



STATE OF ILLINOIS
JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION- December 18, 2025

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1001 N. Walnut Street, Springfield, Illinois, on December 18, 2025, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following individuals in custody:

R58880	Hill, Charles (Youthful Parole)
R69190	Lucas, Daniel* (Youthful Parole)
K89270	Jones, Melvin* (Youthful Parole)

****Cook County Case***

The meeting was called to order by Rodger Heaton, 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	
Ms. Holly Lemons	X	
Mr. Tim Nugent	X	
Ms. Robin Shoffner	X	
Ms. Carmen Terrones	X	
Ms. Krystal Tison	X	
Mr. Kenneth Tupy	X	

11 Members Present

0 Members Absent

The Board heard the case of Charles Hill R58880, Daniel Lucas R69190, and Melvin Jones K89270.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL for 11-20-2025 KTUPY-MCOATES

Open Session: KTUPY-JGRUBBS

Meeting was adjourned by: KTISON-KTUPY



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION- December 18, 2025

Individual in Custody's Name: Charles Hill IDOC Number: R69190

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1001 N. Walnut Street, Springfield, Illinois, on December 18, 2025, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Charles Hill R58880.

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

Recording Secretary: Ellen Wayne

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Mr. Charles Hill was interviewed by Board Member, Mr. Jeffrey Grubbs on Thursday, November 13, 2025, via the WebEx virtual platform from Shawnee Correctional Center at 9:00 a.m. The interview included participation of his legal counsel, Ms. Joslyn Sandifer, and over 40 behalf character witnesses, including his mother, Ms. Cynthia Smith, Mr. Javier Reyes of Challenge II Change, Dr. Christina Rivers of Depaul University, and Ms. Melissa Lorraine, the artistic director of Theatre Y. The four of them provided testimony regarding the character of Mr. Hill and the support he will receive if parole were to be granted.

Throughout the interview, Mr. Hill was attentive, articulate, polite, respectful, and responsive. He presented himself as being very intelligent, invested in the process and he was willing to answer questions. He is currently 40 years old, and the interview process lasted over five hours in length.

Prior to trial, Mr. Hill was released on bond, fathering two children and arrested for Domestic Battery and Driving Under the Influence. He received an aggregate sentence on January 17, 2007, of 48 years; 23 years for Murder and an additional 25 years based upon a firearm sentencing enhancement. This enhancement was due to his prior felony conviction for the crime of Burglary. Following the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Miller v. Alabama*, Mr. Hill was resentenced on February 28, 2020, to a term of 40 years for Murder, with the presiding judge declining to impose the 25-year firearm sentencing enhancement. Both his original sentence and his re-sentence were ordered to be served at 100%, therefore the resentencing reduction totaled eight years.

He is currently scheduled for Mandatory Supervised Parole Release on October 8, 2045, so the relief being sought by way of his youthful parole petition being considered by the Board is just under 20 years.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On July 16, 2003, Mr. Hill and his two co-defendants arranged a robbery of a cab driver in Kane County. Once inside the cab, and after announcing the robbery, Mr. Hill subsequently shot the victim,



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Mr. Jamial Osborn, multiple times. Two wounds were determined to be fatal, one in the back of the head and another which was center mass. Mr. Hill and his co-defendants fled the scene. Ultimately, the police investigation progressed to the point that the co-defendants cooperated in the investigation to the extent that they agreed to participate in covert recordings of conversations with Mr. Hill. These conversations were utilized, in part, to convict Mr. Hill of murder.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Hill's juvenile criminal history record was discussed in closed session.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Hill's institutional adjustment has been remarkable, and the following information has been derived from his youthful parole petition, parole eligibility interview, behalf witnesses, parole plan, and the stated objection of the Kane County State's Attorney's office.

Mr. Hill has only received five tickets over a 20-plus-year period of incarceration. While some of those occurred in recent years, most were minor in nature, based upon a review of the Illinois Department of Corrections Final Institutional Adjustment Reports obtained, as well as Mr. Hill's testimony regarding the infractions. The presiding judge in his re-sentencing order appeared to concur with this assessment as documented in the transcript obtained and reviewed regarding this matter.

During his period of incarceration, initially at Menard Correctional Center, Mr. Hill was afforded limited opportunity to participate in rehabilitative efforts due to the length of his sentence. Despite this, he sought educational and employment opportunities which again, were very limited. His investment in those efforts increased as additional opportunities became available following his transfer to lower-level security facilities.

Mr. Hill began by completing his General Educational Development during his period of incarceration. As evidenced through a supplement to this petition, his accomplishments and employment participation are well documented. The availability of programming opportunities certainly increased once he was transferred to Shawnee Correctional Center, coupled with the recent introduction and availability of the EDOVO programming system implemented by the Department of Corrections. It is clear he has been taking full advantage of the available opportunities for growth and rehabilitation.

