



STATE OF ILLINOIS
 JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Edith Crigler, Chair

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION—February 24, 2022

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 East Madison, Springfield, Illinois, on February 24, 2022, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following individuals in custody:

C10286	Phillip Soper
C01355	Namor Smith*
C15189	Frank Morgan*
C61397	Gerald Chatman
C66263	Edward Spicer*
C68712	Michael Lett
C56165	David Lott

The meeting was called to order by Madam Chair Crigler.

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Andrea Hegland.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mr. Jared Bohland	X	
Mr. Max Cerda	X	
Ms. Edith Crigler	X	
Ms. Lisa Daniels	X	
Mr. Oreal James	X	
Mr. Jeff Mears	X	
Ms. LeAnn Miller	X	
Mrs. Aurthur Mae Perkins	X	
Mr. Joseph Ruggiero	X	
Mr. Donald Shelton	X	
Mr. Ken Tupy	X	
Ms. Eleanor Kaye Wilson	X	

12 Members Present

The Board heard and voted upon the cases of Phillip Soper, Namor Smith, Frank Morgan, Gerald Chatman, Edward Spicer, Michael Lett, and David Lott as detailed in the individual case minutes.



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Motion to enter Closed Session to discuss confidential and privileged victim statements and to deliberate regarding the case. (JM—DS). Leave.

Motion to return to Open Session. (JR—DS). Leave



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
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Name: **PHILLIP SOPER**

IDOC Number: **C10286**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison, Springfield, Illinois, on February 24, 2022, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Phillip Soper C10286.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Cerda, Ms. Daniels, Mr. James, Mr. Mears, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Mrs. Wilson, and Madam Chair Crigler.

Recording Secretary: Andrea Hegland.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Mr. Phillip Lee Soper C10286 was interviewed via WebEx at Sheridan Correctional Center on December 15, 2022. Mr. Soper and Board Member Mrs. Perkins were the only individuals present although others were scheduled to be present. Mr. Soper is 73 years of age and has been incarcerated since he was 22 years old. He has been at Sheridan Correctional Center since September. He is serving 200 years consecutive and 200 years concurrent for 2 counts of murder.

Mr. Soper was pleasant at the beginning of our interview. He stated he has been incarcerated five decades and eight months in all maximum-security prisons. He has been given several five-year sets. He enjoys Sheridan Correctional Center because he can see out. When asked what he wanted the Board to know, he stated to leave him alone. He also stated that he did not want to talk about Ohio or Wisconsin murders except to say that if he was released in Illinois, Wisconsin would pick him up and he would spend life in prison there. Mr. Soper then walked out of the interview.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On December 17, 1970, Mr. Soper attempted to committing an armed robbery of a tavern in McHenry, Illinois. He entered a dentist office by mistake and in the course of time he shot Marlene Ahrens, the dentist nurse, through the heart. There was no justification or purpose in the shooting of Marlene Ahrens other than she screamed. At the time he shot Mrs. Ahrens, he was hooded. He also shot John Bocker who was wounded. After the shooting, Mr. Soper escaped and returned to his room at the Riverside Hotel.



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On the following day December 18, 1970, Mr. Soper entered a tavern. He robbed all the patrons and the bartender at gunpoint while hooded. He took approximately \$750.00. Before he left, he shot one of the patrons, Guenther Dolenske five times.

The Sheriff of McHenry County, the State's Attorney and the Chief deputy took a statement from Mr. Soper in which he readily admitted to four other murders. He stated two were in Ohio and two were in Wisconsin. The Ohio and Wisconsin authorities were contacted but because of the circumstances and passage of time they were unable to prosecute Mr. Soper. Mr. Soper committed each one of the other murders in a home for the disabled where he either suffocated or drowned the victim or helpless patients.

Mr. Soper is an admitted homosexual and is exceptionally antisocial and a danger to society.

MR. SOPER'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

When asked about the Illinois murders, Mr. Soper stated he shot Mrs. Ahrens because she would not stop screaming and he shot Mr. Dolenski because he would not stay put.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

There was not any other criminal history in the file except for the Ohio and Wisconsin murders.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Soper has not had any tickets since 2014. He transferred into Sheridan Correctional Center on September 24, 2021. His last appearance before this Board was January 26, 2017. He has demonstrated good overall adjustment. He has not had enough time at Sheridan Correctional Center to get a job.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Soper's parole plans are to live with his sister and her husband in Quincy, Ohio. However, it has been noted that if Mr. Soper is ever paroled by Illinois, Wisconsin will pick him up where he will spend life in prison.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Members discussed the alleged other murders that Mr. Soper committed in Ohio and Wisconsin and if there were warrants to extradite him back to those states.



