

PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET: MEETING OF December 15, 2016

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Capitol Building, Room 114, Springfield, IL, on December 15, 2016 at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

C80186	Ronnie Carrasquillo
C15289	Bruce Sharp
C81714	Rudy Bell
C01521	Cleve Heidelberg
C62902	Richard Short
C01114	Chester Weger
C01563	Michael Parker

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Findley
Roll call was taken by the Recording Secretary: Robynn Davis

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mr. Ed Bowers	X	
Ms. Edith Crigler	X	
Mr. Salvador Diaz	X	
Mr. Gary Duncan	X	
Mr. Donald Wayne Dunn	X	
Mr. Pete Fisher	X	
Ms. Vonetta Harris	X	
Mr. Tom Johnson	X	
Mr. William Norton	X	
Mrs. Aurthur Mae Perkins	X	
Mr. Donald Shelton	X	
Mr. Ken Tupy	X	
Chairman Craig Findley	X	

13 Members Present

The Recording Secretary presented the following minutes for approval:
Open Session Minutes from **November 17, 2016. (EC-EB)**. Leave

Meeting was adjourned (TJ –SD). Leave.
Submitted by: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET OPEN SESSION— DECEMBER 15, 2016

Inmate Name: **RONNIE CARRASQUILLO** IDOC Number & Institution: **C80186**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Capitol Building, Room 114, Springfield, IL on December 15, 2016, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Ronnie Carrasquillo, IDOC #C80186.

Members present were: E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, V. Harris, T. Johnson, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, D. Shelton, K. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Ronnie Carrasquillo was interviewed for parole consideration on September 7, 2016 at Dixon Correctional Center. Present for the hearing was Inmate Ronnie Carrasquillo, Attorneys Jean M. Snyder and Shubra Ohri, Sister Deyra Mercado. Sister in law Sandra Carrasquillo, Friends Anita Vargas and Hector Vargas and Member Edith L. Crigler.

Mr. Carrasquillo is serving 200 – 600 years for murder. Facts of the crime are that Mr. Carrasquillo shot off duty police officer Terrence Loftus during a gang melee on October 10, 1976 at the intersection of Fullerton and Central Park in Chicago. Mr. Carrasquillo has taken responsibility for the shooting and expressed remorse for the crime.

Mr. Carrasquillo has an excellent institutional adjustment. He has received his GED and he also has an Associate and Bachelor's degree. He also has obtained many certificates of completion in Theological Studies and has served as a teacher's aid in heating, air conditioning, refrigeration and sheet metal.

Parole plans are to live with his brother and sister in law in Greenwood Indiana or his niece and her husband in Indianapolis, Indiana. All family members have offered employment in their family business of insurance or construction.

Motion to grant parole (EC-CF). Motion fails by a vote of 3 to 10. Members voting in favor of the motion were Ms. Crigler, Mr. Duncan and Mr. Dunn.

Motion for a 3 year set (SD-TJ). Motion Carries 8-5. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Bowers, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Shelton and Mr. Tupy.

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

PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— DECEMBER 15, 2016

Inmate Name: **BRUCE SHARP** IDOC Number & Institution: **C15289**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Capitol Building, Room 114, Springfield, IL on December 15, 2016, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Bruce Sharp, IDOC #C15289.

Members present were: E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, V. Harris, T. Johnson, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, D. Shelton, K. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Bruce Sharp was interviewed for possible parole at the Dixon Correctional Center on November 3, 2016. Present at the hearing were his brother, Tyrone Sharp; his sister, Geraldine Rose; his brother-in-law, Ed Rose; and his two attorneys, Timothy Grey and Jennifer Berman. All those present at the hearing spoke in strong support of Bruce Sharp's parole. Factors considered by the Board in reaching their decision include, but are not limited to: testimony, a review of the file, parole plans, and the nature of the offense.

Mr. Sharp is now 70 years old, having served 46 years of a 30-125 year sentence for the murder of Chicago Police Officer Kenneth Kaner on June 19, 1970. Mr. Sharp gave a statement to the police at the time and pled guilty to the offense. He does not dispute the facts as outlined in the official statement of facts. He is deeply remorseful for his actions.