After several years of incarceration, Mr. Hill began to hold a variety of jobs, beginning in 2011. Those included work as a janitor, kitchen attendant, groundskeeper, and now as a New Inmate Orientation employee. It is significant to note that this position provides peer education, de-escalation, and mentoring skill capacity for newly incarcerated individuals and those in segregation. He also participates in legal advocacy in multiple capacities for those same individuals. Mr. Hill is an avid author of poetry and has engaged in educational programming being offered through several northern Illinois universities, including Depaul, Northwestern, and UIC.

Mr. Hill has been able to maintain a good relationship with his family, extended family, and supporters through phone calls, email, and online programming. Family support for Mr. Hill is also



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documented in a significant number of letters of support and the over 40 behalf interview participants who were present for his parole eligibility interview. Their testimony was positive, credible, and impactful.

STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

Mr. Hill acknowledged a sincere sense of remorse for his actions which directly led to the death of Mr. Jamial Osborn and the impact it has had on Osborn's family. He stated this multiple times in various but consistent statements, which were presented in a very credible and believable, yet appropriate manner. The judge presiding over his resentencing hearing documented in his written order that Mr. Hill was very remorseful and probably has been for some time. He did temper that statement with a further analysis regarding the fact that Mr. Hill thought he was going to get away with the commission of the offense, as evidenced by his conduct while on bond and awaiting trial.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Hill's original parole plan was to live with an aunt or uncle; it has been significantly upgraded to reside with wrap around services supported by several supportive service organizations. This includes significant support from the Challenges II Change Organization. He would be employed at a minimum salary of \$50,000 per year as a Community Engagement Director, which was confirmed by the leader of the organization. In this role, he would assist in outreach with newly released, formerly incarcerated individuals to ensure a higher probability of successful reentry. Challenge II Change would additionally provide him with an apartment, rent free for 90 days, then at 30% of his salary moving forward. This organization is funded primarily through grants from the Illinois Housing Development Authority. Additionally, his mother is a very accomplished and well-compensated businesswoman who has pledged her financial support for a successful reentry. Mr. Hill further mentioned he was once a follower yet is now someone who has grown and desires to be a leader. Most importantly, he wants to use his skill by mentoring individuals returning from periods of incarceration. This desire is especially true regarding those who previously suffered from complicated, negative influences during their youth. He also reiterated his commitment to his own continued level of positive growth, which he has demonstrated with his overall level of rehabilitative efforts.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

In a letter dated November 1, 2024, the Kane County State's Attorney indicated they strongly object to the petitioner's petition for youthful parole. The basis for the objection is tied to the nature of the offense and the re-sentencing relief of eight years.

There was no additional protest received by the Board. It must be noted, however, that there was victim impact testimony provided by the family of Mr. Jamial Osborn during Mr. Hill's resentencing. This testimony was provided by Mr. Osborn's mother.



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ENBANC HISTORY

This is Mr. Hill's first time in front of the Board for parole consideration.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Shoffner questioned the eight years that was reduced. Mr. Grubbs stated the resentencing judge increased the murder charge but not for the fire enhancement. He stated the transcripts were not clear. Mr. Heaton stated Mr. Hill is serving at 100%.

Ms. Josilyn Sandifer, Mr. Hill's attorney, stated it has been a pleasure working with Mr. Hill. She explained how Mr. Hill is helping people as they transfer in and only the most trustworthy people get that job because he has not caused any conflict. She stated he understands what it means to be incarcerated, and he has taken a number of courses. She stated there were a number of shots that day, only two were fatal. She stated that he had minimal control over the weapon but that does not take any remorse away and he knows his actions caused the untimely death of the victim. She stated the resentencing judge took into consideration a number of things when resentencing him such as having two children while out on bail. She stated the judge did not take certain factors into consideration that the Board does and did not want to take his youthfulness into consideration or consider the fact that this happened when he was a young individual. She stated he did not get full consideration that the Board can provide. She stated if the Board was questioning why there was only an eight-year reduction, that is why.

Mr. Hill started off by addressing the Osbourn family and stated he does not have an excuse for what happened. He stated they have every right not to forgive him. He stated he wants to give positive social change. He explained how he was born into a loving family but there was some dysfunction, but the love he was raised on was bigger than the dysfunction. At the age of 17 years old, he made a choice of poor decisions that caused a lot of pain. He stated the last two years have been imperfect and a struggle, but he has become the man that he has always wanted to be. He stated as an adult he has gained a lot of wisdom and learned he needs to take responsibility for his actions, which he has done. He stated this is the evolution process that has been going on for years. He stated that each year he has been dedicated to the resources that are offered to him, and he has been looking for ways to reconnect with society. He stated today, he is equipped for the community with a positive look, and he wants to be seen as the man he has grown into. He explained how he wants to play a positive and productive role in society, and he is not that same 17-year-old. He asked the Board for a second chance.

Ms. Sandifer asked Mr. Hill to explain to the Board how he was able to navigate being incarcerated with others. Mr. Hill stated he tells people it is about keeping your head high but also low. He stated it is all about the environment, you must present yourself with a bold manner but do not draw attention to yourself. He stated the support from his mother and being told to stay positive during this process helped him a lot. He also thanked God and the possibilities He has created for him. He stated the environment he is in; those people do not want to succeed like him. He stated he put in the work that he needed too.