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Mr. Jim Newman, the Criminal Division Chief of the McHenry County State's Attorney's office, clarified the facts of having murder convictions in Wisconsin. He stated that the Illinois murders were last in the sequence of Mr. Soper's murders. Mr. Newman stated that Mr. Soper had an extensive criminal history which included beating an elderly woman when he was in his teens. He stated that parole release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of the offenses. Mr. Newman then asked the Board to deny parole and to give the maximum set.

Ms. Margi Bachner, Ms. Ahrens daughter, stated that her and the rest of the victim's family members are absolutely against Mr. Soper's parole. She also asked the Board to give a five-year set. She stated that the murder of her mother had a huge impact on her and her family. Ms. Bachner stated that her father became an alcoholic and she became the caregiver of the household as a young child. She also spoke of Mr. Dolenski's family. Ms. Bachner stated that Mrs. Dolenski had to have extensive psychiatric care and all the Dolenski children had problems as well. She discussed that Mr. Soper was sentenced 200-400 years and has only served 50 of those years.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (JR—DS). Motion prevails by unanimous vote.

Motion for a 5-year set (AP—DS). Motion prevails by unanimous vote.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Soper's case, the Board voted to deny parole. The Board feels that parole release at this time would not be in the interest of public safety, as there is a substantial risk that Mr. Soper would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole release, and that parole release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of the offenses 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. The Board further notes that, pursuant to Illinois law, victim statements are confidential and privileged."

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION—February 24, 2022

Name: **NAMOR SMITH***

IDOC Number: **C01355**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison, Springfield, Illinois, on February 24, 2022, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Namor Smith C01355.



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Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Cerda, Ms. Daniels, Mr. James, Mr. Mears, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Mrs. Wilson, and Madam Chair Crigler.

Recording Secretary: Andrea Hegland.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Mr. Namor Smith was interviewed at Pontiac Correctional Center on December 10, 2021. Present at the interview were Mr. Smith, Jennifer Soble (his attorney), Emily Mollinedo (his attorney) and Board Member Ms. Daniels. Mr. Smith is currently serving a sentence of 50-100 years for Murder, 1-5 years for Aggravated Battery and 8 years for Armed Violence. His maximum release date is June 20, 2023. In December 2004, Mr. Smith was released on MSR which was revoked in January 2007 for a violation. Mr. Smith has been housed at Pontiac Correctional Center since December 31, 2013. According, the most recent overview dated July 2021, Mr. Smith is currently A Grade, Medium Security and his Escape Risk designation is None.

According to the IDOC Offender Overview, Mr. Smith is listed as single with two children and was last visited by a family member in 2013.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On September 12, 1968, at approximately 9:30 pm. Mr. Namor Smith, his co-defendants, Herva Stephens and Douglas Stephens, and the 21-year-old victim Sterling Burnett were at the home of Elaine Goins in Chicago, IL. Elaine Goins and Calvin White were also present Ms. Goins and Mr. White related that Herva Stephens asked Mr. Burnett if he was a member of the Blackstone Rangers. Mr. Burnett replied he was not and Mr. Stephens answered, "If you're not a Stone, you're not my brother." Herva Stephens then hit Mr. Burnett. Ms. Goins heard Mr. Burnett state that his mouth was bleeding. At this point, Herva Stephens ordered Mr. Smith and Douglas Stephens, along with two or three other men who were never identified, to carry Mr. Burnett into the alley. Ms. Goins remained on the front porch while Calvin White trailed Mr. Smith and the others who were carrying Mr. Burnett through the house. Mr. White saw Herva Stephens, an unidentified boy and Mr. Burnett appear behind a garage in the alley. Douglas

Stephens and Mr. Smith returned to the area of the back porch. Five or six shots were fired at Mr. Burnett and all the defendants, including Mr. Smith came running through the house and stopped again on the front porch. Herva Stephens waved a gun, in the face of, Ms. Goins and said, "I don't want to hear no more about this." At that point, Mr. Smith, Herva Stephens, and Douglas Stephens all left. A short time later, Mr. Burnett was found in the alley with five bullet holes in his body. An arrest warrant was issued for Mr. Smith. On October 11, 1968, officers responding to a robbery in progress found Mr. Smith hiding above a false ceiling in the rear of a lounge. The owner of the lounge reported that Mr. Smith came into the lounge and fired one shot



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from a .22 caliber revolver and ordered the owner to give him all his money. The gun was recovered. The robbery case was indicted under Case No 68-3385 and was ultimately dismissed.