His institutional adjustment remains excellent. He has strong family support and parole plans. Were he to be granted parole, he would live with his brother Tyrone in Florida. He continues to be a strong role model for others in the parole system.

After a complete discussion by the Board and a review of all the facts, the Board voted to deny parole at this time. The Board felt that to grant parole would show complete disrespect for the law and deprecate the serious nature of the offense.

Motion to deny parole (TJ-DS). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 1. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bowers, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Dunn, Chairman Findley, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Shelton and Mr. Tupy.

Motion for a 3 year set (TJ-CF). Motion Carries 7-6. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Bowers, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Shelton and Mr. Tupy.

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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET OPEN SESSION— DECEMBER 15, 2016

Inmate Name: **RUDY BELL**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C81714**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Capitol Building, Room 114, Springfield, IL on December 15, 2016, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Rudy Bell, IDOC #C81714.

Members present were: E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, V. Harris, T. Johnson, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, D. Shelton, K. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

On September 28, 2016, at 0925 hours, inmate Rudy Bell was interviewed at Hill Correctional Center in Galesburg. Present at the interview were Inmate Bell and his attorney Candace Gorman.

Inmate Bell is a 64-year-old African-American male and his date of birth is September 1, 1952. On May 12, 1978, Inmate Bell was sentenced to 100 – 200 years for the 1977 murder of Tyrone Smith. Inmate Bell is currently C grade, medium escape risk. He has previously been incarcerated at Menard, Stateville, and Pontiac; he has resided at Hill for the past 6 years. He has been incarcerated since he was 25 years of age, for a total of 39 years.

Inmate Bell is coming off a 3-year set from 2013, and has had consecutive 3-year sets in 2004, 2007, and 2010. Inmate Bell's maximum discharge date is May 2, 2071. He has never received a favorable vote.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On April 2, 1977, the victim, Tyrone Smith, had driven to the airport to meet his aunt. His mother, girlfriend, and his girlfriend's child accompanied him. They arrived back at the victim's residence, located at 7948 S. Union in Chicago, at approximately 2:30 a.m. After parking the car in front of his residence, Tyrone Smith walked to the trunk of his car. Smith's mother, aunt, girlfriend, and her child remained in the car. While standing between his car and house, Smith shouted to the driver of an approaching vehicle to turn on their headlights. At that point Inmate Bell and co-defendant Orville Miller, along with two other offenders, jumped from the approaching vehicle. Inmate Bell and Miller were both armed with shotguns and both fired at the victim. The two other offenders were armed with handguns. The victim suffered multiple gunshot wounds from shotgun blasts and 2 different 9mm semi-auto handguns. Numerous expended shotgun shells were left at the scene.

Tyrone Smith was transported to St. Bernard's Hospital where he was pronounced dead. The Medical Examiner's report determined the cause of death to be from multiple gunshot wounds.

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A later comparison of an expended shell recovered from the scene next to the victim's body had the same markings as shells recovered from the basement of Inmate Bell's parent's home. Eyewitness Audrianna Thomas identified co-offender Miller and Inmate Bell. Miller was arrested on May 7, 1977 and Inmate Bell was arrested on July 13, 1977. The eyewitness testified in court that Inmate Bell was one of the shooters.

Inmate Bell was a known member of the street gang known as the Blackstone Rangers. Eventually this gang became known as the El Rukns.

On September 1, 1977, Inmate Bell was in custody for the murder of Tyrone Smith, when Rowena James, the sister of the only eyewitness Audrianna Thomas, was executed by shotgun blasts. Rowena James was the driver of a car containing her mother, father, and her two children. While she was stopped at a traffic signal on 98th and Wentworth, a car containing two men pulled along the driver's side and fired two shotgun blasts into James' vehicle striking her in the face and neck, killing her.

During the investigation of the James murder, a search warrant was executed at the residence of William Doyle and a copy of the homicide file of Tyrone Smith was found in the bedroom. Doyle was later convicted of the murder of Rowena James, and the motive for killing her was to silence the eyewitness to the Tyrone Smith murder. Doyle mistook James for her sister Audrianna Thomas, and executed the wrong woman.

Inmate Bell has a lengthy criminal history prior to the murder of Tyrone Smith, having been arrested 30 times. Of those prior arrests, three were for murders, resulting in one case being dismissed and two with not guilty verdicts. The murder conviction of Tyrone Smith was appealed and the conviction was upheld.