Ms. Sandifer asked Mr. Hill to explain how poetry has helped him during his incarceration. Mr. Hill stated it is somewhere he can go by himself to express his feeling of remorse, confusion, frustration,



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love, and determination. He stated it helps him thank his mom, his kids, and it has been his everything and he is so grateful for it.

Ms. Sandifer asked Mr. Hill what was the most important lesson that he had learned. Mr. Hill stated his mom has been instilling in him since he was a young child, and it takes five seconds to think about what you are about to do before you do it.

Mr. Tupy questioned whether the judge took evidence into consideration that he was not supposed too. He then questioned if they filed an appeal and if not, why. Ms. Sandifer stated she was not his counsel at that point in time, and she does not know why the attorney did not appeal the judge's decisions.

Mr. Tupy stated the judge did reduce it to 40 years at 100%. He then questioned Ms. Sandifer if she thinks that is appropriate for killing someone. Ms. Sandifer stated that murder is an unnatural circumstance and a brain that is underdeveloped should have a reduced sentence. She stated she cannot speak about every murder, but Mr. Hill should be out today. She stated he had been in a rough spot and came out with something beautiful.

Mr. Tupy questioned how long Mr. Hill has served in custody. Ms. Sandifer stated she believes he has served his time of 20 years. Mr. Tupy stated that it is the minimum sentence.

Mr. Heaton questioned if he was drunk or high during the murder. Ms. Sandifer stated there was evidence that he was not in his right mind.

Mr. Hill stated he was drinking and smoking weed but felt like he had control.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to grant parole (JGRUBBS-RSHOFFNER). Motion prevailed with 6-5 vote. Members voting in favor are Ms. Buckley, Mr. Coates, Mr. Grubbs, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones, and Ms. Tison. Mr. Bohland, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Lemons, Mr. Nugent and Mr. Tupy dissented.

After reviewing the 15 Statutory Factors and applying them to the evidence in this case, the Board decided that Mr. Charles Hill should be granted 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- December 18, 2025

Individual in Custody's Name: Daniel Lucas* IDOC Number: R69190

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1001 N. Walnut Street, Springfield, Illinois, on December 18, 2025, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Daniel Lucas R69190.

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

Recording Secretary: Ellen Wayne

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

On November 21, 2025, Mr. Daniel Lucas was interviewed at Pinckneyville Correctional Center via WebEx by Board Member Carmen Terrones. Mr. Lucas was accompanied by his attorney, Ms. Sheree Davis from Sandifer and Associates LLC and she participated via telephone. Ms. Jameelah Johnson, the mother of Mr. Lucas' children, Mr. Daniel Johnson, his son, and Ms. Alexandra Akins, his fiancé, were also present during the interview. Mr. Lucas presented himself in good health and he was physically and mentally prepared to advocate for himself with the understanding the decision may not be in his favor. He remained grateful for the opportunity to share his transformation and readiness for reentering the community regardless of the outcome.

Mr. Lucas was charged with two counts of Murder/Intent to Kill/Injure, and he has a Mandatory Supervised Release date of December 1, 2034. He has been in custody since March 8, 2005, and has served over 20 years.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On November 18, 2003, the Defendant, Daniel Lucas, met with his fellow traveling Vice Lords and planned to shoot rival Black P Stones near Howard Street and Damen Street in Chicago. As part of the plan, Defendant recruited his juvenile brother, Dwayne Lucas, who supplied the handgun. Together, with co-defendants, Mr. Owen Payne, Mr. Curtis Clark, and Mr. Frank Davis, the Lucas brothers drove from the southside to the area of Howard Street and Damen Street. Records reflected Daniel Lucas, Curtis Clark, and Owen Payne acted as lookouts while Dwayne Lucas and an at large offender, walked up to the two victims, Mr. Shawn Bland and Mr. Ian Russell. Dwayne Lucas then shot both victims multiple times, killing each one. Co-defendants then fled together. Daniel Lucas admitted his involvement in a videotaped confession.

Following a jury trial, Daniel Lucas was convicted of First-Degree Murders of Ian Russell and Shawn Bland. On March 5, 2008, Judge James Linn sentenced the defendant to consecutive terms of 30 and 35 years.



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CRIMINAL HISTORY

This was discussed in closed session as he was a juvenile at the time.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Lucas advocated for himself to participate in programming. He has completed his General Educational Development (GED) since being in custody within Illinois Department of Corrections. He has a list of programming as the Assistant State's Attorney attests to acknowledge his rehabilitation efforts. He has learned from the many programming opportunities he took advantage to mentor other individuals of all generations, including how to deal with conflict, the law by going to the law library consistently, how to be a good father, how to make better decisions, how to be in good relationships, mental health programs, and executed service to others. He also took classes such as carpentry to build his skill set. He is a certified hospice person for other incarcerated peers.

He was consistently employed but at the time of the interview, he was not due to the timeframe standard of Illinois Department of Corrections for placement of job opportunities on new arrivals to their home institution. He must be there for four months to be considered for employment opportunities.

