



STATE OF ILLINOIS
 BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Craig Findley, Chairman

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET: MEETING OF November 16, 2017

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois, on November 16, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

C86186	William Howell
C15434	Joseph Hurst
C82540	Larry Kurena
C01563	Michael Parker
C62902	Richard Short
C01114	Chester Weger

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	

14 Members Present

Meeting was adjourned (VH-PF). Leave.

Submitted by: Lindsey Conder , Recording Secretary



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— NOVEMBER 16, 2017

Inmate Name: **WILLIAM HOWELL**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C86186**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on November 16, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for William Howell, IDOC #C86186.

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

Other(s) present: Lindsey Conder, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Howell was interviewed by a member of the Illinois Prisoner Review Board on October 18, 2017 at the Menard Correctional Center. During the interview the following factors were to be considered, but not limited to, are his own testimony, a review of his file, his institutional adjustment, and his post incarceration plans, if any.

Per the file, it would indicate the following information: Mr. Howell is a white male, born on 6/25/1956, has been in custody with IDOC since 7/27/78 with an instant offense of Murder/ Intent to Kill/ injure with a sentence of 100 years from Madison County. Mr. Howell had a co-defendant by the name of Joseph Cunningham. Mr. Cunningham entered the home of a Ms. Emma McKinley, whom he had befriended, because he and Mr. Howell had been drinking and needed more, and had no money; therefore, he went to the house to 'borrow' some beer money. Ms. McKinley refused to loan any money. Mr. Cunningham began attacking her, and tearing at her clothing, at which time Mr. Howell rushed into the house and aided in the attack. Both men repeatedly stabbed her with two different instruments more than 60 times. One or both men applied Vaseline and anally raped her.

Offender Howell has been incarcerated at Menard Correctional Center since 10/2/2000. He has job at the MSU clothing house, and has had various jobs since 2008. He has not had any discipline since February, 2000. Per the record, he had his last visit from his mother, Melba Morris on 6/27/13. She passed away in 2014. He still has a sister, and his grandmother, who are still living.

During the interview, Mr. Howell was very polite, mannerly, and rather congenial. He did relate that his codefendant received the same sentence, and even though he pled guilty, he still maintains, as he always has, that he did not murder anyone. He still maintains that he does not remember anything, and that he was severely intoxicated at the time of the crime. The only thing he recalls about the crime was the weather conditions. He indicates it was during a blizzard, and he was outside the victim's house, while Cunningham entered the house. He further indicated he started drinking about the age of three, because his father (who was an alcoholic) liked to get him drink and



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see him have difficulty walking. At the age of 12 or 13 his father bought a liquor store, where he had easy access to more alcohol. He indicates he started alcohol counseling, but did not complete the program, because of issues out of his control.

During the nearly 40 years that he has been incarcerated, he has been at Joliet, Graham, and Menard. He has been trying to improve his skills since arriving at Menard. He has obtained his GED, two (2) Associate degrees, and three (3) vocational certificates. He has worked about all the time he has been incarcerated, and he has never received any discipline infractions since being at Menard (17 years).

Mr. Howell is of the Baptist faith, but he still does have anger toward his father. He says his father was an alcoholic, and was abusive toward him, but he still loves his mother. He has never been married, and he talks with his sister about every three (3) WEEKS. If paroled, he looks forward to that day, and he would live with his sister. He indicates his sister has written field services to indicate she looks forward to the day her brother is paroled, and that he is welcome to live with her.

In summation, after interviewing Mr. Howell two (2) times, the following factors should be considered in making a decision regarding parole for Mr. Howell

Mr. Howell still maintains he does not remember anything about the murder, because he was drunk. He has been consistent in maintaining his innocence. He indicates he did sign a confession of guilt, after a three (3) days in the county jail, and he indicates the confession was coerced from him by the local police, after almost constant sleep deprivation, and other forms of harassment.

Offender Howell, whether innocent, or guilty, has now served nearly 40 years of incarceration for this crime.

He has sought help with his alcoholism. He participated in AA while incarcerated at Graham Correctional Center; he has received help by his patriation in Substance Abuse Counseling while at Menard Correctional Center.