Inmate Bell continues to deny any involvement in the murder of Tyrone Smith. Inmate Bell does, however, admit to being an active member of the "Stones" (Blackstone Rangers). Records show that Inmate Bell was a high-ranking member or a General in the street gang, but stated he was never given the positions of calling the shots. His gang leadership role was more of a mentoring role than leadership in his words. He went on to state that he basically tried to tell younger members that gang life was not for them.

Inmate Bell also continues to claim he was in Milwaukee for a friend's wife's party at the time of the murder. He stated that he traveled with his wife to Milwaukee, along with some other friends who traveled separately.

Inmate Bell stated that he did not know the eyewitness, and had never seen her before in his life. He also stated that during the trial, the witness identified his co-defendant as being him. That issue was also brought up during both the trial and post-trial. Inmate Bell described the eyewitness in the case as a professional witness.

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Inmate Bell stated that within six months of his conviction, the eyewitness, Audrianna Thomas, came to Cook County jail and told him she was sorry and that she knew he did not do it, but the police had put her up to it. Inmate Bell stated he told her to go to the state's attorney's office, but he said she would not sign anything because she was afraid. There is no evidence to substantiate that statement, however.

Inmate Bell stated he has no idea who committed the crime, but that he did know the victim from the neighborhood and they never had a "beef".

Remorse is an issue with Inmate Bell due to his claim of innocence. He stated he is remorseful of activities he was involved with during his younger years in life.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Inmate Bell has received one disciplinary ticket since his last *en banc* in August of 2013 for drugs or drug paraphernalia. This was actually a liquid containing alcohol found in his cell. Inmate Bell stated his cellmate left the item behind in their cell when he was moved. He has been issued five other tickets since 2006, four of which were major. Bell has received 97 disciplinary tickets during his incarceration. He stated he is currently C grade due to the 2016 ticket.

Inmate Bell states that he is not currently employed. He stated he was told he has too much time, so he has been unable to get a job. He said he would like to earn some money, however, to take some of the pressure off of his family. Bell stated that he did receive certificates for janitorial services and tailoring, but does not currently know where they are.

He stated his last visit was about two years ago from a cousin, but he speaks to his mother weekly, his wife and daughter occasionally, and receives letters about every other week.

Inmate Bell is in good health, other than high blood pressure and glaucoma. He uses eye drops for cataracts.

RELEASE PLANS

Inmate Bell's release plans have changed and improved. Inmate Bell now has the support of an organization called Roll Call, which is located in Chicago. The co-founder of the organization knows Inmate Bell personally. Roll Call provides housing, counseling, and plans to rebuild lifestyles.

Inmate Bell also has an option to parole to Tanya's House, an organization in Connecticut operated by his cousin.

SUMMARY

The fact Inmate Bell is still receiving disciplinary tickets is concerning. Five of the last six have been major. It is noted that Inmate Bell has improved his parole plans, but his

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continued denial of involvement in this crime is troublesome, along with the fact that Inmate Bell continues to minimize his involvement in numerous events in his life.

Motion to deny parole (PF-EB). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 1. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bowers, Ms. Crigler, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Shelton and Mr. Tupy.

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

PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET OPEN SESSION— DECEMBER 15, 2016

Inmate Name: **CLEVE HEIDELBERG** IDOC Number & Institution: **C01521**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Capitol Building, Room 114, Springfield, IL on December 15, 2016, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Cleve Heidelberg, IDOC #C01521.

Members present were: E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, V. Harris, T. Johnson, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, D. Shelton, K. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Tupy of the Illinois Prisoner Review Board interviewed Cleve Heidelberg at the Hill Correctional Center on November 1st, 2016. Considered in a review of his case were his interview, his institutional adjustment, his criminal history, the incarcerating offense, his accomplishments while incarcerated, and parole plans. Inmate Heidelberg is a 73-year-old African-American male whose date of birth is December 31, 1953.

