



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
 BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR  
**PRISONER REVIEW BOARD**

Craig Findley, Chairman

**EN BANC MINUTE SHEET: MEETING OF October 26, 2017**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on October 26, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

C91336	Earl Allen
L36032	Jacob Bramlett
C77579	Michael Drabbing
T76635	James Blottiaux

The meeting was called to order by Craig Findley.  
 Roll call was taken by the Recording Secretary: Lindsey Conder

<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

Meeting was adjourned (CF - SD). Leave.  
 Submitted by: Lindsey Conder, Recording Secretary



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Craig Findley, Chairman

**EN BANC MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION— OCTOBER 26, 2017**

Inmate Name: **EARL ALLEN**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C91336**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on October 26, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Earl Allen, IDOC #C91336.

Members present were: J. Clough, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, D.W. Dunn, C. Findley, P. Fisher, V. Harris, E. Johnson, V. Martinez, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Lindsey Conder, Recording Secretary

Birthday: 12/31/1953

(per IDOC file DOB 6/Dec 1952)

Mr. Allen stated he has also used the date of 1948 to get a job with the park district.

He stated he made up 1952 to tell the police.

He stated his actual birthday is 12/31/1953.

Mr. Allen was interviewed on September 13, 2017 At Dixon Correctional Center.

No one else was present. Family (brother and wife) had scheduled a visit but did not appear.

Statement of facts: On January 10, 1978 at 1111 W. Roosevelt Rd. Apt 606, Earl Allen entered the bedroom of Geraldine Hubbard and shot her once in the head. Earl Allen then went into the living room and shot Geraldine's brother, Willie Hubbard, age 17. Earl Allen shot both of them because he thought he was cheated out of \$75.00 by one of them. Earl Allen, after shooting them, ran up to his girlfriend's house on the 16<sup>th</sup> floor where he was arrested a few minutes later. Geraldine Hubbard lived for four days before she died and told police that Earl Allen was the man who shot her and Willie.

Earl Allen was sentenced on 5/08/1979 to (2 COUNTS) Murder: 100-300 YEARS and 100-300 YEARS (CC)

(State's recommendation was 200-600 years)

His last hearing was September 2016. Prior to this his last hearing was October 2013 at which he received no votes and was given a three-year set.

Inmate's statement of offense.

Mr. Allen stated that the day before \$35,000.00 came up missing. He asked Geraldine about it. He stated they (her and her son, the two victims) stole it. They played games. He called the police to escort him to the apartment to get his clothes because they had a gun. The police came with him, but then said everything was ok and then they left. He was gathering clothes and then he saw Willie lying in the bed. He believed he was playing possum, and the gun was hidden on



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the floor. (But during another discussion of the events Mr. Allen also said that Willie was in the other room at the time.) He feared Willie was going to kill him. Mr. Allen does not deny the murders, but claims it was entirely self-defense, though presented varying statements of the specific elements of the incident. His accounts were somewhat difficult to follow, and was difficult to reconcile the conflicting aspects of his statement of events. He does express remorse for the killings.

**Criminal history:**

Mr. Allen had 39 prior arrests and seven prior convictions. He was on bond for charges of Armed Robbery at the time of the present offense.

He stated one of the charges was for throwing a rusty piece of metal. He states it flew off but he ran after it and caught it, but the piece of metal still hit his brother behind the ear. Mr. Allen stated he ran away to Cook County Jail because it was the safest place to go. He stated no one would find him there, so he stayed there and cooked for them.

He has a history of involvement in the Black Peace Stones which he has claimed he had separated from on several occasions. He currently denies involvement and states he gave it up a long time ago.

Mr. Allen denies any history of substance abuse.

The SPIN assessment noted a severe problem with substance abuse. He reportedly stated that tranquilizers or sedatives caused him the most serious problems.

Mr. Allen stated he was in the army from 1966-1969 and did hand to hand combat at the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade in Chicago on the lakefront in a gymnasium, and then did most of the three years in Viet Nam.