Mr. Howell has sought a great deal of self-improvement while incarcerated. He has obtained his GED, an Associate Degree in General Studies, and an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts, and three Vocational Certificates in Micro Computers, Programming, and Electrical Maintenance.

He indicates that he knows the PRB looks favorable on someone that expresses remorse. While he indicates, he is very sorry for what happened, he says "I can't express remorse, because I am still telling you that I did not commit the crime".

His record while being incarcerated is stellar. The record would indicate he has only had the one (1) IDR in February 2000 (601 aiding/304Transfer of funds), which was not a violent offense.

He has an excellent post incarceration plan. He would live with his sister, Vivian Napoli, and her husband, in Eolia, Missouri. Both of them are retired, and are willing to help with his finances.



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While reviewing the past records, they would indicate he was labeled as a habitual excessive drinker by a Court Psychiatrist, but would not indicate any mental defects.

He indicates, when asked about his health, that he is in good health, but has a hernia.

The assessment would indicate he is minimum security level, escape risk is low, and has been on A-grade since August, 2000.

A concern of the Board is recidivism. According to the 39 Annual Report prepared by the State of Illinois Prisoner Review Board for the 2015 calendar year, the recidivism rate of prisoners in Illinois is approximately 47%. Significantly, however, the recidivism rate for older individuals with indeterminate sentence is considerably lower. In fact, recidivism rate ranges between 2-3%.

William is unlikely to become a recidivist. First, he is not a career criminal. He has no juvenile record, and he has no criminal convictions at the time the crime was committed.

The Board, rightfully so, has to be considered about the issue of public safety. This is not an issue with William. Any board member who has spoken with William would agree that he is outgoing, and very talkative, but there is nothing that would suggest that he is violent.

For all of the above reasons, and more, I would ask: What more can William A. Howell do to better prepare him for a re-entry into society. With his stellar performance while incarcerated, and his efforts at self-improvement, I think he has done all that he can to prepare himself for society.

Will he be any better prepared on February 12, 2027 to reenter society, than he is now, I think not. Last week this Board member asked him, "What would you do, if the doors to this facility were unlocked and you were allowed to leave, what would you do"? He responded that he would run across that bridge into the State of Missouri, and never return to the State of Illinois.

Therefore, I can esthetically recommend William A. Howell be paroled.

Motion to grant parole (DWD - VH). Motion fails by a vote of 7 to 7. Leave.

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



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— NOVEMBER 16, 2017

Inmate Name: **Joseph Hurst**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C15434**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on November 16, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Joseph Hurst, IDOC #C15434.

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

On September 13, 2017, at the Dixon Correctional Center, Joseph R. Hurst appeared before a member of the Prisoner Review Board for parole consideration. Factors considered include, but are not limited to, a review of the file, facts of the case, parole plans, and institutional adjustment.

Inmate is serving a 100 to 300 year sentence for the murder of Chicago Police Officer Herman Stallworth, to run concurrently to sentences of 19 to 20 years for the attempted murder of Officer Eugene Ervin and 9 to 10 years for the attempted murder of Detective Hederman, and consecutive to sentence of 10 to 20 years for violation of probation on two prior robber convictions. The inmate was originally sentenced to death for the murder of Officer Stallworth and resented in 1974 after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the death penalty unconstitutional, voiding all such sentences. Projected discharge date is December 6, 2109.

The facts of the case indicate that on May 23, 1967, Chicago Patrolmen Herman Stallworth and Eugene Ervin were on routine patrol in their squad car when they saw an automobile speeding at 60 miles per hour in a 30 mile per hour zone. The officers curbed the automobile on the South side of Chicago. The car was being driven by Joseph Hurst and there was one passenger, Charles Harper. After determining that the inmate did not have a driver's license, Officer Stallworth too the inmate and passenger to the squad car. Officer Stallworth began to search the inmate while Officer Ervin entered the squad car to use the police radio. A witness saw the inmate pull out a gun and shoot Officer Stallworth who fell to the ground. The inmate began to run and as he passed the squad car he shot Officer Ervin. Additional officers followed inmate to an apartment building where Hurst fired shots at Detective Ray Hederman and Officer Coleman until he ran out of bullets.