A jury found Mr. Smith, Douglas Stephens and Herva Stephens guilty and recommended the death penalty for Herva Stephens. Mr. Smith was sentenced to 50-100 years for murder. Douglas Stephens was sentenced to 20-30 years in the penitentiary. Herva Stephens was sentenced to 100-200 years in the penitentiary and was paroled in 2001. Each of their convictions were affirmed on direct appeal.

68-3913 – On October 30, 1968, Mr. Smith, Clifford Beasley, and Willie Boston were incarcerated on Tier E-3 in the Cook County Jail while awaiting trial for various felony charges. A fight began between various persons in custody including Mr. Smith, Mr. Beasley, and Mr. Boston. Specifically, the subject matter of the fight was the rivalry between the Blackstone Rangers and the Disciples. Jail Officer Montgomery, who was assigned inside the tier as a guard tried to break up the fight. Mr. Smith hit Officer Montgomery with a mop handle across the arm with so much force the mop handle broke. Officer Montgomery was also struck with a mop wringer by Mr. Boston. During this incident, Officer Montgomery was in his official uniform. Fortunately, Officer Montgomery did not sustain any serious injuries.

86-CF-86 – Mr. Smith was convicted on March 25, 1987, in Randolph County for Armed Violence and sentenced to 8 years in prison, to be served consecutive to Case No. 68-3385. This conviction resulted from an incident that took place while Smith was a person in custody in the Illinois Department of Corrections. Mr. Smith struck the victim, who was also a person in custody, several times on the head and shoulders with a homemade knife causing him bodily harm.

MR. SMITH'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

On September 12, 1968, Mr. Smith was at the home of Elaine Goins. Several other young men were present as "Main 21", one of the top-ranking individuals of the Blackstone Rangers, Herva Stephens. Mr. Sterling Burnett, who was also there, was questioned by Mr. Herva who demanded to know which gang he belonged to. After replying to Mr. Herva that he was not a Blackstone, but a member of a rival gang, Mr. Herva replied, "If you're not a Stone you're not my brother," and then ordered the group of young men (all Princes, a low-level rank in the gang.), including Mr. Smith, to carry Mr. Burnett into the alley. Ms. Goins remained on

the porch of the house. She then heard five or six shots and saw all the young men, including Mr. Smith, run into the home. Looking back on this moment, Mr. Smith remembers being shocked by what he saw and what he was ordered to be part of: "It was hard to watch that." He recalls that his teen body physically reacted to the shock, running back into the house he felt so sick that he almost vomited. With everyone standing on the porch, Mr. Herva entered the home from the alleyway. He waved a gun in the air and stated, "I don't want to hear any more about this."



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All three co-defendants, including Mr. Smith were charged and convicted after a full jury trial. Upon jury verdicts for all three co-defendants, the primary defendant in this case Herva Stephens, was recommended the death penalty by the jury, but was ultimately sentenced to 100-200 years. Mr. Stephens was an extremely high-ranking Blackstone Ranger at the time and ordered the other younger men, the low-ranking Blackstone Rangers (including Mr. Smith), to carry the deceased into the alley and it was Mr. Stephens who pulled the trigger, killing the deceased. Mr. Smith was sentenced to 50-100 years, with parole.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Smith was arrested on October 10, 1966, at the age of 18 years old for unlawful use of a weapon. At the age of 19, Mr. Smith was arrested for armed robbery. This charge was Nolle Prosed, and Mr. Smith was ultimately convicted and sentenced for criminal damage to property and theft, to 6 months and 1 year respectively. Both sentences were suspended.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

According to the IDOC Offender Overview dated July 7, 2021, Mr. Smith is in Protective Custody; attends mental health meetings regularly and does not have a job at this time. However, he has been approved to be a cellhouse porter. Since his admission date to this facility (December 2013), Mr. Smith has a total of 8 disciplinary tickets. The most recent for contraband issued in August 2018.

PAROLE PLANS

In a letter dated January 19, 2022, from the Inner-City Muslim Action Network (a transitional housing site located in Chicago), advising Mr. Smith's request for housing has been tentatively approved upon acceptance and full compliance of following conditions: 1. You must be scheduled for post-release psychiatric care and follow through with all scheduled appointments during residency. 2. You must consistently maintain compliance with medication. 3. You must agree to weekly behavioral health sessions with one of IMAN's clinicians. Additionally, if released, Mr. Smith would receive staff support from the Illinois Prison Project in executing his re-entry plan.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Bohland discussed that Mr. Smith was revoked for Sexual Assault on a handicapped person and being AWOL.

Ms. Crigler questioned if Mr. Smith has any mental health issues or if he requires medication. To which, Ms. Daniels answered that Mr. Smith has mental health sessions



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regularly.