**Institutional Adjustment:**

Since his last appearance before the Board in 2016 he has had 11 major tickets and one minor ticket. He stated he knew he would be asked why he's done so poorly, and stated "the C.O. came with hell fire and damnation and sprayed [me] with something. A large can of agent orange, that turned him orange, and he never heard of some of them."

His most recent ticket was 8/09/2017 for intimidation or threats.

Notably he has had 290 tickets, but yet has gone extended periods without any noted tickets, and then multiple subsequent tickets. He has no recorded tickets in 2004, 2010, and 2011. He received four tickets in 2000, 48 in 2001 and one in 2002. His institutional adjustment has had large variations from no tickets in a year to up to 48 in one year. Institutional placement alone does not explain this. He has been on enforced medications at times, specifically noted in 2008 and 2009.

**Family:**

Per the file, Mr. Allen has five children.

During the interview, he stated that he had already had eight children by the age of 13, but then stated his oldest child was born in 1968. When confronted about the discrepancy he had difficulty reconciling the conflict of information.

During the spin assessment, he reported that he had nine children.



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Per 2016 parole presentation he stated he has nine children and has contact with four of his children.

**Medical concerns:**

Earl has been diagnosed with schizophrenia, anxiety and depression. He has attempted suicide in the past. Spin assessment notes victimization as a child and as an adult. No further information was provided.

Psychiatric diagnoses include Schizophrenia, Anxiety disorder and Depression.

During the interview, Mr. Allen stated that he had Lupus, COPD, and liver problems that have not been attended to. He also stated he has something wrong with his balance stating that he can't hold his balance and falls a lot.

He stated he slipped a little bit in 1992 and was taken to U of I hospital. He states they found him in his cell, and thinks he was almost dead.

(Per file Mr. Allen was hospitalized at Chester MHC 10/09/1990.)

He stated he is currently taking Depakote 500mg, Geodon 80mg, and Ativan.

He has been prescribed a number of other medications in the past, and has a history of refusing medications, and being placed on enforced medications.

**Skills and education:**

He reported during the spin assessment that he has not completed high school.

Mr. Allen states that while in IDOC he had career counseling and vocational training for engines, carpenter, plumber, and cooking school. He stated that at Stateville he was a sanitation specialist and did painting.

**Support and Protest**

His brother and wife were scheduled to appear in support of Mr. Allen, but did not arrive. No further information is available as to why they did not appear. Mr. Allen stated his brother always comes to visit after the parole hearing. He stated he plans to live with his brother.

The Cook County State's Attorney presented a statement and letter of protest.

A SPIN assessment was completed on 7/01/2016 and determined overall risk to be high.

A history of severe problems with substance abuse, including tranquilizers or sedatives and the drugs that caused him the most serious problems. He has used alcohol heroin. Tranquilizers, sedatives and injecting drugs almost every day during 12-month period prior to being arrested.

He reported the problem to be moderately serious.

Overall risk is high with high static and moderate dynamic risk.

Protective factors are overall moderate with moderate static and dynamic protective factors.

**Parole plans:**

Mr. Allen stated he plans to live with his brother Wendell. He stated his brother always comes for a visit after his hearing. He stated he was told to settle down on social security, but can't do that. He stated he can cook and bake. Prior parole plans were to live with his daughter or live at the Salvation Army. The daughter is apparently no longer an option. He stated he joined the Salvation Army in 1984 and completed all their classes. He then stated that "true believers are supposed to be happy. I'm happy."



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His goals are 1. The parole board, 2. Get funds for a car, 3. Get a job, 4. Get an apartment, then will need furniture, 5. Go to the supermarket and get a newspaper to look for sales.

His first parole hearing was April 1986.

His last hearing was November 17, 2016. He did not receive any votes in favor of parole. He had a parole hearing October 13, 2013 and was given a 3-year set.

He did not receive any votes, and received a 5-year set. He has never received any votes and since 2000 has had consecutive 3-year sets. He also received 3-year sets in 1991 and 1996.

