



STATE OF ILLINOIS
JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION- November 20, 2025

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1001 N. Walnut Street, Springfield, Illinois, on November 20, 2025, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following individuals in custody:

R56065	Worthy, Richard* (Youthful Parole)
Y48589	Lee, Anthony* (Youthful Parole)
B82910	Hearn, Michael (Youthful Parole)

**Cook County Case*

The meeting was called to order by Jared Bohland, Board Member

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Ellen Wayne.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mr. Jared Bohland	X	
Ms. Tracy Buckley	X	
Mr. Matthew Coates	X	
Mr. Jeffrey Grubbs	X	
Mr. Rodger Heaton	X	
Mr. Timothy Nugent	X	
Ms. Robin Shoffner	X	
Ms. Carmen Terrones	X	
Ms. Krystal Tison	X	
Mr. Kenneth Tupy	X	

10 Members Present

0 Members Absent

The Board heard the case of Richard Worthy R56065, Anthony Lee Y48589, and Micheal Hearn B82910.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL for 09-21-2025 RHEATON-MCOATES

Open Session: KTISON-RSHOFFNER

Meeting was adjourned by: MCOATES-KTUPY



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION- November 20, 2025

Individual in Custody's Name: Richard Worthy* IDOC Number: R56065

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1001 N. Walnut Street, Springfield, Illinois, on November 20, 2025, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Richard Worthy R56065.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Ms. Buckley, Mr. Coates, Mr. Grubbs, Mr. Heaton, Mr. Nugent, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones, Ms. Tison, and Mr. Tupy.

Recording Secretary: Ellen Wayne

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

On September 16, 2025, Mr. Richard Worthy was interviewed by Board Member Matthew Coates via WebEx from Stateville Correctional Center. Mr. Worthy was present with his attorney Ms. Marissa Jackson, attorney Ms. Rachel Lindner, Mr. Wendell Robinson, who is the Executive Director of Restore Justice, Mr. Worthy's wife, Ms. Alicia Starks, his sister Ms. Takiyah Worthy, and Ms. Jen Francesconi, social work supervisor from the Illinois Prison Project. Mr. Worthy's interview began at 9:18 am and ended at 11:11 am.

Mr. Worthy was put together with a blue buttoned up shirt and prepared for the interview. Mr. Worthy expressed he was very nervous at the beginning of his interview but was polite in his attitude and communicated clearly without issue for the duration of our interview. Mr. Worthy answered every question Mr. Coates presented and was a productive communicator.

At the time of the interview, Mr. Worthy was 37 years old, just a few weeks shy of turning 38 years old and has been incarcerated for 21 years. Mr. Worthy is a minimum security, low escape risk individual who has been "A" grade since May 21, 2021.

Following a jury trial, Mr. Worthy was found guilty of First-Degree Murder, Aggravated Battery with Firearm, and Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm. On September 20, 2006, Mr. Worthy was sentenced to a total of 70 years in Illinois Department of Corrections. He received 45 years for the Murder charge, 15 years for the Aggravated Battery with a Firearm, and 10 years for the Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm, with all of those sentences to run consecutively.

Mr. Worthy was 16 years old at the time of the offense, and therefore the First District Appellate Court in June 2019, found the 70 years to be a de facto life sentence and unconstitutional and remanded the case back to the trial court for resentencing.

On April 29, 2021, following a hearing where Mr. Worthy was able to apologize to his victims and their families for the harm his actions caused them, he was resentenced to 20 years for the Murder charge, six years for the Aggravated Battery with a Firearm, and four years for the Aggravated Discharge



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of a Firearm, all to run consecutively, totaling 30 years in Illinois Department of Corrections, with credit being given to the time he has already served.

If parole is not granted today, Mr. Worthy will be released on July 16, 2029, to serve a three-year period of Mandatory Supervised Release.

Regarding his post-conviction litigation and history, in February 2008, his conviction was affirmed. In May 2008, the Illinois Supreme Court denied his petition for leave to appeal. In September 2009, Mr. Worthy filed a successive post-conviction petition. The trial court dismissed the petition, and the Appellate Court affirmed. In September 2011, the Illinois Supreme Court denied his leave to appeal. In June 2016, he filed a successive post-conviction petition arguing among other issues, that his sentence was unconstitutional because he was sentenced to a de facto life sentence without considering his youth.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On October 21, 2004, at 11729 South Hale Avenue, Chicago, at 2030 hours, three victims: Andreas Collier (19 years old), Shawn Clark (19 years old), and Terrence Brown (18 years old) were standing outside next to Mr. Collier's car, and Mr. Collier was speaking to his girlfriend, Ashley Curtis. None of the victims were from the area.

As the three victims stood by the car, which was parked next to the curb, Mr. Worthy and co-defendant Mr. Matthew Gaddis walked by. Both Mr. Worthy and Mr. Gaddis stood a short distance away from the back of the victim's car when the victims spotted them.

Sensing something was wrong, two of the victims got into the car. Mr. Brown got into the front passenger seat and Mr. Clark got into the back passenger seat. Ms. Curtis testified that she also sensed something was wrong when she spotted the two defendants, who she knew from school and the neighborhood.

She told the three victims to leave and come back later to pick her up. As she told them to leave, both defendants walked up to the car carrying guns. Mr. Gaddis later admitted that he and Mr. Worthy had planned to rob the three victims, and they walked up to the car for that purpose.

