



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
 BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR  
**PRISONER REVIEW BOARD**  
 Craig Findley, Chairman

**EN BANC MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION—December 13, 2018**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A Springfield, Illinois, on December 13, 2018, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

<b>C82540</b>	<b>Larry Kurena</b>
<b>C10609</b>	<b>Michael Henderson</b>
<b>C01434</b>	<b>George Peter</b>
<b>C81919</b>	<b>Michael Henderson</b>

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Findley.

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Janet Crane.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Ms. Edith Crigler	X	
Ms. Lisa Daniels	X	
Mr. Salvador Diaz		X
Mr. Donald Wayne Dunn	X	
Mr. Pete Fisher	X	
Ms. Vonetta Harris	X	
Ms. Ellen Johnson	X	
Ms. Virginia Martinez	X	
Mr. William Norton	X	
Mrs. Aurthur Mae Perkins	X	
Mr. Joseph Ruggiero	X	
Mr. Donald Shelton	X	
Mr. Ken Tupy	X	
Ms. Patricia Wilson	X	
Chairman Craig Findley	X	

14 Members Present

The Recording Secretary presented the November 1, 2018 Open Session Minutes for approval.

Motion to approve Open Session Minutes from **November 1, 2018**. (VM—KT). Leave.

The Board heard and voted upon the scheduled cases as detailed in the individual case minutes.

Meeting was adjourned (CF—DS). Leave.



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION—December 13, 2018**

Inmate Name: **LARRY KURENA**

IDOC Number: **C82540**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on December 13, 2018, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Larry Kurena C82540.

Members present were Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

Mrs. Perkins presented the following summary of the parole consideration interview and review of the inmate's file:

A first interview was conducted on November 15, 2018, at Danville Correctional Center. Present were Larry Kurena, Board Member Aurthur Mae Perkins, Attorney Lillian McCartin, Attorney Brad Thompson, and several family members and friends of Mr. Kurena.

A second interview was conducted on December 3, 2018, also at Danville Correctional Center. Present at this interview were Mr. Kurena, Ms. Perkins, and Ms. McCartin.

Mr. Kurena is now 60 years old. In 1976, he was sentenced to 200-500 years for the Murders of John Taylor and Emil Lauridsen. Mr. Kurena was originally paroled in 1993, after serving 17 years of his original sentence. He was returned to the Department of Corrections as a parole violator in 2005.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

On March 12, 1976, Mr. Kurena spent the afternoon drinking and taking pills with friends. Mr. Kurena was 17 years old at that time. At approximately 11:00 p.m., John Shannon, Jr., a friend of Mr. Kurina, entered Mr. Kurena's apartment. Mr. Shannon was extremely intoxicated and boisterous. Mr. Shannon entered the tavern and was causing a disturbance. Mr. Shannon left after a brief time. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Kurena left the apartment with his friends and proceeded to a tavern at 47th and Halsted where Mr. Kurena entered to purchase some marijuana. Mr. Kurena was involved in a fight while inside, however, some of his friends persuaded him to leave. After returning to his apartment, he armed himself with a nine-inch butcher knife. Mr. Kurena returned to the tavern area (alley) at this time, where Mr. John



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Shannon, Sr., was requesting help from Mr. Taylor and Mr. Lauridsen to help carry Mr. Shannon, Jr., home to sleep off his intoxication.

As the three men carried Mr. Shannon home, Mr. Shannon's mother and brother came out to assist. At this point Mr. Kurena, joined by his brother Brian, and others approached and began to yell obscenities at those bringing Mr. Shannon, Jr., home. The police arrived and quelled the disturbance. The police then left. Mr. Lauridsen and Mr. Taylor then attempted to return to the tavern, when Mr. Kurena attacked Mr. Lauridsen, ultimately stabbing and killing him. Mr. Kurena then turned and stabbed Mr. Taylor and left the butcher knife sticking in his side. Mr. Taylor also died of this wound. Mr. Kurena and his friends all ran back to the car and fled. After entering the car, Mr. Kurena stated to his friends that he had just killed both men and left the knife in "Moono" (Mr. Taylor's nickname). He further stated he did not know why he had killed them because "Moono" was his friend. Mr. Taylor was an extremely popular individual in the community, who at one point had even helped Mr. Kurena get a job. Mr. Taylor was willing to help everyone.

### CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Kurena had arrests prior to committing this double murder. He was arrested on April 12, 1974 for Theft. No disposition is available. He was arrested on September 26, 1975 for Simple Battery. The case was dismissed on October 20, 1975. He was arrested on October 3, 1975 for Theft and Disorderly Conduct. The case was dismissed on December 1, 1975. In 1993, after serving only 17 years of his 200-500 year sentence for this double murder Mr. Kurena was paroled. Mr. Kurena was arrested on January 23, 2002 by the Sangamon County Sheriffs Police and charged with DUI. On April 22, 2002, he was sentenced to one-year supervision and \$785 fine for that offense.