Mr. Hurst has been housed at Dixon Correctional Center since October 11, 2015. The inmate is currently on B grade, minimum security classification, and low escape risk designation. Since the las hearing by this Board, the inmate has received for minor disciplinary reports. His last major ticket was in 2012 and his las segregation was in 2005. From 1969 to 2000 he received 45 IDRs and from 2001 to 2013 he received 14, half of them major.

If granted parole, Mr. Hurst intends to live with his wife in Chicago.

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



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Motion for a 3-year set (SD - TJ). Motion prevails by a vote of 8 - 6. Members voting in favor of the motion are: Mr. Clough, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Johnson, Jr. 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.

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— NOVEMBER 16, 2017

Inmate Name: **Larry Kurena**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C82540**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on November 16, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Larry Kurena, IDOC #C82540.

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

Other(s) present: Lindsey Conder, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Larry Kurina was interviewed for parole consideration by a member of the Prisoner Review Board at the Danville Correctional Center. He was present with his Attorney. He also had the support of his brother and Mary Marek. Considered in a review of his case was his interview, his institutional adjustment, his criminal history, the incarcerating offense, his accomplishments while incarcerated and parole plans.

Mr. Kurina was born on April 13, 1958. He is 59 years old. He was sentenced to 200 – 300 years for Murder. The Statement of the Facts are as follows:

On March 12, 1976, Mr. Kurina and some friends had been drinking and taking some pills. Later that night at approximately 11:30 they went to a tavern called “Danny’s Two” where Mr. Kurina went into to purchase some marijuana. While in the bar, Mr. Kurina got into a disagreement with someone who wanted to fight him. He was persuaded to leave and went back to Mr. Kurina’s apartment where Mr. Kurina armed himself with a Butcher knife. The group left the apartment and drove to the “Hi Low Tavern” which was across the street from Danny’s Two Tavern. One of the party entered “Hi Low” to purchase beer. Inside were the two victims John Taylor and Emil Lauridsen who were having a beer. John Shannon Sr. asked the two men to



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help James Hughes carry John Shannon's son home to sleep it off. The Shannon's lived behind the tavern. The two men agreed.

As the three men were taking the young man home, Shannon's mother and brother came out to assist. At this point, Mr. Kurina, his brother, Damron and Grady began yelling obscenities at the group of men bringing young Shannon home. The police arrived and quelled the disturbance. The police then left.

Mrs. Shannon told Mr. Kurina and his friends that she could control her son and that this was a family matter. Brian Kurina told her to "get fucked." The mother, James Hughes and Tim Shannon took the young Shannon boy into the house.

Emil Lauridsen and John Taylor attempted to return to the Tavern when Mr. Kurina attacked them. He first stabbed Emil killing him and then he attacked John Taylor (nicknamed Moono) and stabbed him leaving the butcher knife in Mr. Taylor's body. Mr. Kurina, Damron and Grady ran back to the car where Mr. Kurina told Rosemary Severs that he had just killed two men and left the knife in "Moono". He stated he did not know why he killed them because "Moono" was his friend.

The Police arrived and recovered the bodies and the butcher knife. Mr. Kurina was apprehended after a two and a half block foot chase.

Criminal History:

- April 1974 he was arrested for theft. No disposition was available.
- September 1975 he was arrested for battery. The case was dismissed.
- October 1975 he was arrested for theft and disorderly conduct. The case was dismissed.

Inmates Statement:

Mr. Kurina is very friendly, talkative and intelligent. He was assisted by his attorney.

He stated he was with friends drinking and they went to a Tavern where he got into an argument with another patron. They came back to his apartment where he obtained a butcher knife. They went back out and went to the Hi-Lo Tavern where he said he saw his brother in a fight with the two victims and he ran into the alley to assist his brother and he stabbed the two men. He stated it was not his intention to kill the two men. He said he wished he could apologize to the two victims. He appeared to be remorseful. He stated the entire incident lasted 20 seconds.