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.

Member E. Johnson: His brother and sister-in-law had a scheduled visit but they never showed.

Member Fisher: How long has he been incarcerated?

Member E. Johnson: Since 1979.

Member Crigler: What is his discharge date?

Member E. Johnson: 2027.

Member Johnson: My only concern is if he had an enforced psychiatric plan he might be suitable for parole. I don't see that getting better voluntarily.

Member Shelton: He cannot tell the same story twice, he has murdered two people and has substance abuse problems. He cannot admit to it. I don't think he is reasonably going to be a candidate for parole.

Motion to deny parole (EJ-DS). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 0. Leave.

Motion for a 3-year set (DS-PF). Motion prevails by a vote of 8 to 4. Members voting in favor of the motion are: Mr. Clough, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, and Mr. Shelton.

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

**EN BANC MINUTE SHEET  
OPEN SESSION— OCTOBER 26, 2017**



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**PRISONER REVIEW BOARD**

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Inmate Name: **JACOB BRAMLETT**

IDOC Number & Institution: **L36032**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on October 26, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Jacob Bramlett, IDOC #L36032.

Members present were: J. Clough, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, D.W. Dunn, C. Findley, P. Fisher, V. Harris, E. Johnson, V. Martinez, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Lindsey Conder, Recording Secretary

Jacob J. Bramlett, who is a white male, born on September 1, 1944, was interviewed on September 13, 2017 at the Lawrence Correctional Center. Factors considered include, but are not limited to, parole plans, institutional adjustment, a review of the file, and his testimony.

The record would indicate he was convicted of the offenses of Murder/Intent to Kill/Injure (x2). He was sentenced to 50 years to run concurrently: (2) 25 years consecutively. He entered IDOC on February 4, 1983, and has been at Lawrence Correctional Center since September 21, 2004, with a release date of March 21, 2045. The record would indicate he received 50-100 years on a 1977 murder, and 25 years for a 1980 murder, consecutively. The first murder was in Randolph County in July, 1977. The inmate struck the victim, David Skurat, in the head with a tire tool. Bramlett indicates he went to Mr. Skurat to get cocaine (5 kilos). The victim indicated he did not have the drugs, and Bramlett said he shot him with a 357 Magnum and left his body on the county Line Road, outside Ava, Illinois. The second murder victim was Michael Throop. Bramlett was directed, according to him, to recover some drugs (Cocaine) from him. He says he did not know Throop. He beat and strangled him to death. Bramlett pled guilty to this murder. He did appeal his conviction, and was denied by the Appellate Court.

Mr. Bramlett does have the following family: one sister, who lives in Tennessee, another sister and a brother who live in Southern Illinois. He does indicate he has communication with all of them, occasionally. He was married, twice, and is now divorced.

Mr. Bramlett, even though he is 73 years of age, enjoys relatively good health, and he says he only takes a blood thinner and a diuretic.

During the time of his incarceration he has not received any disciplinary reports. He has had various work assignments, and he has left all work assignments in good standing. The offender has not participated in any programming at Lawrence. Mr. Bramlett is designated a Medium Security offender, an A grade, Moderate escape risk. The offender has no release plans. His overall adjustment to the prison environment is excellent, and he appears to be content with his life behind the walls.



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Throughout the interview, Mr. Bramlett displayed no emotion, and was very passive. When asked if he ever thought of the above crimes, he says, 'not really'. When asked if he really thought he deserved to be paroled, after a brief time and very little thought, he responded, 'probably not'.

Member Shelton: He has been in how long?

Member Dunn: Since 1983.

Member Fisher: When was the second?

Member Dunn: It didn't state. I didn't find anything, it was all drug related.

Member Perkins: What is his education level?

Member Dunn: He has his GED.

Member Fisher: Was the victim beaten to death or shot?

Member Dunn: The first was shot the second was beaten.

Member Norton: You mentioned that he had murdered twice and received 50-100 years concurrently, then a 25 year consecutive, what's that for?