On March 20, 2004, he was arrested and charged with Violation of Order or Protection. According to Mr. Kurena's parole violation report dated April 14, 2005, the Springfield police report indicates that Mr. Kurena called his ex-wife on at least ten occasions and told her that he knew she was dating a Chicago policeman and he had no problem killing a cop. On April 27, 2004, he was found guilty and sentenced to six days in jail for the Violation of Order of Protection. Five months later, he was arrested and charged with Receiving Stolen Property by the Fulton County Sheriff's Department in Indiana. On April 18, 2005, he was convicted and was sentenced to 3 years in the penitentiary with 2 and half years suspended. Mr. Kurena was declared a parole violator by Illinois Prisoner Review Board in April 2005. He has been in custody since this date, having served his sentence at Lawrence, Hill, and Danville Correctional Centers.

### MR. KURENA'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

Mr. Kurena was 17 years old at time of the Murders, and he indicates that he does not know today why he killed the two men, except to say that he believed his brother Brian was having trouble and involved in a fight in the alley. However, the crime he committed lives with



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him 24 hours a day. He did not know Mr. Lauridsen. Mr. Kurena stated that neither man deserved to die. He said his perception of what he thought was happening in the alley was all wrong. He said that pills, alcohol, and stupidity were behind all that he did that day.

With regards to his parole revocation and return to incarceration, Mr. Kurena said he was released from an Indiana jail on bond and was out of custody until April 2005. He was told by his Illinois parole officer that he would not be violated for the Indiana arrests. Ms. Nancy Bowman was his Illinois parole officer and was helpful in getting him in a drug treatment facility. Mr. Kurena said the incident with his wife happened because he was still drinking, was very jealous, and wanted to keep the relationship going. The divorce started a downward spiral for him. Mr. Kurena noted that his ex-wife was the only woman he ever loved.

Mr. Kurena then talked about growing up in the "alley" with no supervision, and that it was normal to grow up in that way for his neighborhood. He noted that his brother has since died. Mr. Kurena related that his brother shot himself in the head, at which point Mr. Kurena began to cry. He also said his son is his life, however, they do not have any relationship with each other, as his son wants nothing to do with Mr. Kurena.

#### INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Kurena is a minimum-security, moderate escape risk offender that has been on "A" grade since May 9, 2013. Mr. Kurena has a high school education as well as 40 credit hours from Belleville Area College. He has participated in the following programs: welding, business, bookkeeping, typing, and substance abuse counseling. Mr. Kurena is currently unassigned, but he has previously worked the following assignments: housing unit, janitor, maintenance man (carpenter and painter), and floor specialist. He has only received one ticket since returning to the IDOC, which was a nonviolent ticket for refused housing. Mr. Kurena has received 313 visits from either friends or family members. He stays in contact with them through phone calls and letters. He has a strong family support system.

#### PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Kurena has a strong parole plan. Mrs. Mary Marek has offered to buy him a house anywhere she needs to keep him safe and watch out for him while he is free to make sure attends AAA meetings. Mrs. Marek has a nurse/ doctor who is willing to provide health care free. He also has the support of his brother, who would provide Mr. Kurena a place, as well as monitor him. He has a job offer from Sky Blue Express, Inc., a trucking company in Chicago, Illinois. The position would be as a dispatcher with a starting salary of \$15.00 per hour and health benefits.



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**DISCUSSION**

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mrs. Perkins believes, after reviewing Inmate Kurena's file, institutional adjustment, parole plans, and SPIN assessment, that Mr. Kurena is an excellent candidate for parole. She finds that he has a firm and structured parole plan. He is aware of past failures and has made necessary changes to avoid violence and substance abuse. She also noted that according to his counselors, Mr. Kooch and Mr. Wilcoxon, he attends AA meetings every Monday. Mr. Kurena has obtained his GED and has 40 hours of college credit since his incarceration, preparing himself for life after spending 31 years in incarceration. Ms. Perkins noted that Mr. Kurena has had two 3-year sets and has received only four votes for parole in the past.

Mr. Shelton stated that the affidavit that the tools were not stolen is untrue. The stolen tools were sold to the uncle of the original owner. Mr. Kurena's Illinois parole officer did not violate him for stolen tools. He was violated as a result of violating an Order of Protection and threats of violence against his ex-wife. Mr. Shelton feels that Mr. Kurena has given false information to the Board and therefore cannot support his parole.