Mr. Kurina was paroled in 1993 after serving on 17 years. Mr. Kurina lived in Springfield. He got married in 1990 or 1991 and had a son in 1994. He had a business as a handyman but he and his wife began having problems. In prior rationales, he said that she saw him drinking and thought she might be jealous. They argued a lot and eventually got divorced in 2001 or 2002. He lived in an apartment but his wife sold his tools and he lost his business. He



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got a house across the street from his ex-wife. In a prior hearing, it was stated they both went to their son's games and he would bring a cooler with beer, yelling comments. He said he loved her and he could not let go.

He contacted his parole agent for help and completed a Gateway program. His mother lived in Indiana, so he obtained an interstate compact and moved to live with his mother in a campground. He said that he saw his kid twice a month and talked on the phone.

He was put in by Nancy Bowman for an early discharge that was denied by the Board. In 2005, he was arrested by Indiana Police for theft. Field Services was not going to revoke his parole, but while out on bond he made a call to his ex-wife in violation of her order of protection. He was arrested on March 20, 2004, he called his wife 10 times. He apparently knew she was dating a police officer and told her that he could kill a cop. He also stated he was coming to Springfield where he would get her and take their kid. The wife called the police and new charges of violating an order of protection were filed. Field services based upon the violation of the order of protection and new theft charges violated his parole and the Board agreed. He received 6 days for violation of the Order of Protection. He received 3 year for the Felony theft charge in Indiana with 2 ½ years suspended. He also received a DUI in 2000 where he received 1 year supervision and a fine.

Institutional Adjustment:

Mr. Kurina has only had one ticket since coming back to IDOC for refusing housing (He said he would have had to fight if he accepted the housing). He has received his GED his first year of incarceration. He says he has done welding, bookkeeping, accounting and received a certificate for attending AA.

He says DOC just has the one class. He has several letters on behalf from friends and family.

Parole Plans

Ron and Mary Marek are close friends and offered to allow him to live in their home. Mrs. Marek has stated that she would buy a home in Carbondale to allow him to live in it if location was an issue. She states that she would watch to make sure that he is not drinking and would monitor him.

He also has support of his brother who would provide him a place as well as monitoring him. He has stated he would do anything and will not drink any alcohol if released. His mother lives in Indiana is 80 years old and has Parkinson's.

Conclusion

Mr. Kurina's risk assessment is High. He has moderate protective factors



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Both victims were extremely well known in that area. Both men were involved with helping the community and performed many acts of charity and kindness in that area. In fact, John Taylor once got Mr. Kurina a job and Mr. Kurina knew him when he stabbed him. The two men had a park dedicated to them in 1976 they Taylor-Lauridsen Playground park at 704 W. 42 Street as a reminder of how well respected these two men were.

Based upon a review of the file, institutional adjustment, parole plans and spin assessment it is my belief that parole would deprecate the seriousness of the crime and promote disrespect for the law. Additionally, I do not believe he could comply with the reasonable conditions of parole. Parole is thereby denied.

Motion to deny parole (KT - TJ). Motion prevails by a vote of 10 to 3 to 1. 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— NOVEMBER 16, 2017

Inmate Name: **Michael Parker**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C01563**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on November 16, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Michael Parker, IDOC #C01563.

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

Other(s) present: Lindsey Conder, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

A parole assessment interview was conducted with Michael D. Parker on October 5, 2017. Michael D Parker was born December 8, 1952 and is currently 64 years of age and was a resident of the Robison Correctional Center on the date of the interview. Michael D. Parker is serving a sentence of 100 to 200 years based on his conviction for murder. 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 on March 14, 1970, Michael Parker went to the victim, Alice Thomas's residence at 6900 Loomis Chicago Illinois. While at Miss Thomas's apartment Michael Parker stabbed Alice Thomas 30 to 40 times about the upper torso and face.



