008.

A reentry tool, ORAS was completed on May 25, 2022. It identified Mr. Robinsons risk level as LOW; therefore, the evaluator pursued no additional needs or goals.

Mr. Robinsons counsel requested a Forensic Psychological evaluation. The evaluation was conducted by Psychologist, Dr. Ray Kim in person and over the phone with Mr. Robinson. He utilizes research-based and validated testing that is credible and reliable. His evaluation is based on the information he was provided, the same as our packet. The packet covers the violence and abuse Terrance suffered at the hands of his family with no positive role model to inform his decision making towards overall holistic wellbeing.

Dr. Kim stated in his report that “Terrance indicates significant rehabilitation during incarceration. His protective factors significantly outweigh any risk factor of violence, making it highly unlikely that Terrance Robinson will recidivate.” We are familiar with forensic reports that are completed to apply psychological knowledge and understanding to address legal questions and decision-making. “Terrance Robinson’s mental health, despite significant trauma and harsh disciplinary actions during his youth, he has managed to develop effective coping mechanisms and currently does not engage in harmful behaviors. Robinson acquired coping skills through a range of rehabilitative programs and therapeutic interventions while incarcerated.

Based on this evaluation, Terrance has adjusted to the institution, and Dr. Kim states he is a strong candidate for reintegration into the community. His protective factors (positive relationships, healthy coping strategies, a sense of purpose, positive self-esteem, caring adults, emotional and self-awareness, problem-solving skills, good mental health, positive self-esteem, success at school), significantly outweigh any risk factors for violence, making it highly unlikely that he would recidivate.

STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

Mr. Robinson stated that at the time of the criminal offense, he was gathering with negative older associates and staying out late at night. On November 25, 2000, the day began like any other for him. Terrance and three older acquaintances smoked marijuana and hung out in a public place. He had a friendship with one of the three, Byron, who would become his co-defendant. Byron knew the other two, and Terrance only knew the other two casually. One of the two other men, Jemuel, hanging out within the group, introduced a gun after asking if anyone wanted to rob someone. Terrance Robinson



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never touched a gun. The gun was passed among all four individuals and ended up in Terrance Robinson's hand. Terrance was prompt to start the victim robbery, and he became nervous. He pointed the gun, and the victim attempted to take the gun when Terrance began to shoot. He stated that everything happened fast, and he did not understand the magnitude of holding a firearm and what it can do to a human life. Terrance flinched and closed his eyes when he pulled the trigger. He did not remember how many times he pulled the trigger. The plan was to rob the victim, and Terrance Robinson panicked, resulting in pulling the trigger and shooting the victim. He ran after shooting the victim and did not know if his shooting resulted in death. Byron, his co-defendant, caught up with him and said the victim was not hurt. Byron told Terrance to go home and sleep. Terrance stated walked home crying and in a state of shock. He still had the gun and threw it in a dumpster behind a convenience store. Once home, Jemuel, who originally introduced the gun, went to Terrance's house, and asked for the weapon. They both then went to the dumpster and retrieved the gun. Terrance was on juvenile probation and knew he violated his probation by violating his curfew. He remained afraid and concerned over what may have happened after shooting at the victim. Terrance decided to turn himself in to his probation officer for violating his curfew 3 weeks after the incident since he did not have confirmation that the victim did not suffer from the gunshot. The probation officer transported him to juvenile hall, and shortly after, detectives arrived at the juvenile hall to interview Terrance after arresting Byron.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Robinson has been accepted by St. Leonard's upon parole. NAMI will support the mental health component.

Safer will provide critical, holistic support, including ID and any basic identifiers required, and connect Mr. Robinson with any other services required.

Precious Blood Ministries will also engage with the family, along with Terrance, to navigate re-entry challenges.

TASC is prepared to support reentry citizens in rebuilding their lives. They will provide linkages to community services as needed and identified by Mr. Robinson.

Re-entry support will also be provided by the Illinois Prison Project.

Mr. Robinson took the CertainTeed Single Technology Manual exam and passed for a Master Craftsman Shingle Quality Specialist. He also has passed and qualified as a Master Craftsman Roofing Contractor. He enrolled in Crimson Florida College in 2022, where his first course was The Way to Happiness. Terrance has submitted his resume and Cara will work with him to support him in job opportunities, along with the challenges he may face in a new job.