As the defendants walked up to the car, Mr. Collier walked around the front of the car, opened the driver's door and got into the car. As he got into the car, Mr. Gaddis walked up to the passenger side and pointed the gun at Mr. Brown over the roof of the car. As Mr. Collier tried to close the door, Mr. Worthy struggled with the door to prevent Mr. Collier's escape.

Mr. Gaddis joined Mr. Worthy at the door to help Mr. Worthy in preventing the three victims from leaving. As Mr. Collier struggled to close the door, Mr. Brown told Mr. Collier to go and then leaned down and pressed on the accelerator. The car lurched and sped forward.

Mr. Worthy then fired multiple gunshots at the car as it sped off. One gunshot tore through Mr. Brown's head killing him and another bullet ripped through victim Andreas Collier's thigh.



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The car sped down the street, turned, and ended up a few blocks away on Longwood drive. Mr. Collier stopped the car when he saw people. He crawled out of the car towards the curb as Mr. Clark jumped out of the car screaming to onlookers to call for an ambulance.

A witness identified both defendants in photo arrays and they were arrested. That same witness identified them in a line up and identified Mr. Worthy as the shooter. Mr. Gaddis confessed to his role in the shooting, and both were charged with First Degree Murder, Aggravated Battery with a Firearm, and Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm.

Mr. Gaddis was also charged with Attempt Armed Robbery due to admitting that was the reason for approaching the victims. Mr. Worthy did not make any statements at that time.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

No juvenile criminal history prior to offense.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Worthy has a positive institutional adjustment. Starting with his disciplinary ticket history, he has received only two tickets during his 21 years of incarceration. His first ticket was in June 2012 for Contraband/Unauthorized Property and his second and most recent ticket was in November 2023 for Unauthorized Movement and Abuse of Privileges. Comments with that ticket reflect it was for being in the day room when not authorized.

Regarding his work assignments, his Offender Overview reflects he has worked in industries, dietary, and as a housing unit janitor.

Mr. Worthy has engaged in quite a bit of programming during his incarceration, and received certifications in in Cat Simulator, anger management, cognitive awareness, personal responsibility, parenting, substance abuse, impact of crime on victims at Menard Correctional Center, and Thinking for Change. Mr. Worthy earned his high school diploma in November 2015. He also has taken courses at Lakeland College that included humanities, business, math, sociology, social problems, fundamentals of accounting, anatomy, introduction to business and sociology courses. He made the President's list due to his grade and has earned over 700 days of good conduct credit due to work assignments and programming.

In his assessment portion of his Offender Overview, which is prepared by Illinois Department of Corrections, it reflects that Mr. Worthy has had one major and one minor disciplinary report in 20 years of incarceration. He is respectful and can follow directions easily. Staff at Danville Correctional Center can attest to the fact that Mr. Worthy is not a problematic individual in custody and appears to have made positive change to benefit himself and others.



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STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

Mr. Worthy shared he was attending a birthday party in his neighborhood and at one point they left the party. He had his gun, and his co-defendant also had a gun. They proceeded to walk to the next block where he and his co-defendant met up with a group of five to six friends.

They then observed some guys who were not from their neighborhood talking to a girl from the party that he knew. They asked the victims who where they and where were they from. As five of them approached the car with his co-defendant, by the time they had made it to the car, the driver side door was open as the victims got back into the car.

The co-defendant asked them again where they were from. During that commotion, he saw the passenger reach towards the driver's feet area where the pedals were, stating the first thing he thought of was, he must be reaching for a gun. In fear and thinking he did not want to be shot, his response at that time was to react and he shot twice.

He ran home and 30 minutes later he received a phone call from another friend that was out there and told him that the victim died.

Mr. Worthy expressed remorse in that he recognized that night that he had taken someone's life. Mr. Worthy took accountability for his actions and shared an apology to the family and to the harm that he caused. He wishes that he would have just run that night and made a different choice. Mr. Worthy was visibly emotional during his account of the offense.

When asked about the trial, he shared during that he did not quite know what was happening.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Worthy's parole plan is to live with his mother as she is his best friend and would provide the best environment for him. He plans to take his Commercial Driver's License and wants to learn plumbing. He plans to enroll in the Kennedy-King College plumbing program.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

The Cook County State's Attorney does oppose parole release.

ENBANC HISTORY

This is Mr. Worthy's first time appearing before our board for parole consideration.

Closed Executive Session: MCOATES-RSHOFFNER

Open Executive Session: RSHOFFNER-KTUPY



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DISCUSSION

Ms. Marrisa Jackson, Mr. Worthy's attorney, stated shortly after the interview, they had a conversation that showed his remorse and transformation. She explained how she had a legal visit, and he asked her if something was wrong, therefore she shared a recent story with him how she was outside eating while there was a gunshot. She stated there were teenagers running and he recognized her feelings. She stated he talked to her about the pain and loss that he caused, and the other teenagers present with the people who also heard the gunshots. She stated as they spoke about this, he dropped his head into his hands and stated he wished he could speak with the younger community. She stated he once felt he did not have a choice when he did, and he told her he should have never had a gun at 16 years old. She stated remorse is more than words, it is recognition and reflection. She stated he is committed to improving his community and that he is aware of the pain he caused every day. She stated he has recently secured a job offer with Mr. Jeffrey Higgins to drive a box truck. She explained they have known each other since they were five years old, he has noticed the change in him and that is why he offered him the job. She stated his goal is to become a plumber with a flexible schedule. She explained when he agreed to his sentence, he waived mitigation so the Board could listen to him, and he can provide a picture of his life and answer any questions the Board may have.