Mr. Ruggiero discussed the discharge date of 2023. He also stated that Mr. Smith told the PRB to “Kiss his ass” and was not interviewed in 2012.

Emily Mollinedo, one of Mr. Smith’s attorneys, stated this is the first time that he has ever had an attorney. She stated that he is 74 years-old and has been incarcerated for 50 years. She discussed that Mr. Smith is a different man now and that he is remorseful. She stated that he mentors younger men and is devout in his religion. She stated that he has many goals, including, becoming a barber and member of a local church. Ms. Mollinedo stated that Mr. Smith does discharge in 2023, but that the IMAN house has already accepted him. She discussed that he will have counseling and support at IMAN house as well as support from IPP.

Ms. Mollinedo discussed Mr. Smith’s past assaults and tickets. She stated that they were all before 1981 when he denounced his gang. She stated that he is remorseful for past comments that he made to the PRB. She also discussed his mental health counseling and medications that he would continue if released.

Ms. Mollinedo stated that Mr. Smith was paroled in 2004 when he went to Iowa and was AWOL until 2006. She discussed that IPP requested the reports of the alleged sexual assault and there were two independent reports done. She stated that neither report charged Mr. Smith. Ms. Mollinedo stated that Mr. Smith left Chicago for his niece and a woman that he was in love with. She stated that he simply did not get along in the sober living house, so he left.

Ms. Crigler discussed how long Mr. Smith had been at Pontiac Correctional Center and when he started his counseling after arriving there.

Mr. Mears stated that Mr. Smith had a paraphernalia ticket in 2018.

Mr. Bohland stated that Mr. Smith had a violent ticket in 2009 and received 3 months in segregation.

Mr. Ruggiero discussed if Mr. Smith would continue to get support and counseling from IMAN house and IPP even after his 2023 discharge date.

Mr. Mears questioned when Mr. Smith received the diagnosis of SMI and when the last time he was evaluated. Ms. Mollinedo stated that it was years ago and that she did not know when the last time he was evaluated.

Members discuss if IPP and IMAN will follow through with Mr. Smith’s care even after his discharge in 2023. It is discussed if he will still be allowed to reside at IMAN after discharge.



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Ms. Mollinedo stated that Mr. Smith wants the mental health help. She stated that he wants a holistic approach and that the time frame of his help will have to be discussed after he gets to IMAN house. It is discussed that he has been applying to get into the IMAN house for a long time and this is the first time that he has been accepted. Ms. Jennifer Soble, Mr. Smith's attorney, stated that being accepted shows Mr. Smith is in a good place.

It is discussed that in 2016 Mr. Smith was labeled as a predator in IDOC. He is to be in a single person cell, at all times. Ms. Soble stated that he declined to be put into general population.

Members discuss that if Mr. Smith is discharged in 2023, he will go out without anyone watching over him and if Mr. Smith is paroled, he can be watched for the next 18 months.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to grant parole (LD—AP). Motion prevails by a vote of 9–3. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Cerda, Ms. Daniels, Mr. James, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Mrs. Wilson, and Madam Chair Crigler. Mr. Bohland, Mr. Mears, and Ms. Miller dissented.

After a complete review of Mr. Smith's case, and after giving thoughtful discussion and consideration to all factors, the Board decided and voted to grant parole to Mr. Smith, subject to conditions of parole release as set by the Board and by law. The Board hereby finds that Mr. Smith is an appropriate candidate for parole release 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. The Board further notes that, pursuant to Illinois law, victim statements are confidential and privileged."

**EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION—February 24, 2022**

Name: **FRANK MORGAN*** IDOC Number: **C15189**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison, Springfield, Illinois, on February 24, 2022, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Frank Morgan C15189.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Cerda, Ms. Daniels, Mr. James, Mr. Mears, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Mrs. Wilson, and Madam Chair Crigler.



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Recording Secretary: Andrea Hegland

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Frank Morgan has been in custody for over 51 years. He was sentenced in Cook County Illinois as follows:

<u>Case Number</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Sentence</u>
70-1186	Burglary	5 to 15 years
	Armed Robbery (V: Donald Hamilton)	15 to 30 years
	Armed Robbery (V: Susan Hamilton)	15 to 30 years
70-1187	Murder (V: Hobart Scott)	100 to 199 years
	Armed Robbery (V: Daniel Libretti)	20 to 60 years
	Armed Robbery (V: Richard Juschel)	20 to 60 years
	Armed Robbery (V: J.D. Lee)	20 to 60 years
	Armed Robbery (V: Gilbert Law)	20 to 60 years