Member Dunn: The 25 year is for the second murder.

Chairman Findley: What is his discharge date?

Member Dunn: 2045.

Chairman Findley: If he made an effort to make a parole plan, he might be let out.

Member Perkins: He feels comfortable where he is. He doesn't feel that he deserves to go home.

Motion to deny parole (DWD-PF). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 0. Leave.

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

**EN BANC MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION— OCTOBER 26, 2017**

Inmate Name: **Michael Drabbing**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C77579**



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The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on October 26, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Michael Drabbing, IDOC #C77579.

Members present were: J. Clough, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, D.W. Dunn, C. Findley, P. Fisher, V. Harris, E. Johnson, V. Martinez, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Lindsey Conder, Recording Secretary

Prisoner Review Board Member Vonetta Harris presented inmate Michael Drabbing, C-77579, for parole consideration on October 26, 2017. The facts of the case but not limited to are as follows:

On August 19, 1976, Lloyd and Phyllis Schneider, ages 44 and 45 were a well-to-do farm couple who resided in their modern, one-story home at R. R. 1, Lincoln, Illinois with their 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. The Schneider's home was located at the top of hill facing the city of Lincoln. The Schneider's farmed 400 acres of land and maintained a large hog-raising operation. The parents and their daughters were active in community affairs and activities. Mr. and Mrs. Schneider's main interest centered around their daughters who participated in a number of extracurricular activities, in particular sports and cheerleading.

On the eve of August 19, 1976, Mr. and Mrs. Schneider and their daughter, Sheryl went into town about 7:30 p.m. to attend a play at the local community theater at Lincoln College. Sheryl was left at her grandmother's house in Lincoln and Terri remained home with her boyfriend, Jeffrey Richardson from Indiana, a student. Terri and Jeff went swimming in the pool, dried off, and decided to listen to music in Terri's room. About 11:15 p.m., the doorbell rang. Terri left Jeff in the bedroom to answer the door and Jeff immediately heard a scream. He heard a second voice say, "Where is everybody?" Terri responded, "there was no one home, she was all alone." Jeff decided to hide against the wall on the floor in Terri's room. It was Drabbing. He tied Terri's hands with a rope, played the stereo music. He noticed Jeff hiding on the floor and asked did he call anyone. Jeff hands were tied and ankles. Drabbing cut all the interior phone lines (5). The Schneider's arrive home to find Drabbing in their house. In a panic, Mrs. Drabbing asks about Terri. Drabbing led all everyone to Terri's room. Somehow, they were able to slam the door, lock it with their body weight, but Drabbing broke through the door by use of force using his revolver as a club against the door. Jeff and Sheryl were able to escape through the window to call the police for help. The police answered the call to a 10-32 (man with a gun) around 11:40 p.m. Several squad cars arrived around 11:48 p.m. A deputy discovered the bodies of Terri, Mrs. Schneider and Mr. Schneider. All three were dead. Each suffered 30 stab wounds: most of them to the back.





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Inmate Michael Drabbing was convicted of Murder (75-100) years, Attempt Murder (30) years, and Armed Violence (30) years consecutive in Logan County. The case went to trial in the Circuit Court before Honorable James D. Heiple, Circuit Judge, Tenth Judicial Circuit, and Pekin, Illinois. One week before trial, the defendant, Inmate Michael Drabbing, waived trial by jury and consented to be tried before the Court alone. The trial consumed 7 ½ days of testimony. The defendant, Michael Drabbing murdered Lloyd Schneider, Phyllis Schneider, and Terri Schneider by deliberate, willful, and pre-meditated stabbing of all three individuals. There was an issue at trial whether the defendant Drabbing was sane at the time of the commission of the killings suffering from a mental disease or disorder which would cause him to (a) lack substantial capacity to appreciate the criminality of his conduct or (b) to lack substantial capacity to conform his conduct to the requirements of the law.