Mr. Tupy went over the scene of the attack to clarify some points. He referred to Mr. Kurena's reference to 'poking' the victim. The men were almost cut in half with the knife. Mr. Kurena also stated that he went to his son's ballgames. He wasn't there to watch his son play; he drank and yelled obscenities at his ex-wife.

Chairman Findley asked Ms. Perkins about Mr. Kurena's work. Mrs. Perkins said he's not currently working but does attend AA regularly.

Ms. Crigler mentioned that Mr. Kurena has been in custody for fourteen years since he was brought back on a parole violation.

Chairman Findley discussed the different ways some Board Members make their decisions on parole of indeterminately-sentenced inmates, observing that some Members focus only at the time since parole and others look at the whole picture.

Ms. Crigler stated that original crime was as a 17-year-old drunk; now he is in custody for stalking his ex-wife, and he has a grown son.

Mr. Fisher stated that Mr. Kurena's ex-wife is still scared of him and that he previously lived in her garage when he was paroled. He parked so she couldn't get out of her driveway and stared at her out the window. Mr. Kurena's alcohol problem is not corrected.

Ms. Daniels stated that she feels that alcohol is a symptom, not the core problem.



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Ms. Wilson feels Mr. Kurena is a very angry person and asked if he has had any other types of counseling.

Mr. Shelton said Mr. Kurena has had alcohol problems all along. His car was recognized from him sitting in the cemetery drinking beer.

Ms. Harris asked about his marriage. Mrs. Perkins advised that he was married in prison.

Ms. Johnson stated that he was allowed to be released via the Interstate Compact to transfer to Indiana to live with his mother.

Mr. Ruggiero said Mr. Kurena was sentenced to 3 years for Burglary and was credited with time served. He also stated that there were ten people who gave statements at the Cook County protest hearing.

Motion to go into closed session to discuss victim statements (DS—LD). Leave.

Motion to return to open session (CF—EC). Leave.

Chairman Findley stated that, due to the fact that Mr. Kurena was represented by counsel and that this counsel was not present due to a miscommunication regarding the date of the hearing, Mr. Kurena's case would be heard again at the next *en banc* hearing. His case was presented at the current hearing rather than continued in full, as there were victims present.

Mr. Tupy stated that he believes Ms. Marek is a good parole plan option for Mr. Kurena and that his brother has also offered to help. Ms. Marek is willing to buy a house wherever the Board would mandate.

Ms. Crigler reiterated that Mr. Kurena has only had one ticket in fourteen years.

Chairman Findley commented that he is sure there would be geographic restrictions attached to any grant of parole.

Mr. Norton had questions as to what should be considered in the parole decision process. He noted that he would generally give deference to a prior decision of the Board, but that the prior Board clearly made the wrong decision to grant parole in this instance. He also reminded that Board that Mr. Kurena was brought back on a new sentence.

Chairman Findley felt there should be some degree of deference to judicial decisions. Mr. Kurena has only served 33 years of a 200-500-year sentence.

Ms. Martinez was concerned that Mr. Kurena had violated an Order of Protection and she was also deeply concerned that he had not received or participated in any counseling for domestic violence.



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Mr. Ruggiero stated that since Mr. Kurena violated a court order, Mr. Ruggiero feels that is an indication of how Mr. Kurena would perform on parole.

Ms. Daniels felt that the one ticket received speaks to manipulation. She noted that it appears that Mr. Kurena has adapted very well to the prison environment.

Ms. Harris asked about the SPIN assessment and if Mr. Kurena was coming off a multi-year set. Mrs. Perkins advised that he did not have a set (noting further that a vote for a set was made, but did not pass) and that Mr. Kurena was heard last year. Ms. Harris noted that a psychological evaluation for Mr. Kurena should be obtained.

Ms. Johnson mentioned Mr. Kurena's ability to manipulate and asked about internet access. He has no internet access but possibly gets information from outside visitors.

Ms. Wilson stated that Mr. Kurena is in a controlled environment where he is not triggered.

Chairman Findley advised that the protest statements were discussed in the closed session.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Sara Whitecotton discussed Mr. Kurena's ability to manipulate people and situations. ASA Whitecotton noted the State's written objections to any grant of parole and argued that parole should be denied.

### **DECISION AND RATIONALE**

Motion to parole (AP—EC). Motion fails by a vote of 4–10. Members voting in favor of the Motion were Ms. Crigler, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Perkins, and Chairman Findley. Ms. Daniels, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, and Ms. Wilson dissented.

Motion for a 3-year set (LD—EJ). Motion fails by a vote of 5–9. Members voting in favor of the Motion were Ms. Daniels, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Norton, and Mr. Shelton. Ms. Crigler, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Harris, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley dissented.