Mr. Richard Worthy stated he was feeling extremely nervous and thanked the Board for giving him this opportunity. He stated he takes full responsibility for the horrible crime that he committed on October 21, 2004. He stated he is remorseful for the hurt he has caused for the victims, their family and his family. He stated he has realized Terrance Brown's family is devastated over his loss and he feels horrible for all the pain he has caused. He stated he has done self-help and life skill programs, and he explained the courses he has taken such as victim impact and personal responsibilities, adding he is grateful for the classes he has taken. He stated he likes to speak with other individuals in custody about what their plans are when they are released and how to be prepared for the future. He stated he has tried explaining that to the younger men in custody to try to set them on the right path. He stated he remembers being young like them and he understands what is important in life now, therefore, he can only hope they make better choices once they leave prison. He stated he understands that he has spent most of his life in prison but if released, he will know how to handle high pressure situations. He stated he now has the knowledge and insight, so he knows how to respond to those types of situations in a respectful manner. He stated he is not afraid to ask for help, he will start counseling right away and he would like the victim to know about his deepest apology. He stated Terrance Brown would still be alive with his family if it was not for him. He then apologized to Terrance, his family and his friends. He stated he understands he is not deserving of their forgiveness, but he prays for it.

Ms. Takiyah Worthy, Mr. Worthy's older sister, started off by discussing her career and education. She stated she works for the Federal Government for the last 20 years in the fiscal department. She explained how she is a cofounder of a nonprofit that is for mentoring, and they work with others to make good decisions. She stated they were very close as children and even as adults. She explained how their father suffered from drug and gambling addiction, and she did not know about her father's drug addiction until she was about to go to college at 17 years old. She stated that's when her mother told her because they were separating. She stated she was able to move away from it, but her brother could not because he was only 12 years old. She stated he was the new kid at his school being bullied therefore, her mom would



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have to leave work to pick him up and drop him off at home. She explained how he went from a carefree kid to a quick to react kid, but she knew he was scared. She stated from the ages of 12-16 years old, their parents were separated but still lived together. She stated her father was living in the basement, angry, while her mom and her brother lived upstairs. In 2004, she had just started graduate school, she got a phone call from her brother, and he stated he was going to turn himself in for the shooting of Terrence Brown. She stated all their conversations are emotional, he helps her through the phone with her nonprofit and she likes to use him as an example. She shared a story from her nonprofit organization and how he spoke with the young man and was able to relate with him. She stated he told him what not to do and what not to be. She stated her brother is not the boy that he was 20 years ago, he is committed to his community and the youth. She stated he has given the shoes off his feet to someone else who needed them. She stated he knows his family is blessing and there are many people out there who do not have that. She asked the Board for a second chance even though Terrence will never have a second chance because of her brother.

Mr. Tupy questioned why he agreed to a 20-year sentence for murder, six years for a firearm and four years for aggravated discharge of firearm to which all are minimum sentences back in 2021.

Mr. Worthy stated he did that so he would be able to come in front of the Board. He explained how he wants to be able to spend time with his daughter because he has been incarcerated her entire life, and she is now a junior in college. He stated how he would like to mentor young men and women before they reach the Juvenile Detention Center or Illinois Department of Corrections.

Mr. Tupy still questioned why in the agreement, he agreed to waive evidence, mitigation, and brain development when that is something the Board takes into consideration.

Ms. Jackson stated that was just for court, not the Board.

Mr. Tupy stated all the minimum sentences are to run consecutively. He stated the victim's family cannot visit him because he deceased, but Mr. Worthy can visit with his family. He questioned how that made him feel.

Mr. Worthy stated remorseful, and he has apologized for the pain he has caused for his family. He understands he cannot make up for what he has done but he can always pray for their forgiveness. He stated he wants to be a better person than he was yesterday.

Ms. Courtney Quam, Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, stated they are opposing parole and stated the Board has her letter.

Ms. Jackson stated the State's Attorney's office letter disregards restoration and only focused on the crime itself. She stated the Board should see his profound change and parole does not terminate the sentence. She asked the Board to let him finish out his sentence on parole so he can work with the youth. She stated he does take full responsibility, and he is aware of the harm he caused. She stated community needs more people like him, not less.



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Mr. Tupy questioned whether he was sentenced as a juvenile or an adult. Ms. Jackson stated an adult. She then asked the family to stand or raise a hand if they were here in support of his release.

End of Discussion.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to grant parole (MCOATES-CTERRONES). Motion failed by 2-8 vote. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Coates and Ms. Terrones. Mr. Bohland, Ms. Buckley, Mr. Grubbs, Mr. Heaton, Mr. Nugent, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Tison and Mr. Tupy dissented.

After reviewing the 15 Statutory Factors and applying them to the evidence in this case, the Board decided that Mr. Richard Worthy should be denied parole.

“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- November 20, 2025

Individual in Custody's Name: Anthony Lee* IDOC Number: Y48589

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1001 N. Walnut Street, Springfield, Illinois, on November 20, 2025, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Anthony Lee Y48589.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Ms. Buckley, Mr. Coates, Mr. Grubbs, Mr. Heaton, Mr. Nugent, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones, Ms. Tison, and Mr. Tupy.