Frank Morgan who is incarcerated in Centralia Correctional Center was interviewed on December 8, 2021, by Board Member Mr. Ruggiero via WebEx video conference.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On April 11, 1970, at the age of 17, Mr. Morgan and co-offender Walter McCalvin began their spree when they broke into the apartment of Michael Kroll in Chicago. When they entered the apartment of Michael Kroll, the apartment was empty, and they began to rummage through the apartment seeking money. When Mr. Kroll, a Captain in the U. S. Army Reserve, returned home from a drill at 6:30 p.m., Mr. Morgan and Mr. McCalvin, who were armed with a .22 caliber and a .32 caliber revolver confronted him. They announced a robbery and told Mr. Knoll



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that they would kill him. They held him at gunpoint and cut his neck with a knife. They took all his clothing and money from the premises. Mr. Knoll was forced at gunpoint into the bathroom, forced to strip, bound, and gagged: left in a bathtub filled with water. The two left his home taking currency, a radio, a television, as well as trying to steal his car. Proceeding a few blocks north to the Country Club Hotel at 6930 S. Shore Drive, in Chicago, the second robbery occurred. The two entered the hotel by climbing through the second-floor window. They began going to different rooms to commit burglaries. The apartments they entered were all vacant with little of value to take. Ultimately their search brought them to an apartment which was occupied by the manager of the hotel and his family. They jimmied the lock on the door to the apartment and entered with guns. Inside, they confronted Susan Hamilton who was there alone with her children. They threatened Mrs. Hamilton at gunpoint and proceeded to ransack the apartment looking for articles of value. Mrs. Hamilton was taken to the bedroom occupied by her two children, where both Mr. Morgan and the co-offender raped her. Mr. Don Hamilton was a collector of rifles and shotguns. The co-offender found Mr. Hamilton's rifles and 12-gauge shotgun; loaded them and waited for Mr. Hamilton to return. When Mr. Hamilton arrived at the apartment, Mr. Morgan and co-offender Walter McCalvin threatened him. Mr. Hamilton was struck across the face and forced to turn over his wallet. For more than 45 minutes the Hamilton family was terrorized. Later, Walter McCalvin took Mr. Hamilton down to the lobby to get more money but, could not get into the safe. Soon a hotel desk clerk, James Lee, was robbed of \$20. Dr. Itze, a foreign speaking doctor, was hit across the face with the shotgun fracturing bones in his face and knocking out his teeth and was also robbed of his money. Two other hotel guests, Gilbert Law and Thomas Baker, entered the lobby and were threatened to turn over their wallets. All the victims were forced into the Bamboo Lounge; instructed to place their money on the bar and lie on the floor. One patron, Hobart Scott, surprised at the robbery, hesitated in complying with Mr. Morgan and his co-offender's demands. Mr. Morgan, for no apparent reason, shot him in the chest. Mr. Scott lie bleeding to death on the floor, while they continued to rob all the victims and fled the scene.

Four days later, Mr. Morgan and his co-offender Mr. McCalvin were arrested. The surviving victims identified both Mr. Morgan and his co-offender in a line-up. Prints found in the Hamilton apartment and at the Bamboo Room Lounge matched Mr. Morgan and his co-offender. After admitting to these crimes to Chicago Police and Asst. State's Attorneys in a court reported

statement, they also admitted to twenty-five prior burglaries, armed robberies, and sexual assaults of women on the South Side of Chicago. Mr. Morgan proceeded to two different jury trials: one for the armed robberies, burglary, rape, and murder that occurred at the Country Club Hotel, and one for the Armed Robbery of Mr. Kroll. During this trial for the armed robbery of Mr. Kroll, Mr. Morgan made verbal outbursts and in general acted with utter contempt for the court. He and his co-offender threw items at the judge and the jury and had to be subdued. Mr. Morgan also tried to flee the courtroom with his co-offender and had to be physically restrained by court bailiffs. When the trial resumed, Mr. Morgan and the co-offender were chained together because they indicated that they would not comply with the court's order and behave in a proper manner. They also made threats on the personal safety of the State's Attorneys who prosecuted



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the case. On September 22, 1971, Mr. Morgan, and the co-offender Walter McCalvin, were taken back to Cook County Jail where they fought with guards and again had to be physically restrained. During the fight with jail personnel, Mr. Morgan and his co-offender broke glass and windows and hit several jail officers. As a result, awaiting trial, both Mr. Morgan and his co-offender were kept in isolation to prevent further outbreaks.