Mr. Heidelberg is serving a 99-175 year sentence for murder and 4 2/3 – 14 year sentence for armed robbery. The facts of the case are that on May 26, 1970, at approximately 1 a.m., Mr. Heidelberg went to a drive-in theatre just outside of Peoria with the intention to rob the theatre. Once inside, he tied up one of the employees and took the 78-year-old female employee to the office to obtain the evening's cash. The employee who had been tied up escaped and called the police. Raymond Espinoza, a 5-year veteran police officer, responded to the robbery call. When his squad car approached the theatre, Mr. Heidelberg began firing the gun, killing Mr. Espinoza before he could draw his weapon.

Mr. Heidelberg took the female employee and fled in a car. He was pursued by police until the car crashed and he was arrested a short distance away from the wrecked vehicle. Mr. Heidelberg was identified by the two theatre employees, including the female he took as a hostage. He was also identified by a confidential informant who was in Officer Espinoza's squad car at the time of the shooting. The informant knew Mr. Heidelberg and recognized him, as well as the officers who pursued him.

Mr. Heidelberg has maintained his innocence and offered alibi witnesses at trial. Mr. Heidelberg claims that he lent his car to another person who must have committed the robbery. Mr. Heidelberg claims he was in the area because he was going to pick up his car when he was arrested but had spent the evening partying with friends.

Peoria County State's Attorney Jerry Brady has protested Mr. Heidelberg's release and indicates he has never accepted responsibility. The State's Attorney notes that Officer Espinoza lost his life protecting the public and never had an opportunity to watch his daughter grow up. Other protests from the Appellate Prosecutor's Office, Police departments, Fraternal Order of Police, and Gold Star families were received as well.

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His criminal history includes two juvenile incarcerations, a 1964 conviction and 1-2 year sentence for attempt burglary. It also contains arrests for battery and rape (never prosecuted) and a 1967 armed robbery conviction where he received 4-6 years. He was on parole when he committed the instant offense.

While incarcerated Mr. Heidelberg received tickets for the following events: 1979 for deviant sexual assault (one year), 2000 for drugs and paraphernalia (6 months), 2001 for inmate assault and solicitation of a dangerous disturbance (one year), 2008 for fighting (no GCC), 2010 for assault (3 months) and 2012 for fighting. His last fight was October 2014. He received two tickets this year: one for contraband and one for Disobeying a Direct Order.

His accomplishments include a college degree and that he was employed as a technician for Caterpillar. He is also a U.S. army veteran.

Mr. Heidelberg has filed a post-conviction proceeding claiming he is innocent and that new evidence would show his innocence. He alleges that the gun found in the wrecked car does not have his fingerprints and would exclude him as the suspect. The gun was never introduced in trial. He also states that a confession by another man, James Clark, in 1971 was suppressed, which also shows he did not commit the crime. Finally, that a conversation between Heidelberg and his attorney was overheard by a law enforcement official. Heidelberg filed a civil rights violation in 1978 in response to this action.

During his interview, Mr. Heidelberg did not feel he should waste his time with the PRB. He expects that the court will release him or that he has filed a medical clemency and that the Governor will release him.

While Mr. Heidelberg has raised some issues regarding his case, these issues have previously been ruled on by the courts and the appellate court has affirmed his convictions. To parole Mr. Heidelberg would deprecate the seriousness of the crime.

Motion to deny parole (KT-PF). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 0. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bowers, Ms. Crigler, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Dunn, Chairman Findley, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Norton, Mr. Shelton and Mr. Tupy.

Motion for a 3 year set (KT-EB). Motion Carries 11-1. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Bowers, Ms. Crigler, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Dunn, Chairman Findley, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Shelton and Mr. Tupy.

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

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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET OPEN SESSION— DECEMBER 15, 2016

Inmate Name: **RICHARD SHORT**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C62902**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Capitol Building, Room 114, Springfield, IL on December 15, 2016, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Richard Short, IDOC #C62902.

Members present were: E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, V. Harris, T. Johnson, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, D. Shelton, K. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met December 15, 2016 and considered the parole of Richard Short, IDOC # C62902 who was born May 12, 1942, and who has been continuously incarcerated in the State of Illinois since March 6, 1976. At the time of his face-to-face interview on October 5, 2016, he was 74 years of age and was in his 41st year of custody.

The Board was in its regularly-scheduled *en banc* meeting with thirteen (13) members present and therefore established a lawful quorum. Mr. Short's case was called. The Board reviewed the available evidence of his crimes, criminal history, rehabilitation, institutional adjustment, and planning for parole and community reentry.