Mr. Robinson has close family ties, and his mother remains present His sister is prepared to offer all she can to support his return and Terrance's fiancée is also committed to overall wellness for him. During the interview, it was acknowledged that the family was willing to do all they could for him.



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His sister shared that she and Terrance would benefit from family and individual counseling to address the past family trauma and knowledge to help maintain the wellness he is presently working on for future overall well-being.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

Will County did not submit a statement opposing or supporting for Mr. Terrance Robinson. There is no other opposition to date on file. As we read in the file, a family member of the victim's family approached a correctional staff member to inquire about Terrance, and they asked the staff to share on their behalf they forgave him for what he did when he was young.

ENBANC HISTORY

This is Mr. Terrance Robinson's first En Banc appearance (Youthful Parole).

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Blake Allman, Mr. Terrance Robinson's attorney, stated that he was barely 15 years old at the time of the offense. Mr. Robinson turned 39 the week before and has spent 69 percent of his life in prison. He graduated Hill Correctional Center for his academic achievements with a cap and gown. Consistency and sincerity stand out and growth is not something new to Terrance. His growth started at just 17 years old when he went in front of his sentencing judge due to the states motion to be transferred to an adult facility. The judge denied that transfer due to his good work through the past 2 years at IYC. Mr. Robinson has had one disciplinary ticket since being in The Department of Corrections. It was in 2008 for littering in front of his cell. He has no gang affiliation or other tickets. Terrance is nonviolent and a good role model. He has the willingness to help others when he is needed and has also assisted a fellow offender by keeping them on track in a positive manner. He stated that Terrance's friend Brian has been granted Clemency. He has a high success in the reentrance community and Terrance wants the same for himself. He is unable to have any contact with Brian at this time due to his parole terms, but he was able to send a letter of support on his behalf. Correctional Officers see Terrance as an asset and made sure that he was a trusted employee. He has an outside clearance position at this time, which he did not apply for. This position was offered and given to him by the staff. He also plans on taking construction courses for re-entry. Terrance has reached the full rehabilitation benefit of being at IDOC. His reentry is best served now while he can continue to learn.

Dr. Ray Kim, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, stated that the purpose of this evaluation was to assess the risk of recidivism. He has spent over 6 hours communicating with Mr. Robinson in person or by telephone to conclude the evaluations. Dr. Kim read verbatim to the Board Members the testing that was concluded on Mr. Robinson. Dr. Kim also stated that during a follow up a few weeks ago, Terrance was doing well and spoke about his family and was more concerned about their wellbeing than the hearing. He stated that this demonstrated that he is taking care of them and being the man of the family at this time. Terrance is very highly motivated to succeed and to be a productive role model in society.



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He has a low risk for future violence. His remorse is genuine and would be a good candidate for successful re-entry.

Mr. Robinson spoke about the birth of his nephew and the transformation of himself. He stated that when he was younger, he did not have a father. When the incident happened, his sister was pregnant with his nephew. Once he saw his nephew, he broke down. Terrance saw himself in his nephew and didn't want him to grow up to be like him. He stated that he had to change and be a better person to show his nephew to be better than him. Mr. Robinson described another incident when his mother came to visit. The visit took place with him being cuffed and shackled behind the glass due to him being in trouble. His mother didn't understand and asked why he continued to act out and put himself in these situations. Mr. Robinson stated he did not have an answer for her, and he realized that he was continuing to hurt his loved ones with his poor decisions in life. Mr. Robinson stated he was full of anger, hurt, pain, and didn't want to open up. He admits he was full of excuses. He stated that he didn't realize he wasn't showing accountability or remorse at the time of the offense. Dr. Patrick started helping him process what he was going through and taught him how to deal with his emotions. Mr. Robinson stated that he would just shut down and with Dr. Patrick helped him realize he needed to take accountability and work through his problems. He realizes he can no longer run from his past and own up to what he had done. Working on these things have changed him for the better. Mr. Robinson stated that the victim's sister had asked if he was doing ok, and he knew in that moment that he needed to change. He stated that after hurting someone, taking a loved one away from them, and they could still check on you, it has changed my life. He did not mean for the murder to happen but once he took accountability, he started working through it and realizing the person he is. He stated it was because of the victim's sister reaching out to him, that he started to hold himself accountable and change his ways to do the right thing to become a better version of himself.