At the trial, six psychiatrists, a psychologist and three psychiatric social workers testified. The defense chose four psychiatrists and two psychologists to examine the defendant. Dr. Phillip Bornstein, Dr. Albert Ludin, Dr. James McClure, Dr. Albert Norris, Kenneth Imhoff, and Donald Gottschalk. Doctors Bornstein and Ludin found that the defendant, Drabbing suffered from a psychosis of schizo-affective schizophrenia which deprived him of substantial capacity to conform his conduct to the requirements of the law, thus making him legally insane. Dr. Ludin also found that defendant Drabbing suffered from schizophrenia-affective at the time of the killings (but during trial forgot his diagnosis and testified that he was schizo-reactive (caused by environmental factors rather than organic changes in the brain) vs. schizo-affective (mood disorders and schizophrenia), schizophrenia and implied that although he appreciated the criminality of his conduct that the alleged disease prevented him from conforming his conduct to the requirements of the law. Note: Meaning he is not responsible for his criminal conduct due to mental illness. On the other hand, Doctors McClure and Norris found that the defendant was not psychotic and that he suffered from a disorder known currently as sociopathic personality disorder. Both psychologists concluded, on the basis of the test, that defendant Drabbing was schizophrenic.

At the conclusion of the case, on December 16, 1976, Judge Heiple found the defendant guilty of murdering Lloyd Schneider, Phyllis Schneider, and Terri Schneider. Sentencing was held on January 21, 1977. No witnesses testified for either side. The State asked the Court to impose a sentence of 100-300 years on each to run consecutively. The Court chose to impose sentence of 75-100 years on each count to run concurrently. Due to Drabbing's size, he is considered dangerous and has demonstrated his capacity to kill. Under current law, in the absence of the death penalty, he has nothing to lose by killing a fellow prisoner or guard.

Inmate Drabbing has earned his H. S. diploma in 1973 and took some college classes in Ureka. Currently, he has been diagnosed with osteopenia and prescribed Naproxen. He is involved in multiple activities and earned several certifications to include HIV/AIDS, Reach One/Teach One, Drug Facilitator, and worked Industry Program for 13 years as a shipping clerk. Drabbing's last visit was in July 2017 from his niece. If granted parole, he would like to live with his mother in Springfield, IL. Inmate Drabbing loves to read participates in Yoga, basketball, and mentors the younger inmates. He has received a total of 28 tickets; '89 ticket for sexual



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misconduct, “81 for fighting – stabbing an inmate which led to a conviction of 30 years and most recently an IDR on 10/15/2017 for fighting.

Mr. Norton abstained and recused himself from the hearing and did not participate in the deliberation as he has previously represented Mr. Drabbing.

Member Perkins: Did he bring the knife?

Member Harris: Yes, he had it with him at all times.

Member Crigler: How old is he?

Ms. Member Harris: 62 years old.

Member Shelton: I took a protest from the family. One of the survivors was Cheryl, the youngest sister. She was present, Colleen, a close friend was present, and a number of Cheryl’s children and a brother came. Colleen was the designated spokesperson. Cheryl was fearful of him getting out. She stated they were forced to identify him in court and they fear he will come after her. Coleen presented a letter from the other survivor, Jeffrey Richardson. He was afraid to give us the return address out of fear. These individuals are beyond concerned for their safety if he gets out. They talked about how this man was known prior to these murders to attend random parties. They had seen him at other parties and that he had to be removed from them. That was not unusual behavior. That plays into their fear that he is dangerous. They also were aware that he had a long criminal history of psychiatric treatment from their own recollections of growing up. They were concerned when he showed up at the party. They voiced a strong objection to him being released.

Member Harris: Before the murders he had therapy with his primary physician. He talked specifically with his obsession with Victim’s home and how he had already planned out killing the family. The primary physician did nothing, nobody did anything to voluntarily commit him.

Member Perkins: All he wants to do is kill rich people.

Member Crigler: I think this case is so indicative with our ability to deal with mental health issues. He has had various mental health diagnosis’ and one said he is a psychopath. We are bound as a Board to keep an eye on this. We should have a mental health assessment done and then revisit him next year.