The first jury found Mr. Morgan guilty of the murder, armed robberies, and the burglary at the Country Club Hotel, but not guilty of the rape of Susan Hamilton. (According to the transcript on April 17, 1970, Mr. Morgan's recorded statement given to Asst. State's Attorney, Joseph Dinatale, Detective Jerry Springer, Homicide Sex Unit and Detective Richard O'Connell, Homicide Sex Unit, he explained vividly the charge of rape in question on the night of April 11, 1970. He stated and was clarified by the Asst. State's Attorney and Homicide Detectives that Mrs. Hamilton asked the gentlemen repeatedly if they wanted her to go into the bedroom. Their response initially was to remain in the living room and keep quiet, but in Mr. Morgan's words that she continued to ask the offenders if they wanted her in the bedroom until finally, they said yes, and proceeded to have intercourse with her several times.) The jury did not recommend the death sentence. On March 18, 1971, Judge Phillip Romiti sentenced Mr. Morgan to 100 to 199 years for the murder of Hobart Scott, 15 to 30 years for the armed robberies of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton, 5 to 15 years for the burglary that occurred at the apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton and 20 to 60 years for the four additional armed robberies in the hotel: all sentences to run concurrent. The second jury found Mr. Morgan guilty of the Armed Robbery of Mr. Kroll. On September 20, 1971, Judge Richard J. Fitzgerald sentenced him to 10 to 20 years for the Armed Robbery and imposed the sentence to run consecutively.

Additionally, on July 9, 1983, while serving this sentence at Pontiac Correctional Center, Mr. Morgan struck a Correctional Officer, Paul Balzak, breaking his nose. He was charged with Aggravated Battery under Case No: 83-CF-154. He pled guilty in Livingston County to Aggravated Battery and was sentenced to three (3) years in the Department of Corrections. The sentence was consecutive to Case No's: 70-1185 and 70-1186.

MR. MORGAN'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

Mr. Morgan refused to go into the details of his charges. After asking several times, he stated, "The story is in my transcript, and I don't want to talk about it anymore." He refused to discuss the nature of the offense other than to point out that he was not convicted of rape.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

At the time of the offense, Mr. Morgan was on probation for armed robbery, when he went on a crime spree on the Southside of Chicago. After committing a string of twenty-five (25) armed robberies, and burglaries with his co-offender, Walter McCalvin.



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INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Morgan's institutional adjustment is poor. In just the last 20 years, he has been put in segregation for major infractions nearly 40 times. Most recently, in 2019, for fighting.

He does not do well with following the rules. He contends they are holding him against his rights and that he is past his day for day for the murder conviction of Hobart Scott. He stated that the Chief Administrator has violated his constitutional rights. He also stated that he has filed 3 grievances. He is classified as a CM, which means maximum-security offender with moderate escape risk.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Morgan wants to live by himself like other former individuals in custody who have been paroled. He is going to be a billionaire with his greeting cards, design graphics and copyrights. He indicated he is going to work for the Obama Foundation.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

The Cook County State's Attorney's Office filed at all prior hearings, including February 2021. The Prosecutor, Patrick Driscoll, has filed many objections in the past, the most recent being in 2017.

EN BANC HISTORY

Mr. Morgan received no votes in the past, including last year. The votes over the past twenty years have included several extended sets and no votes for the following years; 2018 (3-year set), 2015 (2-year set), 2014, 2013, 2010 (3-year set), 2009 (rehearing), 2008 (3-year set), 2005 (3-year set), 2002 (3-year set), 1999 (3-year set).

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

The Attorney General's office requested that if Mr. Morgan be paroled, they request a 90 day stay for an evaluation for a sexually violent or dangerous person.

Mr. Shelton discussed if Mr. Morgan was angry or if he had mental health issues.

Mr. James stated that Mr. Morgan received an MSR release in error and that Mr. Morgan was very angry about this.



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DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (JR—LD). Motion prevails by unanimous vote.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Morgan's case, the Board voted to deny parole. The Board feels that parole release at this time would not be in the interest of public safety, as there is a substantial risk that Mr. Morgan would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole release, and that parole release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of the offenses 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. The Board further notes that, pursuant to Illinois law, victim statements are confidential and privileged."

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION—February 24, 2022

Name: **GERALD CHATMAN**

IDOC Number: **C61397**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison, Springfield, Illinois, on February 24, 2022, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Gerald Chatman C61397.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Cerda, Ms. Daniels, Mr. James, Mr. Mears, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Mrs. Wilson, and Madam Chair Crigler.

Recording Secretary: Andrea Hegland.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Gerald Chatman C61397 was interviewed live via WebEx virtual platform from Big Muddy River Correctional Center on January 19th, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Chatman represented himself with no other attendees present. Mr. Chatman was dressed and prepared with good hygiene. Mr. Chatman's demeanor started off quite defensive in posture and argumentative in what appeared to be a cynical lack of hope and therefore no reason for the interview. After about 30 minutes, the conversation improved however, for the latter half of the interview. Mr. Chatman is very healthy with no issues to report.