Ms. Shoffner questioned the appeal for the resentencing that was filed in 2016. She questioned if the appeal was done on Mr. Robinson's own or if he was trying to get representation. She questioned if he was able to communicate with the judge and if he had a full hearing without his family present.

Mr. Allman stated that in 2016, Mr. Robinson filed pro se and was appointed counsel later on. Amended briefing was the cause for Miller resentencing but was stalled during COVID. In 2023, a plea deal was accepted by counsel. There was not a full hearing with a judge to actively participate.

Mr. Heaton questioned if Mr. Robison agreed to the deal.

Mr. Allman stated that Terrance was told by the appointed counsel to accept the plea deal because it would open up the opportunity for youthful parole. A Clemency Petition was filed 2 months later and there has been no decision.

Ms. Globokar questioned his release to St. Leonard's is accepted or if he will be on a wait list.

Mr. Allman stated that St. Leonard's is immediate eligibility.

Mr. Delgado questioned if he is still interested in relocating to Dallas, Texas and if he had any learning disabilities as a child.



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Mr. Robinson stated that he did not plan on relocating to Dallas, Texas. He is planning on staying with his fiancé in Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Allman stated that re-entry for Terrance is St. Leonard's in Chicago, IL. The primary focus is for Mr. Robinson not to go back to Joliet and fall into old habits.

Mr. Bohland questioned why they Board should disrupt a deal that was just accepted one year ago.

Mr. Allman stated that Mr. Robinson would not be able to be approved for youthful parole until he was resentenced. The Parole Board is unique and is there to analyze his success and reentry to make that informative decision. Terrance believed that by accepting that plea deal was his only option to be granted a youthful parole hearing. Things have changed since the plea deal. Opportunities with programs at the facility have opened up and he has received his GED.

Ms. Globokar questioned if the reasoning Mr. Robinson accepted the 40-year plea deal was just to be able to come in front of the board for youthful parole.

Mr. Allman stated that this was the advice given by his counsel to him during his resentencing hearing.

Mr. Tupy questioned if mitigation packet was submitted to the Prison Review Board.

Mr. Allman stated he is unable to obtain this information from previous representation. Counsel did not recommend 40 years, they only stated to be able to accept the deal with given terms to be able to apply for youthful parole.

End of Discussion.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to grant parole (TERRONES-SHOFFNER). Motion prevails by a unanimous vote.

After a complete review of Mr. Terrance Robinson's case, and after giving thoughtful discussion and consideration to all factors, the Board decided and voted to grant parole to Mr. Robinson, subject to conditions of parole release as set by the Board and by law. The Board hereby finds that Mr. Terrance Robinson is an appropriate candidate for parole release

"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: Michael Drabing

IDOC Number: C77579

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on October 31, 2024 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Michael Drabing C77579.

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

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

Michael Edward Drabing was interviewed by member Darryldean Goff on Tuesday August 13, 2024, via WebEx from Lawrence Correctional Center at 9:00 am. There were no other participants on the call except our staff, Alexandra Bryan IPRB WebEx Host. Mr. Drabing was not represented by legal counsel or any advocacy agency. He represented himself. He said he could not afford legal counsel and was unaware of other potential legal options.

Mr. Drabing was dressed appropriately and neatly quaffed. During the interview, Mr. Drabing was attentive, articulate, polite, respectful, open, and responsive. He openly discussed his personal history, his offenses, his incarceration time, and sharing his life experiences. He responded politely to questions and was open with his responses. He was invested in the process and responded to the best of his knowledge and ability. He was comfortable answering questions as well as asking questions. He was able to provide his memories of the incident and his thoughts at the time. Though he did say as the years go by less and less, he recalls some of the details.

Mr. Drabing is 69 years old. He is serving a life sentence of 75 - 100 years. Mr. Drabing has been incarcerated for 48 years. His projected discharge date is May 18, 2032.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On August 19, 1976, Mr. Drabing carried out a portion of his premeditated plan to murder the entire Schneider family in their home. Lloyd Schneider was 44 and lived there with his wife Phyllis, age 45. They had three daughters, Nancy, 21, a student at the University of Illinois, Terri, age 17, a high school senior and Sheryl, age 15, a high school sophomore. They were a relatively wealthy family who lived in a modern one-story home at the top of a hill facing the town of Lincoln. They ran a 400- acre



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hog-farm and were active in their community and their daughter's extracurricular activities.