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Miss Thomas's 11-month-old and seven-year-old children were in the apartment at the time and the seven-year-old afflicted with serval palsy attempted to crawl to his mother's defense. Michael D. Parker was 17 years of age the time, advised that he was under the influence of pills, Marijuana, and crack cocaine, and that the victim had rebuffed his sexual advances.

On August 26, 1991 at the age of 39 years, after serving 20 years and after being the subject of multiple discipline reports, Michael Parker was granted parole. November 30, 1993 Michael D. Parker was arrested, while on parole, for the armed robbery of a Baskin-Robbins ice cream shop where he forced a teenage girl employee to open the cash register at knife point. Michael D. Parker received a 30 year sentence for that offense.

On January 19, 1996 Michael Parker suffered a stroke that resulted in partial paralysis, however he has continued to be subject to disciplinary action. Michael Parker has made efforts to address the key problems, what he believes are his issues, his drug and alcohol addiction by attending drug and alcohol symposiums and Alcoholics Anonymous, cocaine anonymous and narcotics anonymous.

The board is concerned about Michael Parkers problems with alcohol and drug abuse and some issues to conform to the expectations of the department of corrections. The board also finds that a stronger more comprehensive parole plan is needed.

Motion to deny parole (JC - TJ). Motion prevails by a vote of 10 -4. Members voting in favor of the motion are: Mr. Clough, Ms. Crigler, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, 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."

**EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— NOVEMBER 16, 2017**

Inmate Name: **Richard Short**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C62902**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on November 16, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Richard Short, IDOC #C62902.

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



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Other(s) present: Lindsey Conder, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

On October 19, 2017 and institutional hearing was conducted for parole consideration for Inmate Richard Short, C-62902. Inmate Richard Short, was presented to the Prison Review Board on November 16, 2017, with the following facts of the case:

Richard Short, C62902, age 75, born on May 12, 1942 in Lowndes County (Columbus), Mississippi to Will Short and Polly Evans. Richard's father died in 1956 when he was 14 years of age. His mother, Polly Evans died in 1974. Richard was 32 at the time of her death. Richard's stepfather, Sam Evans is also deceased. He has 8 siblings and he is the youngest; with only two surviving siblings; a sister Ossie Eldridge who was born in 1936 and a brother, James Earl Prack who was born in 1939. Richard is from a blended family, his parents had children from other relationship and marriages. Richard Short has 5 children with no relationship to any. The mother of his children was Pauline Ratliff. The two never married.

On March 19, 1976, at about 7:40 p.m., victim T.H. (age 15) was at the Standard Gas Station on Rosewood and Court Street in Kankakee, Illinois. She noticed Richard who walked by the station. She continued to walk home with her bicycle and noticed Richard walking directly towards her. When she got in front of her home, Richard grabbed her around the neck and insisted that he was going to force her to have intercourse with him. Victim, T.H. struggled with Richard but was thrown to the ground by Richard who was holding a knife. She screamed for help, her nephew heard the noise and appeared on the scene and Richard eventually left.

On the same day, March 19, 1976, victim B.J. was walking along the streets of Kankakee, Illinois when Richard Short seized her from behind, put a knife to her throat and forced her into an abandoned building. While in the building, Richard ordered victim, B.J. to disrobe and struck her in the face when she refused. She was then forced to perform deviate sexual acts and to engage in sexual intercourse with him.

It appeared that neither victim knew their assailant but were able to identify him through photographs provided by authorities. Other evidence included scratches on his person and blood on clothing taken from his residence. Forensic DNA analysis was not commonly used in 1976. Richard Short has always denied these crimes. On March 20, 1976, Richard Short was arrested as a suspect in these crimes. Following the preliminary hearing held on April 5, 1976, probable cause was found. On April 13, 1976, Richard Short pled not guilty to the offense and jury set the case for trial. On July 9, 1976, Richard Short was found guilty on the three counts: Aggravated Kidnapping, Rape, and Deviant Sexual Assault (100-200) years, (cc) Attempt Rape, (6-20) years, Aggravated Battery (3-10) years, and Attempt Murder (30-60) years.