### **MOTION TO RECONSIDER VOTE**

Chairman Findley stated that the Board regretted the miscommunications regarding the date of the *en banc* hearing for Mr. Kurena, which led to Mr. Kurena's attorney not being present at the hearing. Accordingly, Chairman Findley felt that a reconsideration of the vote on parole release consideration should be set for another date convenient to the attorney and those protesting, to specifically allow for Mr. Kurena's counsel to speak on his behalf to the Board.



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Chairman Findley made a motion to reconsider the vote at the next *en banc* hearing of the Board, seconded by Mr. Shelton. (CF—DS). 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—December 13, 2018**

Inmate Name: **MICHAEL HENDERSON** IDOC Number: **C10609**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on December 13, 2018, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Michael Henderson C10609.

Members present were Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

Mr. Norton presented the following summary of the parole consideration interview and review of the inmate's file:

A parole assessment interview was conducted with Michael Henderson C10609 on November 7, 2018. Mr. Henderson was born on March 16, 1953, is currently 65 years of age, and was a resident of Lawrenceville Correctional Center on the date of the interview. Mr. Henderson was courteous, pleasant, polite, and attentive during the parole assessment interview. According to the file, following a jury trial Mr. Henderson was found guilty of the Murder of 17-year-old Richard Schaeffer. On August 19, 1974, the trial judge sentenced Mr. Henderson to 100-200 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections in St. Clair County Case Number 73-CF-5265. Also, as a result of a guilty plea, on October 15, 1984, Mr. Henderson was sentenced to 2 years in the IDOC for the offense of Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance in Clinton County Case Number 84-CF-51. This sentence was to be served consecutive to the St. Clair County conviction.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The record reveals that the Murder offense of Mr. Henderson took place on or about August 21, 1971, at approximately 12:30 a.m. At the time of the offense, Mr. Henderson was 18 years of age, and the victim, Richard Schaeffer, was 17 years of age. The file indicates that, on the date of the offense, Richard Schaeffer, together with two 2 companions, drove into the parking lot of the Delisi Lounge and Package Liquor Store located at 3018 State Street in East St. Louis, Illinois, where they were seeking to find someone to make an alcohol purchase. Mr. Henderson, who was standing in the parking lot, agreed to make the alcohol purchase. After making the alcohol purchase, he delivered two six-packs of beer to the car, where Richard Schaeffer was sitting in the driver's seat. After an exchange of words, and when Richard Schaeffer failed to comply with the demand of Mr. Henderson to give him all of his money, Mr.



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Henderson pulled a gun and shot Richard Schaeffer, which caused his death. The report of the Coroner stated that the death of Richard Schaeffer was virtually instantaneous. After a lengthy investigation, Mr. Henderson was arrested on or about March 5, 1973, for the Murder of Richard Schaeffer. As previously stated, Mr. Henderson was later convicted for this offense of Murder, following a jury trial, and then sentenced on August 19, 1974, to 100-200 years in the IDOC.

MR. HENDERSON'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

At the present time, Mr. Henderson does not dispute the basic facts of the case and accepts full responsibility for his actions which resulted in the death of Richard Schaeffer; he does, however, continue to maintain that his discharge of the weapon that caused the death of Richard Schaeffer was accidental, rather than intentional. Mr. Henderson also expressed sincere remorse for his actions that led to the death of Richard Schaeffer and sincere remorse for the pain and suffering that his actions caused to the family members of Richard Schaeffer.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

The parole assessment as completed by the Illinois Department of Corrections and the interview of Mr. Henderson would reveal that Mr. Henderson was admitted to the custody of the IDOC on October 21, 1974, and he has remained in custody ever since, for a total of approximately 44 years. The institutional adjustment of Mr. Henderson was quite poor during the early years of his incarceration, with numerous serious Inmate Disciplinary Reports and a new conviction for Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance in 1984 in Clinton County Case Number 84-CF-51, for which Mr. Henderson received a new 2-year sentence to be served consecutive to his original sentence for Murder.

The institutional adjustment of Mr. Henderson has shown marked improvement since 2000. During the course of his incarceration, Mr. Henderson has held various job assignments including serving in janitorial, laundry and food services. Mr. Henderson has also served as a painter, tailor, clerk, and cook. The current work assignment of Mr. Henderson is as an ADA Aide for a fellow resident who has a disability. Mr. Henderson has also worked to improve his education. Mr. Henderson completed his GED in 1976, and in 1979 he earned an Associate Degree in Business Management from Southern Illinois University. Mr. Henderson has also received Certificates in Welding, Food Preparation, and Culinary Arts. Mr. Henderson has also completed Substance Abuse and Anger Management courses of study. Mr. Henderson stated that he was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and that he moved to East St. Louis, Illinois, at the age of 12, in 1965, to reside with his uncle. Mr. Henderson reported that his parents are deceased and that he has a brother and sister who both currently live in East St. Louis, Illinois. Mr. Henderson further reported that he was married in 1971, and that this relationship and subsequent marriage resulted in four children. Mr. Henderson advised that he has not had a visit from his wife or children since the time of his incarceration. Mr. Henderson advised that his last visit while incarcerated was in 2013. Mr. Henderson appeared to be in good health and advised that he considers himself to be in excellent health.