Member E. Johnson: My concern is that he is not on medication. Very good behavior un-medicated. He has had many tickets in the last year?

Member Harris: Yes, for fighting, the last one prior was 2011. He has extended periods of good behavior while not on medications.



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Member Diaz: If he is in fact a psychopath, no medication is going to help him. The fact that he is not on medications at this time, he has had an assessment of psychotic behaviors which tells me that I would have to vote for a three-year set.

Motion to deny parole (VH-AMP). Motion prevails by a vote of 11 to 0. Leave.

Motion for a 3-year set (VH-EJ). Motion denied by a vote of 5 to 6. Members voting in favor of the motion are: Mr. Clough, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Ms. 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.”*

**EN BANC MINUTE SHEET  
OPEN SESSION— OCTOBER 26, 2017**

Inmate Name: **JAMES BLOTIAUX**

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 October 26, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for James Blottiaux, IDOC #T76635.

Members present were: J. Clough, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, D.W. Dunn, C. Findley, P. Fisher, V. Harris, E. Johnson, V. Martinez, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Lindsey Conder, Recording Secretary

Twenty- two-year-old James Blottiaux worked as a stable hand in Silas Jayne’s Idle Hours Stables in Palatine, Illinois. The Jayne brothers, Silas and George were engaged in a bitter family feud related to their competing horse stable businesses. Silas Jayne offered Blottiaux \$10,000 to plant a bomb on his brother George’s Cadillac in an effort to get rid of his competitor. Blottiaux agreed.

On June 14, 1965 James Blottiaux planted a homemade dynamite bomb on the firewall of George Jayne’s Cadillac which was parked in the driveway of George Jayne’s Tri-Colored Stables, in Palatine, Illinois. Blottiaux waited nearby to watch the results of his work, anticipating that George Jayne would enter the car, turn on the ignition and detonate the bomb. Instead of George Jayne entering and starting the vehicle, Cheryl Lynn Rude, 22-year-old employee of the George Jayne stables, riding instructor, and champion equestrian was asked to move the Cadillac away from the front of the building as some work was going to be done on the driveway. Cheryl Rude entered the vehicle, turned on the ignition and was killed in the ensuing explosion. Allegedly James Blottiaux watched as Cheryl Rude entered and detonated the bomb



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within the vehicle. The explosion inflicted extensive and fatal injuries to Cheryl Rude. The ensuing investigation did not produce an arrest.

In the mid-1990's two ATF agents conducting a related investigation came across several subjects who agreed to provide information related to the Cheryl Rude case.

Subsequent information provided by three individuals who had prior contact with James Blottiaux resulted in charges being brought against Blottiaux related to the Cheryl Rude homicide.

One of the cooperating subjects (Haldane Cleminson) admitted purchasing explosives for Blottiaux and instructing Blottiaux on how to plant and detonate such a device. He apparently declined to accompany Blottiaux to the crime scene. Thirty years later Cleminson was granted immunity and agreed to testify against Blottiaux.

Thomas Hanna also testified against Blottiaux sharing that he allowed Blottiaux to take an auto from his auto lot, returning the vehicle after the bombing, sharing with authorities that Blottiaux appeared agitated and concerned stating that the wrong person had been killed. Two females also testified that Blottiaux had shared information related to the offense.

On December 16, 1997 James Blottiaux was indicted for the murder of Cheryl Rude. He was sentenced on September 1999, thirty-four years from the date of the offense.

### **Institutional Adjustment**

Mr. Blottiaux has had an exemplary adjustment, having received no disciplinary reports during his eighteen (18) years of incarceration. Counseling staff relates that he exemplifies an overall positive adjustment.

Mr. Blottiaux appeared calm, well spoken, and very forthcoming during the interview, Vocalizing remorse for having caused pain and suffering to the victim and her family.