Recording Secretary: Ellen Wayne

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

On September 17, 2025, Mr. Anthony Lee was interviewed by Board Member Robin Shoffner via WebEx from Joliet Treatment Center with his attorney Ms. Mira DeJong. He had several people who participated in the interview by video including: his mother Ms. Desiree Cook, who spoke of his parole plans; his uncle Mr. Antwon Robinson, who spoke of his work opportunities; Ms. Ginerva Fransconi, Clinical Licensed Social Worker, spoke on his reentry plan; Ms. Jennifer Gill, a specialist in Juvenile Brain Research, spoke of teenage brain development; and his grandmother observed the interview by video.

Mr. Lee communicated in a very polite and sincere manner, and he expressed deep remorse about the death of his girlfriend and his role in a scheme to rob another person. He also expressed enthusiasm about building a relationship with his daughter, whose life was spared after his girlfriend died following the robbery.

Mr. Lee is currently 27 years old and resides at Joliet Treatment Center. He is currently serving a sentence of 30 years for the conviction of Armed Robbery with a Firearm following an attempted robbery in which his pregnant girlfriend was killed. At the time of his offense, Mr. Lee was 16 years of age. Pursuant to a plea agreement, the 30-year sentence is being served at 50 percent. Mr. Lee has served ten years in the Illinois Department of Corrections and his projected Mandatory Supervised Release date is November 1, 2028. His projected discharge date is in 2031.

No appeals have been filed.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On December 25, 2013, Anthony, Eva Casara (17), and Anthony's older brothers, Diante Coakley (18) and Darius Marshall (21), came up with a plan to rob a marijuana dealer. The plan was that Eva and Diante would get into the car with the dealer as though they were buying marijuana, and while the transaction was underway, Darius and Anthony would approach the car and rob the dealer at gunpoint. Eva was 25 weeks pregnant at the time she allegedly contacted the dealer to schedule the meet-up.



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At the time of the meeting, things did not go as planned. After Eva and Diante got into the car, the dealer and his companion told Diante to get out of the car. Sensing trouble and seeing someone approach his vehicle, the dealer sped away. Multiple shots were fired, and Eva was struck by a bullet. Upon seeing her, the dealer took Eva out of the car and left her in the passageway where she remained for about 40 minutes in freezing cold until she was noticed by a bystander. After being taken to the hospital, Eva tragically died from her injuries. Her daughter miraculously survived and was delivered on December 25, 2013, nearly three months premature and weighing just 1 lb. and 6 oz.

Although Anthony admits that he helped plan the robbery, he denies that he approached the vehicle or fired a gun during this incident. Both co-defendants Darius Marshall and Diante Coakley entered a plea of guilty to this crime and there were each sentenced to 30 years at 50%.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Lee has no other adult or juvenile criminal convictions. In 2018, while in custody at Cook County, he was charged with Battery - Cause Bodily Harm; Case Number: 18122311501. The date of arrest was December 5, 2018. The disposition for this case stated he pled guilty and was sentenced to time served. While incarcerated at the Cook County Jail, Anthony and several other men got into a fight and one of the men sustained lacerations and swelling to his face.

From 2016 to 2021, Anthony has had seven arrests and criminal charges filed against him while in custody at Cook County Jail. The charges were for lewd exposure, battery-cause bodily harm and mob action. Mr. Lee also has nine cases that were serious charges filed against him prior to his December 2013 custody date. At the age of 14 in 2009, he has juvenile prior history. He subsequently was also charged with attempt burglary, two incidences of robbery, battery and manufacturing and delivering cannabis at school.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

From January of 2022 through April 2025, Anthony has had 30 incidents leading to multiple tickets for sexual misconduct, drugs or drug paraphernalia, and physical misconduct. His conduct, unfortunately, reflects that he continues to pose a threat to other persons through setting fires, charges of threats and intimidation, assault, fighting, and lewd conduct.

Mr. Lee worked as a porter while living in the Behavior Modification Unit from September 2024 to December 2024 with evaluations that indicate he met or surpassed expectations.

Mr. Lee is currently working towards completing his high school equivalency diploma and he hopes to pursue an associate's degree in mental health. He has completed numerous self-improvement programs while incarcerated and is a practicing Muslim. In January 2025, Anthony graduated from Behavior Modification Unit after successfully completing all four levels of the program and going several months without any disciplinary tickets.



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STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

Mr. Lee admits that he helped plan the crime but denies that he was present when the crime occurred. As a result, he did not see how the crime unfolded.

PAROLE PLANS

Upon release, Mr. Lee plans to live with his mother in Chicago Heights, Illinois. His uncle, Mr. Anton Robinson, owns a trucking company and stated during his interview that he is prepared to have Anthony work for him at his company. In addition, he received letters of support such as employment opportunities through CARA, which is based out of Chicago; Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC); Safer Foundation which is for education assistance, job training, behavioral health services and community engagement; Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, readjustment support services and workforce development; and Uptown Peoples' Law Center can assess the care he needs to return to the community. The Illinois Prison Project has also expressed their commitment to continue assisting Mr. Lee.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

Cook County State's Attorney opposes Youthful Parole for Mr. Lee. There were also victims who opposed release.

ENBANC HISTORY

This is Mr. Lee's first time at En Banc for a parole consideration.