Mr. Lucas was issued tickets starting in 2009 with the most recent being in 2025 for unauthorized movement.

On April 3, 2009, he received a ticket for contraband/unauthorized property/radio to which he received a verbal reprimand, and it was considered minor.

On September 5, 2011, he received a ticket for dangerous disturbances/physical altercation with multiple individuals in custody. He also received a gang or unauthorized organization activity for fighting which is considered a major ticket.

On June 11, 2012, He received a ticket for insolence and disobeying a direct order which is considered a major ticket.

On November 14, 2017, he received a ticket for contraband/unauthorized property which is considered a minor ticket.

On May 18, 2018, he received a ticket for assault on an offender/security threat group or unauthorized organization. He was considered the enforcer and issued another ticket for gang or unauthorized organization activity. These are considered major tickets.

On May 5, 2020, he received a ticket for intimidation or threats. He also received a ticket for possession or soliciting of unauthorized personal information, to which he sent a friend request to staff on Facebook. This is considered a major ticket.

On March 3, 2021, he received a ticket for fighting which is considered a major ticket.



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On August 1, 2025, he received a ticket for unauthorized movement, he stated he was late locking up after being in the dayroom. This is considered a minor ticket. He also received a ticket for disobeying a direct order and it was considered minor. He explained most recent ticket and stated it was his first day of local access and he missed his check-in.

STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

In November 2003, Mr. Lucas made the decision to travel to the northside of Chicago with a group of individuals that included Mr. Curtis Clark, Mr. Frank Davis, Mr. Owen Payne, and Mr. Dwayne Lucas, his younger brother. They were traveling north to retrieve marijuana from the mother of Mr. Clark's child. The day before, someone shot at Mr. Clark over a personal dispute involving a woman. This led Mr. Clark and Mr. Lucas to ask Dwayne Lucas if they could borrow his gun for protection. Dwayne refused to give them the weapons but agreed to accompany them and bring his gun. The two cars drove north; Frank Davis, Curtis Clark, Dwayne Lucas and Mr. Torell were in one car. The gun was in the trunk of Mr. Davis' car. Owen Payne drove Mr. Lucas in a separate car. While in the area, Mr. Clark saw the individual who had shot at him. Frank Davis stopped the car in an alley near the location where the victims were seen; Mr. Lucas and Owen Payne stopped there as well. Dwayne took the weapon from the trunk, he and Torell walked to the location where the murders took place. Before the murders took place Mr. Lucas told his brother to not do anything stupid but unfortunately, he did, and Mr. Shawn Blend and Mr. Ian Russell were killed with Dwayne Lucas' weapon.

Mr. Lucas and the co-defendants sought out retaliation to a prior assault/threat by the victims before. He stated he had no right to be involved and no right to play God. He expresses remorse and recognizes that night was the worst day of his life. He will spend the rest of his life making amends for this crime.

Mr. Lucas stated he learned 100 percent of the error and does not want to hide from the harm he committed. It took him time to get to this realization. As he got older and matured, he realized he was living the wrong way, even though he did not have a direct mentor and at the end of the day he was wrong, he has to be held accountable. These are his words.

One significant factor of misdirection and deeper struggles was the passing of his mother. He was aware of the emotional and mental struggles, responsible for two children as a teenager and it was "hard living." He was clear, not reflecting, as an excuse, only aware of existing elements directing his poor choices and affirms the facts as written in the petition once more.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Lucas has chosen from the options available to reside with his brother who has an apartment to offer him in Chicago. His fiancé lives in Gurnee, Illinois. She offered her home as a host site, but the collective decision was made to live in Chicago as resources are in abundance for returning citizens.

Mr. Lucas plans to start working at Church's Chicken and work towards his janitorial maintenance certificate to support his long-term goal of purchasing realty and support the physical upkeep of the



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property himself. His ambition is to invest in community and serve in community. He expressed the need to set up a solid foundation for success with solid structure, purchase properties, and rehabilitate communities. One significant purchase he will make after saving money is to purchase his mother a headstone where there is now a stick identifying her last resting place.

Once released, Mr. Lucas' first plan is to head to Kolbe House, where they have diverse services that he can benefit from such as supporting him to continue maintaining what he has accomplished in all the areas of life. He will go see his father who is homebound and wrap his arms around his dad and feel the love. He will participate in therapy and navigate services with the support of Kolbe House to maintain his wellbeing.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

Assistant State's Attorney of Cook County objects based on: "Parole is a matter of grace and not of legal right. A convict cannot invoke it at his own will and has no right to demand that he be discharged before the expiration of the maximum term of his sentence."