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STATEMENT OF FACT

On November 8, 1957, the victim, Catherine McWhorter, age 30, was living with her husband and two small children in Chicago. Mrs. McWhorter was also 3 months pregnant at the time. Mr. Chatman came to her front door about 11:15 a.m. and asked her if she wanted to take

the Tribune. He stated that since she didn't get her Times this morning that he would go get one for her, and he returned with a wet copy of the Sun Times, and again said he would get her another copy. He left and returned again this time stating he would need a receipt to get another copy, and when the victim opened the door to look for the receipt, he pulled out a knife and held it to the necks of her two small children, backing them into her bedroom. The victim begged him not to hurt the children. Mr. Chatman instructed the victim to remove her clothes, and she complied. He then got on top of her and raped her until he ejaculated. Mr. Chatman then forced her to lay down and raped her a second time. Mr. Chatman then questioned the victim if she was expecting anyone. The victim stated to Mr. Chatman that she was expecting a visit from her neighbor. Mr. Chatman then told the victim that he intended to perform oral sex on her and then have her perform oral sex on him, but that he would leave instead since she was expecting someone.

On November 20, 1957, at about 1 p.m., Mr. Chatman came to the door of Mrs. Lillie Cofield, age 22, who lived on the second floor of her apartment complex in Chicago. She was married and at the time had two children, the oldest a year old, and the youngest only 3 weeks old. Mr. Chatman told her he was investigating complaints for the Sun Times Newspaper. She told him that she didn't take the paper and turned around to enter the front room of her home. Mr. Chatman followed her into that room. He instructed her to put the baby in the bed and to put the 1-year-old in the baby buggy. He then told her to lay on the bed and remove her clothes. As he gave the instructions, he pulled out a hunting knife from his pants pocket and said he would kill the babies if she did not do as he said. Then he hit her on the side of the face and forced her back on the bed. Mr. Chatman then pulled her clothes off, opened the front of his pants, and forced vaginal penetration with his penis. Mr. Chatman then hit the victim again in the face. He had been raping her for about two minutes when someone knocked on the door. Mr. Chatman then got off the victim, and quickly exited the front door past her neighbor. The victim told the neighbor what had happened, and the police were called. Mr. Chatman was also identified by another witness who was visiting his aunt who lived on the first floor of the same building. Mr. Chatman was asking the witnesses' aunt to subscribe to the paper when he was there about 15 minutes before the petitioner went upstairs and committed the rape.

Mr. Chatman was arrested on December 3rd, 1957. That same day he was identified by the victim, the neighbor witness, and the witness from the 1st floor. On December 6th, Mr. Chatman gave an oral confession to the Assistant States Attorney. That same day he was identified in a line up by the victim of the first rape.



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At trial Mr. Chatman refused to answer any questions, broke an arm off a chair, struck a bailiff in the neck with his handcuffs, and kicked a shelf off the witness box. Mr. Chatman was found guilty on both convictions and sentenced to 60 years for each conviction to run consecutively. Also noted was there are typed out victim statements from an additional 5 rapes at knife point and 1 attempted rape during the same period of time in 1957 in the file pertaining to this case, many of which show the same characteristics as the other rapes.

Mr. Chatman served 18 years before being released to parole by way of En Banc in 1975. He was paroled to a Half-Way House in Peoria, IL. That same year he committed the following crimes in violation of state law and his parole conditions.

On September 21st, 1975, the victim, a student teacher in the Peoria area, was returning home. She arrived in front of her apartment at around 9 p.m. and began walking toward the front door. She noticed Mr. Chatman walking from across the street toward and past her, but when she approached the entrance to her apartment, Mr. Chatman was behind her and opened the door for her. She walked inside and started to close the door but noticed Mr. Chatman had stayed right behind her. Mr. Chatman then closed the door while holding a hunting knife. Mr. Chatman told the victim to give him all her money, which she did. Mr. Chatman would not let the victim turn around or turn any lights on. Mr. Chatman led her around the apartment holding her left arm, having her open drawers and closets. When he was convinced, there was no more money to be found, Mr. Chatman took the victim to the bedroom. He told the victim, "I want sex", and instructed her to get undressed. The victim complied as she was still being held at knife point. Mr. Chatman instructed her to lay on the bed, and he took off all his clothes except for a blue hat. Mr. Chatman placed the knife on a fan next to the bed, and then proceeded to rape the victim for 2 and a half hours. He then cleaned himself off, told her to put the sheet over her head, turned the light on to get dressed, warned her not to call the police, then turned the lights off and left. He didn't leave the apartment until around 1 a.m. at which point the victim called the police. A report was taken, and the victim was transported to the hospital.