Closed Executive Session: MCOATES-RSHOFFNER

Open Executive Session: RSHOFFNER-KTUPY

DISCUSSION

Ms. Mira De Jong, Mr. Lee's attorney, stated Jesse Schrantz, social worker, is with her today along with Anthony's mother and other family members. She stated Eva was a huge loss for her family and Anthony because he wanted to spend the rest of his life with her. She stated he turned 28 years old in August and he always celebrates her birthday and her death date. She stated he carries the grief of losing her and a huge burden for holding responsibility of her death. She stated he was an active participant in this armed robbery along with Eva and his two older brothers. She stated they created this plan to rob Eva's mother's drug dealer, and that Eva called him the day before to make sure he could sell them the marijuana. She stated three young children, and one adult made this plan, Anthony being the youngest. She stated on the record, he was not present when Eva was shot but once he realized she was in danger, he kept calling her and trying to find her. She stated his world collapsed around him when he found out. She stated he should have called the cops, but he was 16 years old and not turning himself in was the juvenile thing to do. She discussed his rocky experience at Cook County Jail and how it did take him a long time to commit to his rehabilitation. She explained how he had not graduated high school or even held a driver's license. She stated he did self-harm because his brain is underdeveloped, and he was



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traumatized and mourning the death of someone he loved. She stated Illinois Department of Corrections has him designated as severely mentally ill and in 2023, he engaged in an extreme case of self-harm where he burned himself and had to have his leg amputated due to not receiving the proper medical care. She stated he had a lot of tickets after he got his leg amputated and she believes it is because of stress and anger. She stated a few months later, the Board can see that his record improved, and it has been over two years since his last sexual misconduct ticket and drug use in September of 2023. She stated the State's Attorney said it was ongoing, but it has not happened in over two years. She stated he has two jobs which were as a porter and dietary worker, and he has supporting letters from Illinois Department of Corrections staff which can be hard to get. She explained how the tickets stopped in 2023 as he was turning 26 years old and moving into the next stage of his adulthood. She stated the change is night and day with his behavior now and he has not received a ticket in seven to eight months. She stated the Board should parole him because his behavior and mental health as improved dramatically. She stated the facility he is at is on constant lock down and sometimes in their cells for over 24 hours and his post-traumatic stress disorder is triggered by where he is at. She stated if released, he could have better mental health treatment, and he would not be triggered.

Ms. Shoffner questioned Ms. De Jong whether he was on the scene at the time of the crime. Ms. De Jong stated yes, he was about 20-30 feet away. Ms. Shoffner then corrected Ms. De Jong on the number of tickets he has actually received, as she stated it two when its actually three. Ms. Shoffner then stated the worst ticket was an intimidation/threats, therefore, she asked Ms. De Jong to clarify what happened. Ms. De Jong stated it was a disagreement with a guard, but she does not have the ticket on her.

Ms. Jesse Schrantz, social worker, stated on Monday afternoon, she received his most recent records that reflects he engages in treatment such as a trauma impacted and a stressor course. She stated when the previous En Banc hearing date was continued, he was able to handle it calmly. She stated there is a nonprofit that is right by Anthony's mother's house; therefore, they could manage his medications. She stated they also provide a hotline if he or his family would need to reach out to them. She stated they also offer family counseling whom which Anthony's therapist will be able to speak with. She stated his uncle and cousin own a business where he could obtain employment.

Mr. Lee thanked the Board for the opportunity, and stated he loved Eva with all of his heart. He apologized to their beautiful daughter, and her family. He stated he prays someday it can heal their hearts. He stated when he was younger, he felt like he had to react to everything and did not understand the consequences to his actions, therefore, going to prison was a wakeup call for him. He stated he has completed programs to become a better father. He stated his sobriety has made him a better person, so he wants to finish school and get his General Education Development (GED) so he can then go to college. He stated he wants to work with his uncle and cousin so he can get his own place, pay bills, and build up his credit. He stated he would lean on his mother, his grandmother, and his aunt if he needs too. He stated he prays for mercy, and he is ready to go back to society.

Mr. Heaton questioned Ms. Schantz on how someone becomes eligible for the services. She stated it is free and they have already contacted him. She stated due to his post-traumatic stress disorder, he would qualify. Mr. Heaton questioned whether the nonprofit is geographic based or the entire state. She stated she believes it is just geographic and that it's located near Chicago.



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Ms. Buckley questioned the warrants pending from 2017 in Cook County and if he was paroled, he would have to report to Cook County Jail. Ms. De Jong stated she would have to look into that.

Ms. Courtney Quam, Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, opposes the granting of parole in this case. She stated she does acknowledge the very detailed parole plan for mental health, but they still oppose parole. She stated he has had continuous use of drugs while in custody and an extensive ticket history.

Ms. De Jong discusses issues with the State's Attorney's protest letter. She stated he did not call the police like he should have but that is because he was a teenager, and his brain could not see the risks. She stated he has gone six months without receiving a ticket. She stated she agrees there are a lot of tickets, but it has dramatically improved. She stated all the cases listed in the opposition letter have since been dismissed.

End of Discussion.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (RSHOFFNER-KTISON). Motion prevailed with a unanimous vote.

After reviewing the 15 Statutory Factors and applying them to the evidence in this case, the Board decided that Mr. Anthony Lee should be denied parole.

"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- November 20, 2025

Individual in Custody's Name: Hearn, Michael IDOC Number: B82910

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1001 N. Walnut Street, Springfield, Illinois, on November 20, 2025, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Michael Hearn B82910.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Ms. Buckley, Mr. Coates, Mr. Grubbs, Mr. Heaton, Mr. Nugent, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones, Ms. Tison, and Mr. Tupy.