Records reflect, while the People acknowledge and respect rehabilitative programming, Mr. Lucas has engaged in during his incarceration, the Offender Overview from June 3, 2025, lists him as an "active leader of the Traveler Vice Lords STG." In a 2024, Illinois Department of Corrections security summary for escorts report under gang activity, "Traveler Vice Lords aka fatboy" is listed. Despite going into detail about many other aspects of his life, the only reference Mr. Lucas makes to his gang involvement in his 375-page petition for parole is that he is "no longer affiliated with anything." The majority of the disciplinary tickets that Mr. Lucas has received during his incarceration are gang-related activity, including a 2018 ticket which includes a comment, "the Enforcer." As the active leader of a gang, Mr. Lucas is not an appropriate candidate for parole. His continued gang membership while in Illinois Department of Corrections demonstrates that Mr. Lucas' rehabilitation has not been achieved, despite his participation in rehabilitative programming. He has not demonstrated a genuine effort to change or take responsibility for the violence he engaged in.

Mr. Lucas' testimony to gang affiliation is he completely disassociated with the gang while in Cook County awaiting re-sentencing not through Illinois Department of Corrections. He denies official membership to the gang.

This Board Member inquired from Illinois Department of Corrections Intel, who stated that there are no gang-related reports or experiences he can share on Mr. Lucas while in Illinois Department of Corrections. Intel representative further confirms the gang disassociation is a lengthy process and Mr. Lucas has not petitioned to start this process.

ENBANC HISTORY

This is Mr. Lucas' first time at En Banc for parole consideration.
Closed Executive Session: CTERRONES-KTUPY

Open Executive Session: KTUPY-TBUCKLEY



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DISCUSSION

Ms. Sheree Davis, Mr. Lucas' attorney, started off discussing his 2024 offender overview that does not have gang affiliation listed on it. She stated that some of his crimes were survival crimes, and she believes in this case, he was in over his head, and she explained how that incident caused him to dissociate himself. She stated he is not affiliated with the gang and has never led someone to believe that he is. She stated his dissociation was very clear, therefore that is why he never went through renouncing. She asked the Board to take a closer look, just because it is on paper does not mean it is true. She stated by looking at his disciplinary record, that shows. She discusses a ticket from September 5, 2011, which reflected multiple individuals in custody were involved in an altercation and fighting. She explained how he defended himself, he took responsibility for that, and it was not related to gang activity. She stated there was another ticket stating he attacked another individual, therefore, he filed a grievance and the person who was originally hurt, stated that Mr. Lucas did not touch him, but he was still found guilty, and he received one year segregation. She stated the alleged victim wrote another letter stating that Mr. Lucas did not hurt him and questioned why he was being punished. Mr. Lucas takes full responsibility for his actions. She explained another ticket and how he missed his check-in from lack of knowledge from being transferred to a new facility. She stated he was charged and convicted under the accountability theory, and he was not present at the time of the shooting. She stated he takes full responsibility for what he did and did not do but stated there was no gun in his hand. She stated he has taken over ten years of robust programming. She stated when he received a life sentence, he immediately started programming, and he finally received his General Educational Development (GED) to which he was relentless about. She explained how he has been consistent in his mentorship, therapy, group and interventions. She stated he likes to speak with others and show them how to make better decisions. She stated anger management and conflict resolution were courses he knew he needed to take to be the best person he can be. She stated he also took courses on things he enjoys. She explained how his brother owns a catering business; therefore, Mr. Lucas took culinary classes so he could be helpful. She stated when he was resentenced, the judge did not take into account all of the programs he had already taken, therefore, he went from a life sentence down to 27 years.

Mr. Lucas stated he stands in front of the Board humbled. He stated he takes full responsibility for his actions and if he could change it, he would have. He stated he could barely read or write when he first came into custody and now, he gets to help others with those same issues. He explained how he is very familiar with Mandatory Supervised Release, and he has done a lot of research. He apologized to his family and the victim's family. He stated he knows the role he played, and he will never reoffend again. He stated he now has positive reinforcements in his life and that is something that he never had before. He stated he made a mistake; a bad choice and he will never do that again.

Ms. Terrones questioned Mr. Lucas about how he is doing today because he was very talkative during his interview. Mr. Lucas stated that all the gang tickets are not accurate, he has two out of six tickets and that was for him protecting himself, but he still took accountability. He stated internal affairs asked him to make a statement about that and he refused too, therefore that employee had something out for him. He stated he was not aware that the information about his mother would be shared because he is still grieving and processing that but has also sought therapy regarding that. Ms. Terrones thanked him for being transparent and explained to him that they share information to the rest of the Board so they can see how he truly is, not just on paper.



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Mr. Heaton questioned Mr. Lucas on why he declined to participate in the investigation of his brother and how does that make him feel that he was acquitted. Mr. Lucas stated his brother told him he did not have anything to do with it at first, then once he was found guilty himself, he questioned his brother again and that is when he found out the truth. He stated at the end of the day that is his brother, and he supports him. He stated anyone can ask him anything because he is not shy or embarrassed.

Ms. Courtney Quam, Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, opposes the granting of parole. She does not believe an active gang member should be granted parole. She explained how two people were murdered, not just one. She stated the minimum sentence for one murder is 20 years, but not just one person died that day. She stated the Illinois Department of Corrections record lists and demonstrates that he is an active gang member as of June 2025 and rehabilitation is meaningless when they are an active gang member. She stated that 27 years was decided that was an appropriate sentence for murdering two people.