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PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Henderson stated that if he were to be granted parole, he would plan to reside at St. Leonard's Ministry Halfway House in Chicago, Illinois, where he has been accepted for placement. Mr. Henderson stated that if he were to be granted parole, he would seek employment as a cook and would also like to participate in a program of motivational speaking at schools.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Motion to go into closed session to discuss victim statements (WN—DS). Leave.

Motion to return to open session (DS—EC). Leave.

Mr. Norton discussed Mr. Henderson's institutional adjustment, citing that he has received a total of 111 IDRs on various charges, with most of them in the early years of incarceration. In 2013, he received a dangerous contraband ticket. Mr. Henderson has held a job consistently while incarcerated. He came into the prison system in 1971 with a ninth-grade education, but he has continued his education while incarcerated.

Chairman Findley noted that St. Clair County State's Attorney Brendan Kelly was opposed to any grant of parole.

Mr. Norton stated that there have been numerous protest letters over the years. Mr. Norton further noted that a SPIN assessment was done in 2016, in which Mr. Henderson expressed remorse for his actions.

Mr. Fisher asked about gang affiliation and if Mr. Henderson was retired from the gang. Mr. Norton replied that there was nothing in the file, and that Mr. Henderson had stated that he was never in a gang. Mr. Norton advised that IDOC considers him inactive, as it relates to any gang involvement.

Mr. Norton asked whether Mr. Henderson would still serve the 2-year sentence he received for Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance while incarcerated if he were paroled. Mr. Tupy stated that Mr. Henderson would not serve any additional time if he were paroled, due to the manner in which consecutive sentences are calculated and the length of time that Mr. Henderson has already served in IDOC.

Ms. Johnson asked if Mr. Henderson had completed his substance abuse certificate. Mr. Norton answered that Mr. Henderson had completed the certificate, but that Mr. Norton felt that substance abuse was still an issue.



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Ms. Wilson commented that cellmates are both found guilty when something contraband is found in the cell.

Mr. Shelton asked the Board to consider whether they felt Mr. Henderson was still a danger to society, since this crime occurred in the 1970s.

Ms. Wilson asked what institution he was in when he received the serious disciplinary tickets and asked whether it was a maximum-security facility. Mr. Norton advised the 1984 ticket was a serious violation, but still wasn't a disqualifier for parole.

Mr. Norton relayed to the Board that he was conflicted in this case, due to the combined existence of both many positive factors for parole and equally-compelling factors against parole. He summarized as follows: weighted against parole release are the facts that (1) the crime was senseless in nature; (2) the Murder resulted in the death of a young man, who was only 17 years old; (3) the victim's family suffered deeply and irrevocably as a result of this offense; (4) the judge's original sentence has great weight in any consideration of parole release; conversely, factors in support of parole release included that (1) Mr. Henderson takes responsibility for his actions and is deeply remorseful; (2) his institutional adjustment has been good to great; (3) he has pursued educational and work opportunities throughout his time in the institution; and (4) he has a strong parole plan with St. Leonard's House.

Mr. Shelton asked Mr. Ruggiero what he thought the sentence would be if Mr. Henderson were tried for this crime in the current day. Mr. Ruggiero felt the sentence would likely be somewhere between 45 and 50 years.

Ms. Harris noted that Mr. Henderson was originally offered a plea deal and that he turned it down. She observed that had he taken the deal, he would have been released by now.

Ms. Wilson questioned whether Mr. Henderson would be able to work as a chef at his age, as he is now 65 years old, noting that the job would physically demanding.

The Board discussed the finding of a razor in Mr. Henderson's cell. Mr. Tupy felt that it was in Mr. Henderson's possession because of his work as a tailor.

The victim's family spoke to the Board and objected to parole. The family knew Mr. Henderson and his brother. The family feels that Mr. Henderson was a Metro gang member and that the institution's records don't match Mr. Henderson's statements about gang involvement.