After being kicked out of the home with some of his friends from a party being held at the victims' home, Mr. Drabing returned a few days later in the evening of August 19, 1976, armed with rope, a .22cal handgun and a hunting knife with a 6-inch blade. When he forced his way in at gunpoint, the only people in the home were Schneider's teenage daughter Terri and her boyfriend Jeffrey Richardson. Mr. Drabing had bound the two when Terri's parents Lloyd and Phyllis Schneider returned to their home with their second daughter Sheryl. Mr. Drabing viciously attacked Lloyd and Phyllis as well as Terri. They all fought for their lives, but Mr. Drabing was able to kill them by using his large knife stabbing them each multiple times, over 90 in total, many as deep as 6 inches. While this slaughter was occurring, Sheryl Schneider and Jeffrey Richardson were able to escape and contact the authorities. It should be noted, his plan was to kill all five people that evening. Mr. Drabing admitted to the murders but claimed insanity at the time of trial. That defense was rejected. His motive for the murders according to Mr. Drabing is related to his disdain for the family because of their wealth. Additionally, he may have been harboring anger for being kicked out of the Schneider home prior to the murders.

His plan was to murder each person in the house in a different way. For example, one was to be murdered in the swimming pool and he wanted to put one on the pool table and skin them alive. This is supported by his binding the two teenagers before he began killing.

The medical records would indicate that all three of the victims died as a result of hemorrhage due to multiple stab wounds. The victims sustained multiple stab wounds of approximately 10 stab wounds each.

On February 10, 1981 while housed at Menard Correctional Center he was charged and ultimately convicted of Attempt (Murder) for stabbing a fellow inmate 9 times while in prison.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Drabing used illegal drugs in college and stole frequently. He admitted to stealing several hundred phonograph records and a substantial sum of money from an employer. After reaching 18 years of age, he used drugs, "as much as I could get". He stated if he was not sleeping, he was high on something." (1976 psych report). Criminal Damage to State Supported Property (Shot out school windows with BB gun).

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Drabing has received 28 tickets since being incarcerated. The most serious ticket being in 1991 for stabbing another individual in custody. Michael received 30 years for attempted murder. His last ticket was on October 15, 2017, for fighting.

There was an ORAS re-entry assessment completed on November 23, 2021, where the results indicated that Mr. Drabing was low risk to re-offend. No recommendations were given with the assessment.



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DOC Offender Overview 07/19/2024 - Institutional Adjustment/Assignments: "Individual Drabing was charged with the Armed Violence/Category II Weapon along with Attempt Murder intent to Kill/Injure. Both of those charges, individual Drabing was sentenced to an additional 30 years each. On September 5, 1989 individual Drabing was issued a Sexual Misconduct ticket which resulted in 2 months B grade and on October 15, 2017, individual Drabing was found guilty of 214 fighting reduced to 304 individual received C-grade for 1 month. Individual Drabing has been involved in many assignments over their 48 years with the Illinois Department of Corrections. Although since coming to Illinois River Correctional Center on November 2, 2021, individual Drabing has not completed a program or job assignment.

STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

In the interview I asked him what he was doing before, and what was going on with him prior to his criminal act. He stated that he had been using marijuana for some time to self-medicate. He didn't understand what was going on with him but that he was terribly depressed. So much so that his mother got him help at a clinic. There was supposed to be a psychiatrist to evaluate him. He was told that the doctor was out of town, and they had a therapist, who was new do the interview. When the therapist realized he needed medication, he sought assistance from someone else, who wrote the prescription, and it was not what he needed. A few weeks later is when he committed his crime. He also said that in March of that year, he had used LSD. He stated he accepts responsibility for his acts and harming the family (his victims). He wasn't denying what he did. He described his act as heinous, and an egregious killing. He said he has thought about the family and that while he cannot speak with them, he has written a letter.

His description of his criminal act, he sticks with his motive for the murders. He describes his self as being a revolutionary and believing being rich was evil. He feels that was a delusion. He says it is hard for others to understand. Prior to the offense he told his mother that he could not tell her what he was thinking. His recollection was he did not see a doctor before the crime, and he saw a social worker and told the doctor what he was thinking of doing. He said he was put on medication which made his condition worse. He saw the mental health professional a few times and told him a few times he was thinking of killing someone. He said that the mental health professional was sued, and his mother got an undisclosed settlement (\$10K).