Ms. Davis stated one must be careful when relying on paperwork. She stated they have talked about gang affiliation and someone who is an active leader does not provide a full statement implicating other people. She stated someone who is active in the gang would show up somewhere. She stated he has shown that over the course of 20 years, his stance has been strong. She stated he was only a juvenile when he was in the gang on the streets because he thought that was normal.

Mr. Lucas stated he has not had any tickets since June. He stated he received a ticket for fighting because someone tried to spit on him during Covid but regardless, he takes accountability. He stated he stands behind his attorney. He explained how he has not been gang involved in years, and he has been educating peers on transgender rights and HIV testing. He stated he told his kids if he can do it, they can do it. He stated he respects it, but he does not agree with it.

Mr. Bohland questioned if the state opposed at his resentencing. Ms. Quam stated she was not assigned to that and therefore she cannot answer that. End of Discussion.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to grant parole (CTERRONES-) Motion failed with no second.

Motion to deny parole (HLEMONS-KTUPY) Motion prevailed with 10-1 vote. Members voting in favor are Mr. Bohland, Ms. Buckley, Mr. Coates, Mr. Grubbs, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Lemons, Mr. Nugent, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Tison and Mr. Tupy. Ms. Terrones dissented.

After reviewing the 15 Statutory Factors and applying them to the evidence in this case, the Board decided that Mr. Daniel Lucas 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- December 18, 2025

Individual in Custody's Name: Melvin Jones* IDOC Number: K89270

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1001 N. Walnut Street, Springfield, Illinois, on December 18, 2025, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Melvin Jones K89270.

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

Recording Secretary: Ellen Wayne

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

On October 23rd, 2025, Board Member Mr. Matthew Coates interviewed Mr. Melvin Jones via WebEx at Illinois River Correctional Center. Mr. Jones was present with his attorney Ms. Sheree Davis, his girlfriend Ms. Tareai Johnson, his cousin Ms. Chawanna Gibson, his pastor Mr. Andrew Gibson, and his father Mr. Melvin Pryor. The interview began at 9:09 a.m. and ended at 10:32 a.m.

Mr. Jones was put together with a blue buttoned up shirt and prepared for the interview. Mr. Jones had a positive attitude and communicated clearly without issue for the duration of the interview. Mr. Jones answered every question Mr. Coates presented and was a productive communicator.

Mr. Jones is currently 45 years old and has been incarcerated for 25 years and 10 months. Mr. Jones is classified as medium security none escape risk, and he has been A grade since May 7, 2024.

Mr. Jones was found guilty after a jury trial of First-Degree Murder and Personally Discharging a Firearm that caused death during the commission of a murder. Mr. Jones was sentenced to 40 years for the murder and an additional 25 years for the personal discharge of a firearm, totaling 65 years at 100%.

Separately, Mr. Jones was also convicted of Aggravated Battery with Firearm and received an eight-year sentence in June 2002.

Mr. Jones was resentenced on January 30, 2024, following a successive post-conviction petition and was given a new sentence of 45 years. The resentencing judge was required to keep the 25-year enhancement and reduced his murder sentence to 20 years, which, without the enhancement, would have released Mr. Jones to time served.

If not paroled, Mr. Jones will be considered for parole again after ten years. He has a Mandatory Supervised Release date of September 27, 2044.

Mr. Melvin Pryor, Mr. Jones' father testified that he feels he did not do the right thing as a father, which he feels led to Mr. Jones' behavior. If he gets paroled, Mr. Pryor is in the process of getting him a



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truck driving job so he can have stable employment. He blames himself for what Mr. Jones went through due to him not being there as a father. They have a good relationship, and he has been there to support him during his incarceration.

Ms. Chawanna Gibson, Mr. Jones' cousin, testified that Melvin had a difficult life due to his parents' circumstances which led to him becoming a rebellious kid. During his incarceration, he has been on a path to better himself and she is fully committed to helping support his re-entry to the community. She believes his mind is set on doing better for himself and others. She felt strongly that he would not do anything that would land him back in prison.

Ms. Tareai Johnson, Mr. Jones' girlfriend, testified she has known Mr. Jones since he was 14 years old and they reconnected since then and they have helped each other grow. She feels he has changed and his time away has made him a better man and individual. She feels he could be a pillar of the community, and she is prepared to support him in any way he may need upon release.

Mr. Andrew Gibson, Pastor, testified he has been a pastor for 30 years and he has seen how Mr. Jones has changed throughout his incarceration. What stood out for him is that with other incarcerated individuals he has spoken with, the conversation becomes usually about them personally and when they can be released. Uniquely, Mr. Jones always focuses on youth and sharing ideas to enlighten youth, so they make sure they do not have to experience what he has experienced and make the same mistakes that he did. Mr. Gibson shared he strongly feels Mr. Jones could make a great impact in the lives of youth in their community to help steer them towards a life free of crime. He is ready to support him and work alongside him in his church mentor program. They need more men like Mr. Jones to share their experience and change the trajectory of the life of a youth. He would be a blessing to young people.