The offenses for which he is presently incarcerated were both committed March 19, 1976. He was 34 years old.

His IDOC controlling Offenses and Sentences are as follows:

76-CF-929; Kankakee County; (Tried to Jury) (14-year-old female victim: "T.H.")

Attempt Murder 30-60 (reversed on appeal-not retried)

Attempt Rape 6-20

Agg. Batt. 3-10 (all concurrent)

76-CF-930; Kankakee County; (Tried to Jury) (20-year-old female victim: "B. J.")

Rape 100-200 (all concurrent but consecutive to

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Dev. Sex. Ass.	100-200	76-CF-929) Appealed as excessive
Agg. Kidnap.	100-200	affirmed on appeal 3 rd Dist. 1978.

Note: These crimes occurred approximately an hour apart.

The facts of each crime are summarized as follows:

On March 19, 1976, at about 7:45 p.m. 16-year-old T.H. was walking her bicycle near her home in Kankakee, Illinois. She was seized from behind and held with a knife to her neck. A person she described as "...an older black male" told her he intended to rape her. She struggled from his grasp and ran to the back yard of her home, where he caught her a second time and shoved her to the ground. She continued to struggle, finally escaped again, and ran toward her home. Her assailant fled down an alley. She had been cut on her neck and chest and had bruises on her face. She identified Richard Short from a book of photos shown her by the police.

At about 8:30 p.m. the same evening, 20-year-old B.J. was forcibly raped at knifepoint by a man of similar description who took her as she walked on a street in Kankakee. Grabbing her from behind, her assailant put a knife to her throat and forced her into an abandoned building. Inside, he ordered her to disrobe and struck her until she did so. He then raped her vaginally and forced her to perform acts orally.

He told B.J. he had caught someone earlier but that she had escaped. After ordering her to lie face down, he fled that scene.

Neither victim knew her assailant. The primary evidence leading to his convictions was their eye witness identifications which were initiated from photo collections at the police station. Other evidence included scratches on his person and blood on clothing taken from his residence. Forensic DNA analysis was not commonly in use in 1976. Efforts to identify the assailant from blood serology and examination of semen in the second victim's undergarments were inconclusive.

Richard Short has always denied these crimes as well as his later 1970 offense. He believes his identifications by the victims in each case were mistaken.

Other Crimes:

The Board considered the available evidence of Mr. Short's earlier criminal activity and reviewed his juvenile and social histories as follows:

Juvenile:

None reported prior to age 16, when he was sent to the Parchman Farm, a Mississippi State Penitentiary ("Parchman").

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Adult:

In 1958 in Lowndes County, Mississippi, where he grew up, he was convicted and sentenced at age sixteen (16) but was prosecuted as an adult for Attempt Robbery and received a sentence of 10 years. This is the only crime he admits. He attempted to snatch a purse and was sentenced to 10 years.

He paroled twice during that sentence and was violated twice, once for attempt robbery and once for assault/battery. He was discharged from Parchman in 1968 at age 26.

In 1970, having moved to Illinois to find work, he was charged with an armed robbery and rape. In exchange for a plea to a capped sentence, he was convicted of Aggravated Battery, Armed Violence and Armed Robbery. In the past, he has claimed this was a misunderstanding in a tavern with a woman who offered him sex for money and absconded with his money. When I interviewed him, he denied knowing what it was about other than that he was falsely accused

He was sentenced to 10-20 years of imprisonment, paroled in May, 1975 and returned to Kankakee. He was discharged from parole in November, 1975. About four months later he was charged with the crimes for which he is held today.

Institutional Adjustment:

The Board noted that Mr. Short's present institutional record and overall indications of adjustment while in confinement are very good to excellent.

Inmate Short has had no I.D.R.'s since 2004 and has no record of major tickets except for two instances: many years ago he was caught with a piece of blank official letterhead stationary, and in the early eighties he had a ticket for fighting.

With only minor exceptions, every "Offender Overview" report since 1981 has characterized his behavior as excellent. The supervisors for whom he has worked have been uniformly complimentary about his performance. Today, the Officers at Lawrence speak highly of him. Two Correctional Officers at the Lawrence Correctional Center volunteered to the interviewing Board Member that Mr. Short causes no trouble for anyone and is a good influence on the younger inmates.