Ms. Moss from Northwestern University's Bluhm Legal Clinic talked about Mr. Henderson's tickets, describing the nature of each violation as follows: (1) possession of a wire from a document (spiral notebook); (2) possession of a razor from his tailoring job; (3) possession of a piece of glass, which he turned into a guard; (4) possession of alcohol ingredients, being bread crumbs, salt, and sugar, which he had because he was a chef. Ms. Moss stated that St. Leonard's House has an excellent alcohol abuse program. Ms. Moss told the Board



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that the original plea offer made to Mr. Henderson, which he did not accept, was for 6 years, 8 months to 20 years. Under today's sentencing guidelines, Mr. Henderson would receive a minimum of 45 years, due to the use of a firearm in the commission of the offense.

**DECISION AND RATIONALE**

Motion to parole (WN—VH). Motion passes by a vote of 14–0.

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

*"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— December 13, 2018**

Inmate Name: **GEORGE PETER**

IDOC Number: **C01434**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on December 13, 2018, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for George Peter C01434.

Members present were Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

Mr. Dunn presented the following summary of the parole consideration interview and review of the inmate's file:

Present at the parole consideration interview were the following individuals: George Peter C01434, Attorney Jessica Frogge, Attorney Lindsey Sieling, and Mr. Peter's fiancée. Mr. Peter is a 69-year-old male, with a projected release date of March 17, 2048. He has been in prison for more than 51 years for the Rape and Murder of Cynthia Lubeznik, a 14-year-old girl. He was admitted into the Illinois Department of Corrections on July 18, 1969. He was recently approved for transfer to a medium-security facility on July 6, 2018. Presently, he has received many visits from a friend. Mr. Peter has maintained a very good disciplinary record throughout his incarceration, and none of his infractions have been of an assaultive nature. There have been only four disciplinary reports in the last ten years. Mr. Peter has a 'white' card, which indicates he poses a minimal risk of flight or threat to himself or others. Mr. Peter has never attempted to escape and has held a number of jobs that require a great deal of trustworthiness. He has spent the majority of his time in medium security prisons. He has held positions as medical assistant, janitor, and dental tech while in IDOC. He received his GED and has also received his Bachelor of Science degree from Southern Illinois University. He has been married in the past, but is presently single.

**EN BANC VOTING HISTORY**

Mr. Peter has previously received a vote in favor of parole from Chairman Findley in 2012 and a vote of 'present' from Board Member Jesse Madison. Prior to 2012, he had not received any votes in favor of parole. He received a 3-year set in 2002, 2005, 2009, and 2015. In 2013 he received a 2-year set.



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STATEMENT OF FACTS

Case Number 68-46

On July 27, 1967, Mr. Peter and a friend drove two girls to Winnetka, Illinois. After arriving at the beach, Mr. Peter took one of the young women to a secluded area. The young woman wanted to return to the car, but Mr. Peter wouldn't allow that to happen. He tried to take off her clothes, and she fought back. Frightened for her life, she ultimately removed her pants, at which time Mr. Peter raped her. Later, the girls caught a ride and reported the attack. The victim was examined, and vaginal tears of recent origin were found. An investigation was conducted, and on June 29, 1967, Mr. Peter was charged with Rape. On December 17, 1970, he was found guilty of Rape and sentenced to 4-5 years in prison.

Case Number 67-3271

While the previous case was pending, Mr. Peter committed the Murder of 14-year-old Cynthia Lubeznik. She had been out for the evening and realized that the time had grown late (approximately 11:30 PM), and that she needed to get home. She wanted a ride home, and Mr. Peter provided that he would drive her home. Instead of returning her to her home, however, Mr. Peter took her to LaBagh Woods, where he ultimately raped and strangled her. After he strangled her, he noticed a heartbeat; he then took her body to the nearby river that ran through the Woods, where he used his foot to push her head under water to make sure she was dead. The victim's body was later discovered by a walker and reported to authorities. Her body was taken to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death was determined to be asphyxiation due to strangulation and submersion. The police began an extensive investigation.

After the body's discovery was reported in the newspapers, an 18-year-old woman came forward on September 17, 1967. She told police that on August 30, 1967, she was introduced to a man named "George" by a friend. She reported that "George" agreed to give her a ride to a friend's house, but instead drove her to another area. At that location, they walked across the highway to a wooded area. She further stated that she told "George" she wanted to go home, and he said no. He threatened to carry into the LaBagh Woods. She broke away and notified the police. Mr. Peter was confronted and admitted to the involvement in that offense, which occurred in the same area where he had murdered Cynthia Lubznick. No charges were ultimately filed in this matter.

For the Rape and Murder of 14-year-old Cynthia Lubeznik, Mr. Peter was originally sentenced to Death; his sentence was later modified by the Illinois Supreme Court in 1973 to a term of 90-180 years. Mr. Peter appealed his sentence as excessive; the Appellate Court affirmed the sentence, indicating that his offense "was brutal and premeditated" and noting further that Mr. Peter "deliberately and intentionally took the life of another person."