Recording Secretary: Ellen Wayne

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Mr. Hearn was interviewed by Prisoner Review Board Member, Mr. Rodger Heaton. He was represented by Ms. Mira De Jong, of Illinois Prison Project. Mr. Hearn was cooperative, polite, attentive, engaged and articulate in the interview. Mr. Hearn is 41 years old and has been in custody for 24 and a half years. He has been in custody since June 20, 2001. Mr. Hearn's Mandatory Supervised Release date is September 3, 2028, which is about two years and nine and a half months from the date of the En Banc hearing. If he is not released before that date, he will have served 27 years, two months, 14 days, for the two crimes he has been convicted of.

He had several witnesses speak on his behalf:

Ms. Brittany Martinez, sister of Mr. Hearn, was only ten years old at the time of the offense. She testified that she visited him in prison monthly for 24 years, originally with their parents. However, their mother died in 2014, and their father in 2022. She testified that he is very remorseful for the fact that he devastated several lives, not only the primary victim of his offense. She testified that Mr. Hearn was a rock for their mother, even from prison, and that he has helped her with her home life, as she is raising three children; ages eight, ten, and 12. She has set aside some money from their mother's estate to use to help him upon release, for things like clothing and a laptop computer. He plans to work in the anti-violence/reentry field. She spoke about the opportunity he had a few years ago to have a restorative justice meeting with the victim's mother, and his expressions of remorse to her.

Dr. Elena Quintana submitted a thorough psych evaluation. She emphasized that Mr. Hearn experienced a substantial number of ACEs in childhood and ended up turning to drugs and religion to address the stresses from those experiences. Mr. Hearn's poly substance use at a young age was notable. Mr. Hearn's incredible guilt from committing the crimes led to him making an admission to his youth pastor, which led to his arrest and conviction. Dr. Quintana's perception is that once the LSD, gin and marijuana wore off following the offenses, his conscience took over. She testified that she conducted an unusual number of tests to assess his chances of relapse following his release from prison and she concluded from the test results that he is a low risk to recidivate, that he is not likely to experience PTSD issues following his release, that kindness, service, and abstinence are now central to his belief system.



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She also did a personality assessment to inform her assessment of his behaviors and concluded that he was not showing any signs of malingering or exaggerating in the testing. He has consistently made decisions regarding being selective in relationships, which is demonstrative of his effort to reduce or limit risk. She observed that he welcomes and works for change, as needed. Dr. Quintana's report was based on examination and interaction with Mr. Hearn on August 11, 2025, August 22, 2025, and October 2, 2025. Her only observed weakness of Mr. Hearn was that he sometimes has difficulty maintaining focus over time and she explained that he was diagnosed with a learning disability while in school, and that individuals with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder typically have focus limitations, but they also often have the ability to hyperfocus on what they care most about. She pointed out that he has had sufficient focus to earn 38 college credit hours, maintaining a 3.893 grade point average.

Assistant Professor, Ms. Laura Kalmes, education professor at ISU, focuses on trauma informed practices, and is the Coordinator of the Anti-Violence program at Danville Correctional Center. She knows Mr. Hearn as Ra'uf, his Muslim name. She has observed that Mr. Hearn has a deep understanding of trauma, and he encourages other inmates in the group to move past reactive thinking and to go deeper. She stated he leads by example, by expressing his own vulnerabilities, which requires trust and accountability that can only occur in a group where there is safety to be vulnerable, and trust. She noted that Mr. Hearn's higher education efforts are directed to his planned future in anti-violence work. She explained that this group work is entirely voluntary, and he does not receive any reward or credit of any kind for doing it. He has earned the respect of his peers, for his effective leadership in the program.

Assistant Professor, Ms. Elizabeth Tacke, professor of English Department at EIU, has known Mr. Hearn since 2023, through four improv workshops she conducted at the prison. He is also now in a second college course that she teaches. She has ten years of experience working in the prison system in Michigan before her involvement here in Illinois. She has observed that Mr. Hearn is deeply reflective, sets high and achievable goals and is inquisitive and hard working in the classroom. She noted that he is quick to praise the success of others. He is great at facilitating conversation, by asking deep questions. She observed that he is quick to take lessons from the classroom and to apply them to himself and others in community settings. She believes that he is capable of enacting real change in the lives of others.

Father David Kelly is a Catholic Priest who does work in the restorative justice setting, and through coordination with the State's Attorney in Williamson County, he helped facilitate a restorative justice meeting between Mr. Hearn and the victim's mother, back in October 2022. He reported that there was an hour and a half meeting between the two where they were each able to express their feelings and thoughts.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Mr. Hearn strangled Ashley Sprague, a 15-year-old girl, on June 8, 2001, while he was intoxicated and high on a combination of alcohol, cannabis, and LSD. He had driven Ms. Sprague to a drug dealer's house to buy drugs with her for her and a couple of her friends, but the dealer was not home, so they went to a nearby grassy area to smoke marijuana and wait. They got into an argument there, and his petition reports that she slapped him. Regardless of whether that happened or not, he responded to the slap or to something she said to him by choking her into unconsciousness, and kicking her body outside the car, and she died in the process. He left her there and drove home. The next day he went back and found her



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dead body, which he moved into a nearby wooded area and left the body covered with leaves or other natural debris. It went undiscovered for 11 more days, and Mr. Hearn at that point admitted to a youth pastor he knew that he had killed her. The pastor told the police about the admission, and Mr. Hearn was arrested, and charged with 1st degree murder.

He was offered a guilty plea to 1st degree murder with a sentencing range of 20-60 years. His lawyer and family recommended he turn it down, which he did electing to go to a bench trial to argue that he was actually guilty of 2nd degree murder because the alcohol and drugs impaired his thinking and judgment to such a degree that he was incapable of the intent required for 1st degree murder.