Criminal History:



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Juvenile/Adult: At the age of 16, he was first sent to penitentiary in Parchman, Mississippi on an Attempted Robbery charge in November of 1958. He was convicted as an adult and sentenced to 10 years. This is the only crime that he admits to. He attempted to snatch a purse. He paroled on August 31, 1962. He violated the conditions of his parole on another Attempt Robbery once and a second time on assault/battery. On both convictions, he was ordered to return back to Parchman, Mississippi to finish his original 10-year sentence. Richard Short was given final release from Parchman, Mississippi in 1968.

In 1970, while in Illinois, he was charged with armed robbery and rape. In exchange for a plea, Richard Short was convicted of Aggravated Battery, Armed Violence, and Armed Robbery. Richard contends that this conviction was a big misunderstanding. He was meeting co-workers whom he worked with at the Foundry for drinks. He was sentenced to 10-20 years of imprisonment and paroled in May 1975. Near or about four months later, he was charged with the crimes for which he is held today.

Institutional Adjustment and Parole Plans are as follows:

According to the Offender Overview, Richard Short has not received a disciplinary report in over 13 years. He participates in Bible class. He was previously a janitor but has not been assigned due to health reasons. Richard Short's last reported education was in the 8th grade. He never obtained his GED. He states he can read and spell, but very little comprehension. Richard Short has been diagnosed with COPD and high blood pressure along with poor eyesight. He is currently in a wheelchair.

Richard Short is able to live with his siblings in Kankakee, IL or Madison, Wisconsin, but he prefers to live with his nephew, Fred in Memphis, Tennessee. His last communication with his nephew was in September 2017 by letter. If he were not granted parole, Richard would like to be transferred to Dixon CC for better treatment for his health condition. He states he needs breathing treatments and is only receiving an inhaler for use as needed.

The SPIN Assessment was last conducted on 8/25/16 states that he is overall High Risk to reoffend.

Parole consideration decision: Richard Short is 75 years of age, bound to a wheelchair, and listed as having COPD and high blood pressure. His last major ticket was 13 years ago, April 16, 2004 for Damage or Misuse of Property and Contraband. He received 6 months segregation, but Adjustment Committee later reduced all disciplinary action from 6 months to 1 month. His parole plan has been consistent that he can live with his brother, but the listed phone number is no longer available. As of late, he says he can parole to his nephews home in Memphis, TN if granted interstate capabilities. He has very little means to support himself but would rely on the Department of DHS and Social Security Disability Insurance if able.



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Motion to deny parole (VH-CF). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 2. Members voting in favor of the motion are: Mr. Clough, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Shelton, and Mr. Tupy.

Motion for a 3-year set (WN - CF). Motion prevails by a vote of 8 to 6. Members voting in favor of the motion are: Mr. Clough, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Johnson, 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— NOVEMBER 16, 2017

Inmate Name: **Chester Weger**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C01114**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on November 16, 2017 at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Chester Weger, IDOC #C01114.

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

Other(s) present: Lindsey Conder, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

A parole assessment interview was conducted with Chester O. Weger on October 25, 2017. Mr. Weger was born on March 3, 1939, is currently seventy-eight (78) years of age, and was a resident of Pinckneyville Correctional Center on the date of the interview. Mr. Weger is serving a sentence of Natural Life for the offense of Murder (LaSalle County 60-11-753). 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 on or about March 16, 1960 the dead bodies of three (3) women, Lillian Oetting, Mildred Lindquist and Frances Murphy, were found in a cave area of St. Louis Canyon located within Starved Rock State Park in LaSalle County, Illinois. The three (3) women had checked into the Lodge at the State Park on March 14, 1960 and after lunch had taken a hike or walk within the park. The women had been missing approximately forty – six (46) hours before their dead bodies were found. A pathologist determined that each of the three (3) victims suffered more than one hundred (100) blows to their heads and faces and that they were literally beaten to death beyond recognition by a weapon thought to be a tree limb or log.