While he has not taken services to advance his education or obtain job skills, he has had an excellent record of good conduct.

Inmate's Interview:

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Inmate Short says he cannot walk except very short distances and suffers from COPD. He appeared in a wheelchair in his interview. He said he has spent a great deal of time in the infirmary during the past two years.

Inmate Short has nothing to say about his crimes except that he is innocent. He says he feels sorry for the victims but cannot express remorse for something he did not do.

Discussing his background, he said he was born in Lowndes County, Mississippi, where his father was a sharecropper. He had several siblings. Two are still living, a brother and a sister. Before moving to Illinois two years after his release from Parchman, he had two children, a girl and a boy, by what he describes as a common-law marriage.

His children and their mother did not follow him to Illinois. He has seen nor heard from any of them since, and it has been more than 10 years since he has had any visitors. His surviving sister (Kankakee) and brother (Madison, Wisconsin) are in their late seventies or early eighties. He claims to maintain written correspondence from them but is vague about when he last had even that contact. He has had no phone contact with either of them in many years.

He professes to be religious in the Christian faith but does not attend services or affiliate with a particular denomination. He studies in a Bible class and considers his faith as between him and God and feels God controls events in his life.

He has not participated much in education or programming opportunities. He said he preferred to work and has had numerous assignments including housing unit porter, janitor, laundry porter, and the like.

He said his health has prevented him from work during the past two years.

He repeatedly said he has no reason to lie about his innocence at this time of his life.

As to his 1970 offenses, he denied any guilt and would only say that a white female accused him of rape. He denied having known her or having had any contact with her. Note: He previously has said it was a dispute in which he paid her \$20 and she left out the back door of the tavern without providing the agreed service. He now has no recollection of that.

When asked about his Mississippi incarceration, he said he did try to snatch the woman's purse but felt that the sentence of ten years was excessive and said it was typical of the "Jim Crow" system that prevailed in Mississippi at the time. He knew another inmate who had caught a ten-year sentence for stealing a pig.

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Protests:

None have been received since the last State's Attorney protest in 2004 and no victim or victim family protests have been registered.

Parole Plan:

If paroled, Mr. Short intends to try to go to his brother or his sister and said they have always expressed a willingness to help him. However, he is unable to be specific about any communication he has had with them, or whether they are currently able or willing to have him in their homes.

He has not explored half-way house opportunities and would be difficult to place, given his history of sexual assault convictions.

Neither he nor his family have significant resources for his support, since he appears to be ineligible for earned social security benefits and disability benefits would not fully support him.

He has no significant work history. He has no savings and said his sister and brother "have nothing", and would be unable to provide for him. Still, he would like to be paroled and feels God would provide for him.

Decision:

The length of Richard Short's incarceration, his institutional achievement and lack of a likelihood of recidivism were recognized by the Board as factors recommending favorable parole consideration. However, the lack of a parole and reentry plan that would take into account his needs for shelter, support, and healthcare, and the seriousness and serial nature of his crimes militate against parole at present.

The Board, therefore, having considered the available evidence of Richard Short's crimes, criminal history, rehabilitation, institutional adjustment, and planning for parole and community reentry found as follows:

Mr. Short's sexual assault crimes were egregious and serial in nature and resulted in significant harm and lasting trauma to multiple victims. His incarceration has been lengthy and his institutional adjustment is recognized as having been very good to excellent. At his age and in his condition of disability, recidivism is unlikely.

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Members of the Board are troubled by Mr. Short's persistent lack of remorse, since the evidence underlying his convictions is substantial and his protestations of innocence are not deemed credible.

Mr. Short's parole and reentry plans are insubstantial and unlikely to achieve a successful and supportive placement.

Thus, by action of the Board, it was determined that to allow inmate Short's parole at the present time would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and would be inconsistent with the ends of justice.

Motion to deny parole (GD-TJ). Motion prevails by a vote of 12 to 1. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bowers, Ms. Crigler, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Shelton and Mr. Tupy.

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

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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET OPEN SESSION— DECEMBER 15, 2016

Inmate Name: **CHESTER WEGER**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C01114**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Capitol Building, Room 114, Springfield, IL on December 15, 2016, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Chester Weger, IDOC #C01114.