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Drabing does not have an active MSR site, and stated he is willing to go to any transition housing facility selected and approved by IDOC. He hopes to move into his own home.



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OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

There is a letter of objection on file from the Logan County Judge, William G. Workman. Mr. Workman was a State's Attorney from 1996-2000. He grew up in Logan County, knew the family, and went to school with Terri. She was one year behind him in high school. He speaks of the impact the murders had on the community. "Shock waves across the county." Mr. Workman wrote in his letter. He also stated that imprisonment is necessary for the protection of the public from Michael Edward Drabing. To allow him to leave the Department of Corrections, granting him parole, would deprecate the seriousness of his conduct and would be inconsistent with the ends of justice for the Schneider family and the citizens of Logan County.

ENBANC HISTORY

Mr. Drabing's first consideration for parole was in 1997. Michael has come up for parole consideration 9 times. A summary of his past multi-year sets includes 7-three-year sets in 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2018, and 2021; 1-five year set in 2011; and 1-one year set in 2017.

Open Executive Session: SHOFFNER-HEATON

Close Executive Session: SHOFFNER-DELGADO

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Ms. Sheryl Boward stated that she noticed a few things that Mr. Drabing said that was different than previous years. He claims he was an outcast, but he had friends and was well liked. Mr. Drabing was asked to be in a friend's wedding in the fall following the murders. He wants to comeback and live in Springfield, Illinois to live close to his mother. Sheryl stated that she wants to live closer to her mother, father, and sister but that will never happen again. She stated that not one person in Logan County wants him to come live amongst them. The fear that everyone would have knowing he's there, with the opportunity to finish what he wanted to do. She stated that the day she had to testify against him, it put a target on her back, she was only 15 years old. She was hopeful that he got life, but it was not an option at the time. She fears for her and her families' lives. He has already ruined her life and now has the opportunity to ruin it again. Sheryl stated it is the physical and mental issues that she has to deal with knowing that he is still alive and can potentially finish the job. She mentioned that he wants to be a barber, and questioned if anyone could trust him to allow him to do that with his anger issues. Sheryl expressed her fear that she has if Mr. Drabing was to be released and stated he is where he should be for the rest of his life.

Ms. Colleen Riesselman stated that she went to school with Mr. Drabing. He was a year ahead of her in high school and a lot of his stories are untrue. She was supposed to walk down the aisle with him at a friends' wedding. All of the friends are terrified of him getting out of prison. These same



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friends found out that he had planned the murders a week before he committed the act by letters sent to them from prison. Ms. Riesselman also stated Mr. Drabing would have fits of rage. At a party, she saw him have to be carried out of the house by 4-5 men due to be so outraged. He was not high 24 hours a day. She also stated that he was not an outcast or picked on. At this point, even those that were his great friends do not want him out. She stated at one parole hearing, another person claimed that he was diagnosed as a sociopath.

End of discussion.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (GOFF-BOHLAND). Motion prevails by a unanimous vote.

Motion for a 5-year set (GOFF- DELGADO). Motion prevailed with a 9-1 vote. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Coates, Mr. Delgado, Ms. Globokar, Ms. Goff, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones, and Mr. Tupy. Mr. Grubbs dissented.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Michael Drabing'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. Drabing'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: Eddie Pitts *

IDOC Number: L01404

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on October 31, 2024 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Eddie Pitts * L01404.

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

Recording Secretary: Amy Sexton



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PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

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

On February 14, 2024, Mr. Eddie Pitts was interviewed by Board Member, Mr. Jeffrey Grubbs and then Board Chair, Mr. Donald Shelton at Lawrence Correctional Center. The interview began around 9:35 am and ended around 10:50am. Also present were Ms. Carolyn Klarquist and Ms. Miriam Sierig of the Office of the State Appellate Defender, Mr. Pitts' pro bono counsel.

Mr. Pitts was 71 years old at the time of the interview and is serving a 150–300-year sentence for a murder that occurred on November 30, 1976, when he was 24 years old. He has been in continuous custody for almost 48 years.