Mr. Jones had six letters of support in his file as well.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On January 8, 2000, at the age of 19 years old, Mr. Jones and two co-defendants planned to kill Lawrence Green, the leader of a rival gang. Mr. Jones and co-defendants were members of the third ward Gangster Disciples and Lawrence Green was a member of the No Limit Gangster Disciples.

Mr. Jones and the co-defenders believed that Mr. Green had put out a \$5,000 hit on the third ward Gangster Disciples so they decided they would kill him. Mr. Jones and the co-defendants, each armed with a gun, walked over to Mr. Green's house and waited for him.

After waiting awhile, the victim walked out of Mr. Green's house and started to get into his car. Mr. Jones and the co-defendants ran up to the victim. One of the co-defendants started shooting the victim several times. As the victim started to fall to the ground, Mr. Jones started shooting at the victim also.

The victim died of multiple gunshot wounds and Mr. Jones and the co-defendants fled together following the shooting.



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Furthermore, from the Statement of Facts, Mr. Jones gave a videotaped confession detailing his involvement in the plan to kill Lawrence Green and his actions in going over with the two co-defendants to accomplish this goal. Mr. Jones then detailed how and when Mr. Green did not come out of the house, they decided to shoot and kill one of Mr. Green's friends.

Regarding the separate offense of Aggravated battery with a firearm, the Statement of Facts for this conviction reflects Mr. Jones with co-defendant Leonard Kline, hid in an alley, and as the victim's car drove by, he shot at the car striking Lawrence Green in the leg. There was an ongoing feud in the Ganster Disciples, and it stated Mr. Jones was a Gangster Disciple and in a videotaped confession readily agreed to shoot Lawrence Green.

This offense occurred two days prior to the murder offense against Jerry Green.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

This was discussed in closed session as he was a juvenile during the time.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Since April 29, 2003, Mr. Jones has received 19 major disciplinary tickets with 11 resulting in restrictive housing placement. His most recent disciplinary ticket was in March of 2024 for attempting to have drugs sent into the facility. Regarding this ticket, Mr. Jones shared he was talking to his little brother at the time and his little brother has a habit of talking about what he was doing in the world and Mr. Jones asked him if he could send him some money. He stated him saying "get at me" and send him some money was taken the wrong way as if he was requesting for drugs.

Mr. Jones also had four gang/unauthorized organization gang tickets that were in 2005, 2019, 2020, and 2021. Mr. Jones shared the 2005 gang ticket was for a picture he kept of his cousin that was holding up a piece sign. He stated this was considered a gang sign, and he received the ticket for it. Mr. Jones pled guilty to this ticket.

In 2019, Mr. Jones shared this ticket was for a fight between five people on the wing at Galesburg. There was an issue with individuals in custody not letting people use the phones and Mr. Jones engaged in the fight. He stated other people fighting were in a gang, but Mr. Jones denied gang involvement. Mr. Jones pled guilty to this ticket.

In 2020 and 2021, he received gang leadership tickets, and he shared he does not hold any position of any gang. Due to his offense and him taking accountability, this prevents the gang from considering him for leadership due to his statement to police. Mr. Jones denied gang involvement and was told Illinois Department of Corrections had confidential informants. Mr. Jones asked to confront the two informants, and Illinois Department of Corrections would not allow it. Mr. Jones shared he did not plead guilty to the 2020 and 2021 tickets adding he was not a part of the gang any longer.

Mr. Jones shared once someone is labeled a gang member within Illinois Department of Corrections, that label will almost never come off, even if you are not involved in gang activity.



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Mr. Jones also had a sexual misconduct ticket in March 2022 for masturbating during visit, which he admitted to and took accountability for, as this occurred while his girlfriend was there to visit him.

In July of 2025, he began working as a Housing Unit Specialist at Illinois River Correctional Center and as of November of this year, he is still working in this assignment.

Mr. Jones certainly had taken advantage of rehabilitative programming that has become available to him. He had 19 certificates of programming in his file, which includes, but is not limited to, Thinking for Change, Anger Management, Conflict Resolution, Problem Solving, PTSD Trauma, and a Hospice certificate. In August of this year, Mr. Jones completed Job Preparedness at Illinois River and participated in a leadership training from the Global Leadership Network. In September of this year, he completed a CAT Simulator Heavy Equipment program as well.

Mr. Jones has also donated money to causes that are important to him, such as Domestic Violence, Stopping the Violence in Chicago, PAWS Animal Shelter and to the Salvation Army to help the homeless. There were receipts in his file to corroborate his donations.

STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

Mr. Jones shared he indeed had a conflict with a rival gang, and they had recently jumped him in 1999. He was beat up pretty bad and when his dad came to the hospital to see him, he barely could recognize him due to his injuries. Due to that incident, this led him to seek retaliation.

The older gang leaders had him go to the jobs that they were not willing to do. His motivation was one part seeking revenge for being beaten up, and another part his gang leaders telling him he needed to get payback for that.