The judge rejected that defense, found him guilty as charged and on June 13, 2002, he was sentenced to life without parole for the murder. He also got five years consecutive for an attempted escape from the county jail that occurred while he was awaiting his sentencing. On April 16, 2002, a jail employee left the door to the cell block unlocked accidentally, and Mr. Hearn left his cell block and headed into the jail vestibule. Once there, he hid in a drop ceiling space, but was found hiding there later that same day before he could completely flee the jail.

On November 2, 2022, his sentence was reduced to 33 years for the murder.

On May 1, 2023, he was re-sentenced again after his attorney argued that the 33-year sentence combined with the five consecutive years for the attempted escape actually led to him having a combined 38-year sentence, and that was not what the court intended. The judge agreed and reduced the murder sentence to 28 years, for a total sentence of 33 years.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Hearn was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia when he was 16 years old, prior to the holding offenses, but he was diverted into a counseling program and not prosecuted for that offense.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Hearn is currently classified as Minimum Security, moderate escape risk. He has been in A grade since October 31, 2016. He received only ten IDRs while incarcerated, most of which occurred in his first several years. In his first 18 months of incarceration, he received eight of those IDRs, and then he went 9 years without any disciplinary tickets. In 2013, he was found to have some personal property in his legal correspondence box and received a ticket for that.

He was initially to be housed at Menard Correctional Center and then Stateville Correctional Center, but the victim of his offense had family members who worked at both of those prisons, so he was transferred to Pontiac Correctional Center. Perhaps most seriously, Mr. Hearn became involved with a female employee at Pontiac Correctional Center, both romantically and sexually, which led to the employee being fired and for Mr. Hearn to be sent out of state to New Jersey for his incarceration. The only concerning issue seen in the file regarding Mr. Hearn's Illinois Department of Corrections' activities was that he admits being a member of the Insane Vice Lords gang from 2007 until 2013, when he



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renounced his affiliation. He was incarcerated in New Jersey from 2014 until 2022 when he was returned to Illinois for his resentencing hearing.

Over the course of his Illinois Department of Corrections' incarceration, he had several work assignments such as peer educator, housing unit janitor, laundry porter, law library clerk, and inmate kitchen worker. He completed his general education development (GED) while at Pontiac Correctional Center, and successfully completed several college classes, maintaining a high-grade point average.

Mr. Hearn explained that it was a blessing and a curse to be sent to New Jersey for his incarceration. The curse being that he was far from his family, so it was not easy to visit. The blessing was because they had a program focused on restorative justice, which brought in actual victims to the classes, and that is what allowed him to realize that he had taken his victim's mother's "world" away from her. Mr. Hearn represented that while incarcerated in New Jersey, he only received one minor reprimand for being in the yard in a line with other inmates that did not move in the right direction when instructed to leave the yard.

Since returning to Illinois, he received one ticket in August of 2023 for feeding birds in the yard.

STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

Regarding the offense itself, Mr. Hearn explained that he was driving and saw the victim walking; she asked him for a ride. They discussed getting high together, went to his drug dealer's house, but the guy was not there. Mr. Hearn noted that her brother was in his grade at school, so he knew him, but he did not really know her that well. He asked her to give him her money to get some drugs, but she refused to do that. She wanted to pay the dealer directly. Mr. Hearn called her a name in the dispute over the money, and she called him a name back, something like "Fake Gangster." He got angry and started choking her and ended up killing her.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Hearn explained that while his reentry plan as described in an earlier petition for youthful parole had been to reside at St. Leonard's and to attend culinary school, he now has earned 38 college credits, and determined that he would like to work toward attending college full-time at ISU or Illinois Wesleyan in Bloomington, majoring in human services, and use his college education to get into reentry work, reducing recidivism, and working with a reentry provider such as Chicago CRED. In his supplement to his petition, he states for the first time that he wants to start a Certified Support Recovery Specialist program that will train and qualify him to work as substance abuse or mental health support professional for Illinois Department of Human Services, which requires 110 class hours and 300 hours supervised internship. He has applied for such a program with Malcom X college and Envision Unlimited. He is taking a full course load through Danville Community College and EIU this semester while he is at Danville Correctional Center.

Mr. Hearn stated that he knows Judge Green took a chance by reducing his sentence, and he plans to reach out and thank him when he is released. Mr. Hearn's current parole plan is thoughtful and involves



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the commitments of respected community organizations like St. Leonard's, SAFER, NAMI, and Chicago CRED, not to mention his attorneys at the Illinois Prison Project and the resources that their organization is committing to his successful reentry.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

There was no objection submitted by the Williamson County State's Attorney's Office. There were witnesses who testified in a non-public protest hearing in opposition to Mr. Hearn's release.

ENBANC HISTORY

This is the first En Banc hearing for Mr. Hearn.

Closed Executive Session: MCOATES-RSHOFFNER

Open Executive Session: RSHOFFNER-KTUPY

DISCUSSION

Ms. Mira De Jong, Mr. Hearn's attorney, stated it has been an absolute pleasure to represent him. She stated he legally changed his name to Ra'uf, which means kindness. She stated he confessed to his youth Pastor to which he then did with the police. She explained how he feels deep shame. She stated he has never tried to downplay the crime, and it has been difficult for him to comprehend that he had done something so terrible. She explains the resentencing process that he went through and since the 2022 resentencing, he has become the NAMI of Danville Correctional Center. She stated he is a peer educator, and he actually helped create it along with writing the curriculum. She stated coming from a high security facility to a medium security facility is a big chance for long term individuals in custody. She explained how he has started taking college classes and he teaches English as a second language. She stated before he became a student, he wanted to go to culinary school but now he wants to become a Certified Recovery Support Specialist. She stated his long-term plan is to move to Chicago and start classes so he can begin that career. She stated his accomplishments speak for themselves and how he wanted to transform the moment he walked into Illinois Department of Corrections. She stated his desire is to never again hurt someone the way he hurt Ashley. She stated he has done what he can to address the underlying issues at the time of the crime and she believes his remorse is genuine. She stated how he took a victim impact class in New Jersey Correctional Center and that is when he gained a much deeper understanding.