Mr. Eddie Pitts was dressed in institutional attire and appeared somewhat unkept. His posture was drawn as he sat with his arms crossed, though not in an offensive manner. He would close his eyes during the entire interview, relaying doing so assisted him in being able to recall events of the past. He was cooperative, polite, and appeared to be in good health and physical condition.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On November 30, 1976, the victim, Mr. Jerry Keane, and his co-worker, Mr. Winston McCain, were on duty as servicemen for People's Gas Company. They responded to a call regarding a gas leak on South Harvard Avenue in Chicago, where Mr. Eddie Pitts and Mr. Edward Stewart were present. When they arrived, Mr. Stewart answered the door and let them into the residence. He informed them the gas odor was emanating from an upstairs bedroom, prior to all of them proceeding to the basement to inspect the furnace. Serviceman Keane had trouble removing the furnace door, so his coworker Mr. McCain began to proceed upstairs to retrieve a screwdriver. Mr. McCain almost immediately heard Mr. Keane scream for help. He immediately returned to the basement and witnessed Mr. Pitts attacking Mr. Keane. Mr. McCain then ran outside to radio for help.

When police arrived, Mr. Pitts was no longer present. Police found Mr. Keane lying on the basement floor, deceased. It was determined he had suffered over 23 stab wounds.

Mr. Pitts was located and arrested the next day. He was initially found unfit to stand trial. In 1977 he was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia and transferred to the Illinois Department of Mental Health for treatment to restore fitness. Following treatment involving transfers to various psychiatric centers, he was declared fit to stand trial in 1978. At his request, he would again be evaluated, resulting in a diagnosis not inconsistent with previous diagnoses of schizophrenia, paranoid type in partial remission with medication, He was deemed fit to stand trial.

Mr. Pitts pled not guilty by reason of insanity but was convicted by a jury and incarcerated in the Illinois Department of Corrections in 1980. The state's attorney stated at that time that if Mr. Pitts were ever to be considered for parole, he should receive a full mental health evaluation to be reviewed for civil commitment pursuant to the mental health code.



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The Appellate Court affirmed the conviction and sentence. *People v. Eddie Pitts*, 104 Ill. App. 3d 451, 432 N.E. 2d. 1062 (1st Dist. 1982).

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Eddie Pitts was previously arrested and charged with an Unlawful Use of a Weapon in 1975, failed to appear and ultimately pled guilty and was sentenced to probation. While on probation, he was arrested and charged with an assault that was eventually dismissed.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Overall, Mr. Eddie Pitts has demonstrated positive institutional adjustment. His master file indicates from the late 1980s to the early 2000s, he held a number of job assignments. He was active in arts and crafts and sports-related and religious activities. He also attempted to attend school. Mr. Pitts indicated during his interview that he attempts to focus his time on exercise, describing it as therapeutic.

Regarding his disciplinary history, Mr. Pitts has received mostly minor tickets during the majority of his period of incarceration. He was the subject of many non-punitive institutional transfers over the years, until arriving at Dixon Correctional Center in 2011. All of that changed with an incident which occurred on April 18, 2022, resulting in a major ticket for an assault on another individual in custody. He received six months of segregation and a disciplinary transfer to Lawrence Correctional Center. The victim suffered a brain bleed, which required surgery, in the form of a craniotomy. Based upon testimony from Mr. Pitts 2023 hearing, the victim did ultimately recover.

Mr. Eddie Pitts maintains the incident was an act of self-defense, which is contrary to a confidential informant's witness statement documented in IDOC investigative documents. Mr. Pitts has not received any additional tickets since this 2022 incident.

Mr. Pitts was informally classified as a chronic infirmary resident by the Department of Corrections, beginning during his time at Dixon Correctional Center and continuing during his time at Lawrence Correctional Center. At the time of this interview, he was considered an informal, but permanent resident of the infirmary, though he returned to general population status not long afterwards. Yet, in August of this year, Mr. Pitts returned to the infirmary due to dementia-related symptoms, as he is said to have considerable difficulty navigating movement within the facility.

STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

Mr. Pitts did express remorse regarding the murder of Mr. Keane, including sorrow for Mr. Keane's family. He repeated a statement from prior interviews, indicating he did not wake up on the day of the offense with intentions to hurt anyone, describing it as an awful day. He also reiterated



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statements from prior interviews, indicating he was suffering from hallucinations and feared someone was going to kill him; therefore, he had to kill them before they killed him. He provided additional detail regarding perceiving the servicemen to actually be ‘dogs’ about to attack him, stating that he saw Satan in the two ‘dogs’ (servicemen) that day. During the interview he displayed what appeared to be sincere frustration regarding his hallucinations and situation.