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CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Peter's prior criminal record indicates he was arrested eight times for the following offenses: Criminal Damage to Property, Burglary, Theft from Automobile, Suspicion of Theft, Burglary, and Disorderly Conduct. Mr. Peter has no history of other violent offenses, beyond those related above in the Statement of Facts. Mr. Peter does not have any history of gang affiliation or substance abuse.

INSITITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Throughout his history of incarceration, Mr. Peter has had an exemplary disciplinary record. Mr. Peter has been noted in reports as having "relatively few disciplinary reports in the last ten years of his incarceration and none of them have been of an assaultive nature." He has received only four Inmate Disciplinary Reports in the last 10 years.

Mr. Peter has successfully completed many jobs, with many of them requiring a significant degree of trustworthiness, responsibility, and competence. As a medical assistant, he was trusted to visit cell houses and handle medications. At one point, he worked in the front office, with no security presence required, regularly handled confidential files. While on each job, he never received a single IDR. Under current regulations, IDOC employees no longer provide recommendations to the Board regarding parole consideration decisions; in the past, several correctional officers and supervisors have written letters of support for Mr. Peter. Mr. Peter also has utilized his writing abilities to help others by providing legal assistance to prisoners.

Mr. Peter has also worked to develop his interests in athletics. He has been a long-time member of the Jaycees and helped to coordinate a walk-a-thon/run-a-thon which raised funds to have an Olympics for handicapped children from the local area.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Peter indicates that he has friends and family to help him to make a successful transition from prison. Mr. Peter was an only child. He was raised in Chicago near Wrigley Field, and when he was in high school, his family moved to Rogers Park. When he was convicted of the instant offense, he was 18 years of age, was a senior in high school, and had few friends. Since he had moved to a new high school, he felt alienated. His father, George Peter, Sr., is 95 years of age, and lives in Wisconsin. Mr. Peter's fiancée, Ms. Boie, who lives in Belgium, is very much a part of his life. She flies to the United States twice per year, and she visits Mr. Peter at least 12 times per visit. They have been corresponding through the Inside Out program, since approximately 2003. If Mr. Peter is released from custody, both Ms. Boie and his father would be happy to provide financial support for him.

Mr. Peter indicates that he has the three important ingredients necessary for a successful re-entry into society: support from family and friends, a job, and housing. Mr. Peter, upon a grant





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of release, would live in Chicago and work for the Chicago Cutting Die company. His father and fiancée will continue to be a part of his life and provide support for him. The Chicago Cutting Die company, the company where his father spent most of his life, has agreed to hire Mr. Peter in an administrative position.

Mr. Peter has qualified to be placed with the New Beginnings Recovery Home in Chicago. Their organization provides transitional housing, food, clothes, and case management for the residents. New Beginnings accepts men directly from IDOC, including registered sex offenders, and provides year-round, 24-hour security and supervision.

His fiancée, Ms. Boie, a former teacher from Belgium, plans to be very supportive of his efforts to make a successful re-entry into society. If Mr. Peter gains parole, she plans to move to the United States (or spend six months in the United States each year as permitted by a visa) and would be prepared to assist him financially, as well.

Mr. Peter, Sr., plans to help his son to be successful. He has been very involved with his son since he has been incarcerated. Mr. Peter, Sr., has observed his son's transition from a troubled youth with no direction, into a caring, compassionate, and thoughtful individual. Mr. Peter, Sr., is a 95-year-old Navy Veteran, who has survived a heart attack, cancer, and a stroke. Though he lives in Kenosha, Wisconsin, he makes regular visits to Chicago to visit friends and to attend his church. He has provided commissary money and will continue to help his son financially. Mr. Peter would like to be helpful to his father for the remainder of his life.

### **DISCUSSION**

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Dunn summarized his thoughts regarding Mr. Peter's parole consideration and indicated his support for Mr. Peter's release on parole as follows:

- He is 69 years of age and has spent the last 51 years of his life in prison for what he acknowledges was a terrible crime.
- Mr. Peter does not pose a threat to others and would comply with all the terms of his parole. Dr. Craig Rypma, a forensic psychologist licensed in many states and registered with the Illinois Sex Offender Management Board (SOMBA), conducted a psychological assessment of Mr. Peter. Dr. Rypma conducted the evaluation for almost four hours and concluded that "Mr. Peter is not currently a violent person and that he is unlikely to engage in future acts of sexual violence should he be granted parole." Mr. Peter has not been diagnosed with any personality disorder or paraphilia.
- Dr. Rypma determined that Mr. Peter is now "more mature and less impulsive than he was when he committed the crime." Dr. Rypma further noted that "There is no



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current evidence of sexual deviant preoccupation that might put him at risk for sexually acting out in the future”.