### **Parole Plan**

Now 74 years of age, his parole plan is to return to his home in the Beverly neighborhood of Chicago. His daughter resides there, thus he would reside with his daughter and her family.

### **Health**

He appears to be in good health, looks younger than his age.

**Recommendation:** Mr. Blottiaux has served 18 years of his sentence, he spent 34 years

Mr. Blottiaux was living an apparently, crime free life, raising a family, being a homeowner, running his own business, working for the City of Chicago, all admirable endeavors. However, he was hiding in plain sight, with opportunities to come forth and take responsibility for his offense, he did not.



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It is a rare individual who is incarcerated for eighteen years and has no disciplinary history. It is an exemplary and noteworthy accomplishment. For this, Mr. Blottiaux is to be commended. However, given the factors at play:

- The agreed upon contract to commit a murder.
- The planning involved and the opportunity to withdraw from the contract.
- The death of an unintended innocent victim.
- The freedom and success and duration enjoyed by the offender.
- The length of time actually served in the IDOC.

Member Diaz: He did 34 years of no contact with the law. He shut down the contacts with them. He has also shut it down again within the institution.

Member Crigler: There was a retired ATF officer and very adamant about continuing to come back. He promised the victim's family that he would. He was free for over 30 years after he murdered Victim. It was definitely premeditated and planned. He knew she was the wrong victim and he had the opportunity to stop her from being kill and he didn't. He did nothing as he watched her get blown to bits.

Member Diaz: There is a letter in the file from George Jane's daughter. She hates her uncle, Cylus Jane. She was murdered five years after the event. An assassin went over to the house, shot him through the window and killed him. Cylus was paroled and seven years later did of Leukemia. The letter strongly asks to not parole him. It would take away some of the blame from Cylus to.

Member Shelton: I recall my understanding was the girl did not die immediately. She died because of a shard of metal cut her throat and she choked to death on her own blood.

Member Perkins: She didn't die immediately? How did they say he knew he could have stopped it?

Member Shelton: He knew that it was not the intended victim getting into the car. He was protecting himself and did not stop her.

Chairman Findley: When did Cylus get out of prison?

Member Diaz: It had to have been in the 1970's.

Member Fisher: Did he get paid?

Member Diaz: He never collected, he said. He didn't do the job right.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney McCarthy: By way of the criminal history, he was on probation and that case was a 1963 Unlawful Use of a Weapon. The same facts of this case, he was hired by a man to kill another man. It was completely unrelated. He got together with



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another man to build the bomb. They were stopped by the police with the bomb in the care and that was the case that created the probation he was on when he committed this offense. In 1967, he did have a federal case and again an Unlawful Use of a Weapon in 1995. He did tell Mr. Hannah that when he returned to the car that he was hiding behind a building that he did nothing while watching the girl get into that car. Her right leg was blown off because the bomb was attached to the wiring attached to the steering column. She did die from choking on her own blood. In regards to remorse, any regards to remorse were not demonstrated after the crime. The next day he told Mr. Hannah that he was worried that someone had seen him. That was his concern. With respect to the third party, he told Mr. Hannah that he didn't think he had anything to worry about, that sometimes the innocent have to suffer with the guilty. It is questionable what his true level of remorse is.

Member T. Johnson: He has his daughters and support from his family, did they appear?

Member Diaz: No, they sent letters. There are documented numbers of visits from family.

Member Diaz: The bombing was actually practiced over on the south side.

Member Crigler: This man has no tickets and is a model inmate at 74 years old.

Member Shelton to Cook County State's Attorney McCarthy: Regarding the sentence, if he were sentenced on the current sentencing guidelines?

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney McCarthy: He could have been facing life in prison because it was a cold and calculated murder. A minimum of 20 years to a maximum of life. In the 1960's he could have been given the death penalty.

Motion to deny parole (SD-EC). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 0. Leave.

Motion for a 3-year set (SD-JC). Motion prevails by a vote of 8 to 4. Members voting in favor of the motion are: Mr. Clough, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, and Mr. Shelton.

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