PAROLE PLANS

At the request of Mr. Pitts’ counsel, his February 2024 En Banc hearing was granted monthly continuances, in order to secure a viable host site. Following a review of Mr. Pitts’ call and visitor logs, it became very apparent he has had the benefit of strong family support. Despite the length of his incarceration, Mr. Pitts has continued to receive calls and visits from numerous family members, many of whom have written about their willingness to support his transition back to society, especially his sister and nephew, who participated in a behalf interview.

Recently, Mr. Pitts was accepted at Balmoral Nursing Home, a Skilled Nursing Facility, located in a residential neighborhood of Chicago. The facility offers both mental health services and provides or facilitates a number of services for residents suffering from mental health and dementia related symptoms. It is an Illinois Department of Corrections approved host site, with four current residents who were released as the result of the Joe Coleman Act.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

The Cook County State’s Attorney has written multiple years with opposition, though none has been received since 2021. One, current letter of opposition was received and there are numerous 2023 letters of opposition.

ENBANC HISTORY

Mr. Pitts was first considered for parole in 1987, just seven years after his initial sentencing. He has appeared before this Board more than 20 times. He received at least seven three-year sets, between 1988 and 2016. Mr. Pitts did not receive a single vote for parole until 2019, when a motion to grant parole failed by a 3-8 vote; in 2020 a motion to deny prevailed by a 7-7 split; in 2021 a motion to deny prevailed by 11-3 vote; and in 2022 a motion to grant parole failed by a 3-5 vote. In 2023, the first hearing following the major disciplinary incident, a motion to deny parole prevailed by a 10-1 vote.

Open Executive Session: HEATON-DELGADO

Close Executive Session: GRUBBS-SHOFFNER

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:



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Ms. Shoffner questioned Mr. Grubbs in regard to Mr. Eddie Pitts' assessment from 2022 and from the interaction with him, if Mr. Pitts is prone to have an incident occur again.

Mr. Grubbs stated that with his experiences and background in law enforcement, he certainly does not believe that he has the ability to predict the future behavior of anyone, including Mr. Pitts.

Ms. Globokar stated that she had investigated a ticket last year. In that moment, Mr. Pitts believed he was defending himself from detrimental forces. The Illinois Department of Corrections was unable to provide a video of the offense.

Mr. Pitts attorney, Ms. Carolyn Klarquist, stated that the parole plan would address any concerns regarding his rehabilitation. He has been accepted into Balmoral Nursing Home. The home currently has four individuals who have successfully been living at since their release from IDOC. The facility is very aware of Mr. Pitts' issues, and they are accustomed to dealing with these individuals. He will be in the Identified Offenders Program. Ms. Klarquist stated that his parole agent would be there to see him within 24 hours of his release. There will also be a risk profile to go along with the residency plan to be completed within 24 hours. Involved parties upon Mr. Pitts' parole include the nursing home facility, State Police, and his parole officer. NAMI will have a team assigned to him for weekly check-ins. Illinois Prison Project will have social workers who are committed to making sure Mr. Pitts has a smooth adjustment and it is safe for everyone. The nursing home will require a Power of Attorney. Mr. Pitts will not be allowed outside of the nursing home without being signed out due to his dementia diagnosis. POA will be given to his nephew. Mr. Pitts is also now living in the infirmary at Lawrence Correctional Center. She stated that Mr. Pitts is not a security risk, or he would be locked in a cell. The facility is personable and have said that the residents that have come from IDOC, flourished there. Since, being in the infirmary, Mr. Pitts has been more aware and sociable. The staff has always had positive things to say about him. He is only in the infirmary because of the dementia and a hernia surgery that happened last week. Ms. Klarquist stated the nurses told her that Mr. Pitts is confused, and that IDOC is not designed to treat dementia patients. On parole he is technically still in IDOC custody.

Ms. Miriam Sierig, Mr. Pitts other attorney, stated that none of us can look into the future, but there's a place ready to treat Mr. Pitts from the moment he arrives. He will be medically transported from IDOC to the nursing home. There is a psychiatrist on staff, and he will be evaluated upon arrival. Three treatment levels are available at their facility and there will be an ongoing plan with a team of people committed to treatment just for Mr. Pitts.