- Mr. Peter is now 69 years of age and does not pose a likelihood to re-offend. He belongs to a population with a very low risk to offend; reportedly 2-3% compared with an over 50% recidivism rate for the general prison population. As an inmate ages, the recidivism rate gets lower. The same holds true for sex offenders.
- His prior criminal history is one that was not assaultive, with no gang affiliation, or substance abuse.
- Mr. Peter has an excellent disciplinary record, with only 4 violations in the last 10 years, and none of them were of an assaultive nature.
- Lastly, in an attempt at atonement for his wrongdoing, Mr. Peter has for the last 51 years spent his time working towards ways to self-improve and to help others to improve themselves.

Ms. Crigler asked if Mr. Peter has ever had sex offender treatment. Mr. Dunn stated that there has never been a diagnosis of any sexual crime, as he was charged with Murder.

Mr. Ruggiero asked for clarification on several points of the Dr. Rypma report. Mr. Peter’s attorney Jessica Frogge replied that the report showed an age-appropriate lack of interest in children. She also stated that Dr. Rypma did not have the police report on the attempted rape at the time of the evaluation.

Cook County Assistant State’s Attorney Sara Whitecotton pointed out that Mr. Peter bought a pair of handcuffs and talked to his friend David about the crime. Mr. Peter also had in his possession a book belonging to the victim. Mr. Peter’s alibi was his wife and ASA Whitecotton argued that Mr. Peter has not truly accepted accountability for or recognized the seriousness of this horrifying crime. The State asks for denial of parole and feels Mr. Peter is a sexually violent person.

### **DECISION AND RATIONALE**

Motion to grant parole (DWD—CF). Motion fails by a vote of 4–10. Members voting in favor of the motion were Ms. Crigler, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Martinez, and Chairman Findley. Ms. Daniels, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Norton, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, and Ms. Wilson dissented.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Peter’s case, the Board voted to deny parole. The Board feels that a release at this time would not be in the interest of public safety, as there is a substantial risk that he would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole, and that his release



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at this time would deprecate the serious nature of this offense and promote a lack of respect for the law.

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



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION— December 13, 2018**

Inmate Name: **MICHAEL HENDERSON** IDOC Number: **C81919**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on December 13, 2018, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Michael Henderson C81919.

Members present were Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

Ms. Crigler presented the following summary of the parole consideration interview and review of the inmate's file:

Present for the interview were: Michael Henderson C81919, Board Member Lisa Daniels, and Board Member Edith Crigler. Mr. Henderson was pleasant and answered all questions either with a nod of his head, or a verbal "yes" or "no" response. He was somewhat engaging, in that he did respond to questions.

**STATEMENT OF THE FACTS**

Mr. Henderson was convicted of Murder on September 16, 1796, at the age of 20. On September 15, 1976, Mr. Henderson asked his neighbor, Zelder Wilson, for a glass of water. The victim, Ms. Wilson, let him into her home and gave him a glass of water. He took the water, picked up a knife, and demanded sex from the victim. He then led her into the bedroom, where he raped and stabbed her to death. He was sentenced to 60-120 years for that offense. In 1987, he committed an Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault and received a consecutive sentence of 4 years in the Department of Corrections.

**MR. HENDERSON'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE**

Mr. Henderson refused or could not talk about the crime and his conviction. When asked about the offense, Mr. Henderson just dropped his head. When asked if he remembered the offense, he indicated he did not, by shaking his head.



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INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Henderson's institutional adjustment has been poor to fair. He has a history of sexual misconduct tickets, with two in 2018.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Henderson has no visitors, no family or friends' support system, and no parole plan. Mr. Henderson has been diagnosed with dementia and schizophrenia. He has served 42 years and does not have the capacity to take care of himself, and he continues to receive tickets for sexual misconduct. Due to his fragile mental state, lack of skills or education, and lack of any support system to assist him or provide for himself, he has no viable parole plan.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Ms. Crigler shared that Mr. Henderson was pleasant and answered her questions. He didn't remember the incident. Mr. Henderson told Ms. Crigler that he goes to school and can write his name. He also stated that he is 35 years old; Ms. Crigler noted that Mr. Henderson is in fact 60 years old. Ms. Crigler stated that Mr. Henderson's adjustment has been poor to fair. He has dementia and schizophrenia. He has no parole plan other than release to a half-way house. Due to his health issues, Mr. Henderson is unable to care for himself.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (EC—JR). Motion prevails by a vote of 14–0.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Henderson's case, the Board voted to deny parole. The Board feels that a release at this time would not be in the interest of public safety, as there is a substantial risk that he would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole, and that his release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of this offense and promote a lack of respect for the law.

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