Mr. Jones shared he went to look for anyone who was a part of the rival gang at the time. He unfortunately saw Jerry Green that day and he expressed regret for his actions. Mr. Jones shared he takes full accountability for the crime he committed against Mr. Green. Mr. Green was the cousin of the rival gang leader.

After confronting Mr. Green, they got into a heated argument and threatened each other with violence. He thought Mr. Green was going to pull his gun, so he pulled out his gun and shot him and then fled the scene.

Mr. Jones stated he wished it would have never happened. He took the life of Mr. Green and prevented Mr. Green from growing and living his life. At the time he could not see that, but over time, he recognized the harm he caused. Mr. Jones expressed remorse and offered an apology for his actions.

Mr. Jones also shared he had an opportunity during his resentencing hearing to directly apologize to the victim's family.

PAROLE PLANS



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If granted parole, Mr. Jones plans to live with his girlfriend Ms. Johnson, and he wants to apply for construction jobs due to earning his CAT simulator and excavation certificate. He just wants to be a law-abiding tax paying citizen that is productive.

He also wishes to start a food truck at some point later on. He wants to mentor youth and stop at risk youth from going down the wrong path as he did. He wants to inspire and help change the course for many misguided youths like him.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

There is victim opposition testimony, which was discussed in closed session. Cook County State's Attorney objects to his release.

ENBANC HISTORY

This is Mr. Jones' first time being considered for parole.

Closed Executive Session: CTERRONES-KTUPY

Open Executive Session: KTUPY-TBUCKLEY

DISCUSSION

Mr. Coates questioned Ms. Sheree Davis, Mr. Melvin Jones' attorney, regarding his 45-year sentence.

Ms. Sheree Davis, Mr. Jones' attorney, explained how she does not have the full transcripts, but she believes it has to do with the enhancement charge from a firearm. She then discussed Mr. Jones' reentry plan as she now has updates. She stated he has not been able to receive his General Educational Development (GED) because he was denied. She stated when he questioned why it was denied, he was told because on his record, it states that that he finished 12th grade, but he did not. Therefore, he does not have his GED yet, but his girlfriend works for the public library in Chicago and will be able to help assist him with the free program they offer. She explained how he would like to be in construction and with his certificates, that will be a source of immediate income. He has strong affiliations with many organizations that will assist him with any paperwork or help that he may need. She stated everything is set up for him upon his release. She stated she received a new disciplinary report today and wanted to clarify on the drug charge coming through the mail. She stated it was a misunderstanding, and he was speaking with his brother about needing money and having a plan. She explained how he was not attempting to bring any type of substances into the facility, and he has not spoken with his brother since that issue. She stated he has another 35 more certificates that he has received. She stated education is limited for him and at Menard Correctional Center, they did not offer any. She stated anytime something was offered, he accepted it. She then discusses the jobs he has held while incarcerated and stated it was all for a short period of time because he has been moved around so much.



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Mr. Jones stated today he would like to take more responsibility for the crime he committed, and he apologized for what he did. He stated he has changed and is a better person than he used to be. He read a letter that he prepared for the Board and thanked them for this opportunity. He apologized to Mr. Green, his victim. He stated he read something once that said, "hurt people only hurt other people" and he believes that to be true. He stated he used to think he would not amount to anything his entire life, but he has learned to love himself and that is what he believes makes a person whole and complete. He took a lot of things for granted as child and today he asks for forgiveness. He asked the Board to see the man that he has become and not the lost little boy that he once was. He apologized again for the pain that he caused. He stated as a mature adult who can now use conflict resolution, he asks for a second chance. He stated if given a chance, he will go out there and prove it. He stated he is ready to be law abiding, tax paying citizen.

Mr. Heaton questioned how he met his girlfriend. Mr. Jones stated he met her in high school and has been in his life his entire incarceration. He stated she has a place he can call home and start a family.

Ms. Courtney Quam, Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, objects to the granting of parole. She does not believe that he accepts genuine acceptance. She stated the petitioner stated they both threatened each other but what actually happened was, the victim walked to his car and Mr. Jones shot him. She further explained a shooting that he was involved in two days before the murder of Mr. Green. She stated he has never taken accountability for what he has done, and his disciplinary history is extremely concerning. She stated he is not an appropriate candidate for parole.

Ms. Davis stated there was no eyewitness to that shooting and no one can account for the exchange of what happened. She stated he has taken accountability for what he has done, even if it was just words that were exchanged. She explains Mr. Jones' version of events and how he has taken full accountability for that. She explained how impulse control and clerical decision making were taken into consideration at resentencing. She stated the Board is in a position to do what the judge could not do. She stated he was brainwashed as a child and that is how he found himself in the streets. She stated he does not have an extensive criminal history either. She explained how his girlfriend has stuck with him through all of his flaws, his entire incarceration and she is someone who wants to start a family with him. She asked the Board to please consider what he has done while incarcerated and what kind of life he can have outside of custody.

End of Discussion.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (MCOATES-JBOHLAND). Motion prevailed by a unanimous vote.

After reviewing the 15 Statutory Factors and applying them to the evidence in this case, the Board decided that Mr. Melvin Jones 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."