Ms. Terrones questioned the forensic report that would be completed on admission. She questioned if the report identifies a significant level of caution of need if the facility will still accept him.

Ms. Klarquist stated that it is her understanding that they will accept Mr. Pitts regardless and it will just be for his level of care. No one is allowed in the showers by themselves. The facility is open, but he will be watched. This is what Mr. Pitts needs and cannot be provided by IDOC.

Ms. Sierig stated that depending on Mr. Pitts' needs, it will show the facility if he needs to be by himself of in a room with others.



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Mr. Heaton questioned what the facility can do for Mr. Pitts that IDOC cannot. He questioned if he were paroled, would he have a 3-years parole term and if he would be able to live there after the three years. He questioned whose decision that would be when the three years is up and if his nephew's intention is to keep him in the nursing home.

Ms. Klarquist stated the facility can offer Mental Health Treatment, a real doctor, and psychiatrist who will be meeting with him weekly. After the 3-year parole term, he will be able to live at the facility indefinitely. The POA would be the person to make that decision, which is his nephew who currently lives in Indiana. He is aware that Mr. Pitts needs to be in an assisted living for the rest of his life.

Ms. Globokar stated her concerns if that the offense in 2022 seems to be associated with his mental health. She is concerned with him having access to other individuals within the nursing home.

Ms. Klarquist stated Mr. Pitts has not been on any anti-psychotic medication in the past 22 years and has not had any psychiatric care within IDOC.

Ms. Terrones questioned if they believe around the clock assistance will help him not have those behaviors because he will have a psychiatrist to acknowledge those behaviors and address them before something bad happens.

Ms. Sierig stated they have a team of people just for Mr. Pitts.

Mr. Delgado questioned the security of the nursing home and if the staff is used to dealing with these individuals. It's an extension of IDOC, it is not an average nursing home.

Mr. Heaton, trying to understand the long-term plan with Mr. Pitts, questioned if this facility is going to allow him out in 3 years when his parole is done.

Ms. Sierig stated that the long-term plan is for Mr. Pitts is to stay at the nursing home. His health has declined so much in one year that he may not even be alive in 3 years. He has trouble navigating the prison and will not be able to live on his own.

Ms. Terrones stated that his nephew, only has so much say so. She stated that if Mr. Pitts wanted to leave, he could do that. There needs to be some legal protections for him because his dementia doesn't allow him to make informed decisions. The facility can take 24-hour guardianship.

Ms. Klarquist stated that she trusts the staff to be able to handle this. It is an approved IDOC site. They are the ones that let them know that his nephew needed to be Mr. Pitts' power of attorney. Mr. Pitts would not understand if he was given a piece of paper to sign to be civilly committed.

Ms. Goff questioned the type of dementia Mr. Pitts has been diagnosed with and what phase.

Ms. Klarquist stated she does not know. She stated they explained to Mr. Pitts that he would not



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be able to walk out of the nursing facility and he did understand.

Mr. Tupy stated that he would be on parole for life, not 3 years. He questioned if the nursing home will be able to treat both mental health and dementia. He also questioned if his nephew will be paying for Mr. Pitts to be in the nursing home.

Ms. Sierig stated that they have researched facilities, and they do handle both. Mr. Pitts will receive Medicare. IDOC helped to place Mr. Pitts in Balmoral Nursing Home.

Ms. Klarquist stated Mr. Pitts will also get Social Security benefits from previously working.

Ms. Globokar questioned if IDOC's Mental Health team has been seeing Mr. Pitts after an IDOC officer observed him talking to himself. She questioned if he has been receptive to psychiatric medication or treatment. She also stated that last year during her interview with Mr. Pitts, she acknowledged his remorse for this incident.

Ms. Klarquist answered, "No," but they want a medical professional to look at these things for him. IDOC does not have adequate mental health care for individuals. Mr. Pitts is aware, but we believe that we should leave that up to the medical professionals to figure out with him. She also stated that Mr. Pitts has always been remorseful, and him and his family are sorry this happened.

Ms. Sierig stated that they have spoken with Mr. Pitts about this and he is interested in fixing his brain problems, as he calls it. He has not been treated for over 20 years for schizophrenia. Mr. Pitts has a very loving a caring family who is dedicated.

End of discussion.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

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

After thorough consideration of Mr. Eddie Pitts' 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. Pitts' 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."