Ms. Terrones questioned Ms. De Jong when the healing circle was completed to which Ms. De Jong stated in 2022.

Ms. De Jong stated he wanted to have a meeting with Ashley's family, therefore, they reached out to Witt County and were able to speak with her family. She stated Father Kelly got involved and made sure everyone wanted to participate in this meeting.



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Ms. Terrones questioned who was present in this meeting. Ms. De Jong stated Mr. Hearn, his younger sister, Father Kelly, the attorney at the time, and the victim's mother.

Ms. De Jong stated how a former warden wrote on behalf of him and that is impressive. She stated Mr. Hearn has maximized his potential with a 4.0 grade point average and he is ready to be challenged more academically. She believes he should be released now. She stated Williamson County State's Attorney did not protest his parole and she believes what he can do outside of prison is much greater than inside. She stated Youthful Parole should be granted to people like Mr. Hearn and he is deeply ashamed.

Dr. Elena Quintana stated he is low risk for escape after attempting to escape when he was 17 years old and that shows his growth. She stated he zeroed in on his weaknesses and realized he could not regulate his emotions, so he sought treatment for it. She stated he has been personally accountable for what happened, and he went above and beyond to advocate for himself. She explained how he has learning difficulties; therefore, he was kicked out of high school but now has completed his associate's degree. She explained how he has consideration for others, created a new program and is doing exceptional outreach work. She stated he is always helpful to others and his advances are his own, he was not mandated to participate at the extent that he has. She stated he has high impulse control; extremely high helping behavior and he has a very strong sense of conscious.

Mr. Hearn started off by thanking Mr. Heaton and the Board. He stated he prepared a short statement that he would like to read. He explained how if it had not been for the trauma that he caused when he was a teenager, they would not be having this hearing today. He stated he is sitting before this Board because he made the worst decision in this world 25 years ago. He stated he killed her because he could not control his anger, but he has never acted that way before and has not since. He knows he has hurt countless people and that is shameful to him. He stated the only thing he could have done to atone to his actions, is being the man that he is today. As much as he wishes, he cannot bring her back. He has improved himself for two reasons, to honor Ashley's life and to work on himself so he can be a better person. He stated how he deals with the elderly, people who will die in prison and on the other end of that is the 18 to 20-year-olds. He stated he tries to get them to change their lives and shares what has weighed on him for years. He explained that he knows the Board does not have an easy task when young adults like himself come forward. He stated he did not value himself as child, he did not have self-worth or self-respect. He stated he projected that onto others and then the crime happened. He explained how he can work with Chicago CRED on the west side of Chicago starting January 5, 2026. He discussed speaking with Ashley's family and the hurt that he caused. He stated a couple of people at the facility have written on behalf of him, and he asked the Board for the opportunity to help others.

Mr. Heaton questioned Mr. Hearn if it was correct that he was a part of the Insane Vice Lords and if so, why. He stated he was just an associate. He stated he was around men that were bigger than him with muscles and facial hair. He stated that was the environment he was in at the time and the maximum facilities are at a higher risk for danger therefore, it was strictly for protection and safety.

Mr. Heaton questioned his participation and what he had to do for them. Mr. Hearn stated he had to walk around with them, sit with them and obey their rules. He stated they did not benefit anything from him because he was only 17 years old and did not have anything to offer them.



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Mr. Heaton questioned why he renounced and what that process was like. Mr. Hearn stated he matured into a young man and was transferred facilities. He stated it was only an interview to renounce. Mr. Heaton then questioned if he had kept in contact with anyone from the gang. Mr. Hearn stated no.

Mr. Heaton questioned whether he ever expressed to someone else that he did not commit the crime and took the fall for someone else. Mr. Hearn stated yes, he told that to Ashley's family because her family worked in Illinois Department of Corrections, and he had been threatened. He stated he was trying to protect himself from them.

Ms. Terrones questioned Mr. Hearn if he ever made any attempts to contact the family before Father Kelly. Mr. Hearn stated his mother and the victim's mother spoke to each other early in his incarceration and the victim's mother was supposed to meet with him, and she ultimately backed out.

Ms. Terrones questioned if he ever attempted to contact the victim's family. Mr. Hearn stated he wrote a letter to his mother who sent it to the victim's mother. Ms. Terrones questioned what his intentions were. Mr. Hearn stated he realizes now that he had ruined their lives so he sought to sit down and speak with her so he could try and explain himself. He said he is grateful for being able to tell her that at resentencing in 2022.

Ms. Terrones questioned if he stated he killed Ashley because someone else would kill his family. Mr. Hearn stated yes.

Ms. De Jong stated his life was threatened and that was why he was transferred.

End of discussion.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

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

After reviewing the 15 Statutory Factors and applying them to the evidence in this case, the Board decided that Mr. Michael Hearn should be denied parole.

"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."