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The homicide investigation following the discovery of the three (3) murder victims focused on employees of the lodge and included the Defendant, Chester Weger, age 21, who worked full-time as a dishwasher at the lodge and who was at work on March 14, 1960. Mr. Weger was first interviewed and questioned about the crime on March 17, 1960. The murder investigation continued for the next eight (8) months and during this time Mr. Weger remained a primary suspect and continued to be questioned by authorities on a regular basis. On November 17, 1960 Mr. Weger provided an oral and written confession to the three (3) Murders, and on November 18, 1960 Mr. Weger was indicted by a LaSalle County Grand Jury of the following criminal offenses:

1. Murder of Lillian Oetting -5 Counts March 14, 1960
2. Murder of Mildred Lindquist- 5 Counts March 14, 1960
3. Murder of Frances Murphy -5 Counts March 14, 1960
4. Armed Robbery, Larceny, Assault Deadly Weapon September 13, 1959
5. Rape, Intent to Rape, Assault Deadly Weapon September 13, 1959

The file and record would reveal that Mr. Weger made a total of nine (9) oral and written confessions wherein he admitted his guilt to all of the above criminal offenses.

At or before trial, Mr. Weger challenged the voluntary nature of his oral and written confession to the three (3) murder offenses. The office of the State's Attorney of La Salle County elected and made the decision to proceed to trial on one (1) indictment, 60 - 11 - 75, charging Chester O. Weger with the Murder of Lillian Oetting. The trial began on January 30, 1961 and continued until March 3, 1961 when the jury found Mr. Weger guilty of the offense of Murder and sentenced Mr. Weger to Life Imprisonment. On April 3, 1961, the Circuit Court of LaSalle County entered an Order based on the decision and sentence of the Jury which sentenced Chester Weger to Natural Life Imprisonment in the Illinois Department of Corrections. On April 4, 1961, Mr. Weger was transferred to the Illinois Department of Corrections where he has remained to date in custody.

Mr. Weger continues to deny any involvement in the vicious attacks and continues to maintain that he is innocent and not guilty of the Murder of Lillian Oetting, Mildred Lindquist or Frances Murphy. Mr. Weger does admit that he was employed as dishwasher at the lodge at Starved Rock State Park and that he was at work on the date of March 14, 1960.

Based upon the interview and the parole assessment as completed by the Illinois Department of Corrections it would appear that the institutional adjustment of Mr. Weger has been average and acceptable. During the course of his past 56 ½ years of incarceration, with the exception of obtaining his GED certificate, Mr. Weger has not enrolled in or participated in any programs. His last IDR was on September 13, 2014 for Insolence and Disobeying a Direct Order. Mr.



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Weger appeared to be in excellent health and reported that he does not take any medications, but did state that he has asthma, arthritis and a hernia.

Mr. Weger reported that his parents are deceased and that he has three (3) living sisters, Alvita Milby of Spring Valley, IL, Mary Pruett of Smithville, MO, and Linda Kelley of Estero, FL. Mr. Weger advised that he was previously married to Jo Ann Orth but that they were divorced in 1967 and that she is now deceased. Mr. Weger stated that based on his marriage he has a step-daughter, Becky Real, of Utica, IL and a son, John Weger, of Oglesbe IL who was recently released from the Illinois Department of Corrections. Mr. Weger stated that it has been quite some time since he has had a visit from his son or step-daughter. It would appear that his last visit was with friends on November 18, 2015. Mr. Weger was pleasant and polite during the interview. Mr. Weger stated that if granted parole he would plan to reside with his step-daughter, Becky Real, and her husband, Kevin Real, at their residence in Utica, IL as they would have the financial means and resources to provide for his needs and support.

After a complete review, and after giving consideration to all factors, including, but not limited to the Spin Assessment, the Board voted to deny parole. The Board continues to be concerned by the senseless and especially brutal and vicious nature of this offense. The Board also continues to be concerned by the continued refusal on the part of Mr. Weger to accept any responsibility or express any remorse for his actions. The Board feels that a release at this time could jeopardize public safety, would deprecate the serious nature of this crime of offense and promote a lack of respect for the law.

Motion to deny parole (WN - CF). Motion prevails by a vote of 7 to 7. Members voting in favor of the motion are: Mr. Clough, 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.”