Members present were: E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, V. Harris, T. Johnson, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, D. Shelton, K. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Gary Dunn presented information on Mr. Chester Weger to the board. Chester Weger was interviewed for possible parole at the Pinckneyville Correctional Center on October 26, 2016. Factors considered by the Board in reaching their decision include, but are not limited to: testimony, a review of the file, parole plans, and the nature of the offense. All available information was considered by the Prisoner Review Board as to the possibility of parole for Mr. Weger. Chester Weger has been considered for parole since 1972 and in past years he has received votes for parole. In 2012 and 2013 he got several votes, and in 2013 the Board was deadlocked with a vote of seven to seven. In the past year the vote was 9 to 4 to deny parole.

Mr. Weger signed a confession of guilt, and was taken into custody on November 16, 1960 for the offense of Murder/Intent to Kill/Injure related to the murder of Mrs. Lillian Oetting. Mr. Weger received a sentence of Life Imprisonment. This case was probably one of the highest-profile cases in the history of Illinois, and it is known as the Starved Rock Murders. The crime was an extremely brutal murder, in that per the pathologist on the case, all three ladies had their heads and faces mutilated by receiving over 100 blows to each. It was a terribly ruthless and vicious crime. Mr. Weger does have a prior juvenile history of allegedly raping and sexually abusing more than one young girl.

Parole plans for Mr. Weger were virtually non-existent.

Taking all factors into consideration, the Prisoner Review Board Mr. Dunn recommends to to deny parole based on the heinous offense, his prior juvenile record, his continued failure admit to any responsibility for the crime, and his lack of a viable post-incarceration plan. To release Mr. Weger would not only present a considerable risk to public safety, but it would also deprecate the seriousness of the crime.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR

PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Motion to deny parole (WD-AMP). Motion prevails by a vote of 11 to 2. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bowers, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Findley, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Shelton and Mr. Tupy.

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

PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET OPEN SESSION— DECEMBER 15, 2016

Inmate Name: **MICHAEL PARKER**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C01563**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at the Illinois State Capitol Building, Room 114, Springfield, IL on December 15, 2016, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Michael Parker, IDOC #C01563.

Members present were: E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, V. Harris, T. Johnson, W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, D. Shelton, K. Tupy and Chairman Findley.

Other(s) present: Robynn Davis, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Inmate Michael Parker was interviewed for parole consideration at Robinson Correctional Center on October 9, 2016 by Board Member Shelton.

He was convicted in Cook County of the murder of Alice Thomas, whom he stabbed 30-40 times about the upper torso and face, while in her apartment. Miss Thomas's 11-month-old and 7-year-old children were in the apartment at the time and the 7-year-old, afflicted with cerebral palsy, attempted to crawl to his mother's defense. Parker was 17 years of age at that time. He advises that he was a drug addict under the influence of "pills, marijuana, and crack cocaine," and that the victim had rebuffed his sexual advances.

At the age of 39, after serving 20 years, and after being the subject of 58 discipline reports, Inmate Parker was granted parole on August 26, 1991. He was arrested on November 30, 1993 for the armed robbery of a Baskin-Robbins Ice Cream Shop, having forced a teenaged girl employee to open a cash register at knifepoint. Inmate Parker attributes this behavior to his need to satisfy the addiction into which he had relapsed.

Inmate Parker suffered a stroke that resulted in partial paralysis on January 19, 1996, but he has continued to be the subject of disciplinary action. 20 of the 35 disciplinary actions occurring since his return to custody (and following the stroke) have been disobeying direct orders. The most recent such violation was in October – after his parole interview.

The Board is yet concerned about this inmate's resolve to conform to the expectations of the Department of Corrections and finds that release at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the crime and promote disrespect of the law.

The Board, with some dissent, also finds under the authority of 730 ILCS 5/3-3-5 that it is not reasonable to expect parole to be granted prior to November 2019 and, therefore, continues his parole eligibility hearing to that date.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR

PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Motion to deny parole (DS-GD). Motion prevails by a vote of 13 to 0. Leave.

Motion for a 3 year set (TJ-SD). Motion fails to carry by a vote of 6-7. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Bowers, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Norton, Ms. Perkins.

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