On September 22nd, the victim, left her apartment around 4:20 p.m. to take out the garbage. When she returned to her front porch, Mr. Chatman was standing in her doorway yelling for "Jerry". The victim approached Mr. Chatman asking what he wanted. Mr. Chatman asked if Jerry lived at the apartment, to which the victim stated a Jerry did not live there. Mr. Chatman asked if he could use the telephone, pulled a knife from his pocket, and stated he only need a few pennies and a couple of dollars. The victim's son then ran out of the house and the Mr. Chatman ordered the victim to get her kid back in here. Mr. Chatman made this order 3 times before running after the child and carrying the child back into the apartment himself. Mr. Chatman then asked the victim for her money. The victim led Mr. Chatman back to her bedroom where she kept her purse by her bed, handed Mr. Chatman her wallet which contained \$30, and pleaded that she needed the money to support her child. Mr. Chatman returned the wallet and then walked back to the living room. He then asked if there was anything of value in the house,



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which the victim replied that there wasn't. Mr. Chatman asked again and then order the victim to follow him to the front bedroom. Mr. Chatman then ordered the victim to take her blouse off at knife point. The victim asked Mr. Chatman's intentions, and he stated to "just be quiet and let's get this over with." The victim complied with taking her clothes off. Mr. Chatman then dropped his pants and ordered the victim to lay on the bed and spread her legs. Once Mr. Chatman penetrated the victim, he kept ordering her to "respond". Mr. Chatman got spooked when someone slammed a door outside of the window and ordered her to face the wall. He then gave her an ultimatum to either perform vaginal or oral sex. When she refused, he forced penetration vaginally again. Mr. Chatman got spooked by something again and forced her to relocate to the back bedroom where he forced penetration vaginally a 3rd time again demanding that she "respond" to him. Soon after a witness tried to gain entry through the back door but, it was chained shut. Mr. Chatman then got dressed and fled, first to the back door, but then ran out the front door instead. Police arrived on scene and canvased the area but got no results from neighbors. Police transported the victim to the hospital. They did a rape kit and took the victim to the station following examination for further questioning.

On September 25th, 1975, the victim from the September 22nd rape had completed a polygraph interview with detectives and was being driven home by an officer when she spotted Mr. Chatman going into the halfway house that he was paroled to. Police responded to the halfway house, but he had already left. The victim identified Mr. Chatman out of a photo line-up, so they attempted arrest of Mr. Chatman at his place of work at the YMCA, and arrest was successful. The victim from September 21st was contacted and subsequently identified Mr. Chatman in a line-up. During arrest, he kicked one of the officers in the groin and resisted.

It should be noted that the parole violation report from 1975 clearly indicates that there were an additional two documented rapes beyond the two convictions, both with victim police statements, one of which was performed at knife point.

Mr. Chatman plead not guilty to each count and requested a change of venue for the trial. Jury trial commenced on February 9th, 1976, in Lincoln, IL. On February 13th he was found guilty of Rape and Armed Robbery. On March 19th, he was sentenced to 50 to 150 years for Rape. On April 12th he was sentenced to 10 to 30 years for the Armed Robbery to run concurrently with the Rape conviction. Both sentences are to run concurrently with the concurrent sentences of 50 to 150 years each for Rape and Deviate Sexual Assault. All these sentences are to run consecutively to the remaining sentence from the 1957 Rape Convictions for which he was on parole and violated parole.

MR. CHATMAN'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

Mr. Chatman acknowledges the facts of the crime and does take responsibility for his actions. While he was unwilling to recount or discuss any details of the crimes, he admitted to everything written in the statement of facts and in the file. Mr. Chatman also confirmed that he



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is remorseful for his actions and recognizes the damage caused, but again would not discuss further.

In open discussion, Mr. Chatman stated that he is completely rehabilitated and will not re-offend. Mr. Chatman stated, "I do not want to spend the rest of my life in prison." He argued that the primary reason behind all his sex crimes was simply a sexual addiction. When asked about any circumstances in his life prior to the offense, Mr. Chatman became defensive about the Prisoner Review Board having any knowledge at all of his youth record.

When asked what helped him to overcome his sex addiction and when he felt that change occurred, Mr. Chatman stated "50 years of remorse and acknowledging what he did."

Bringing up the obvious concern that he was granted parole via En Banc in 1975 and then reoffended, Mr. Chatman was asked about what caused him to recommit the same crimes. Mr. Chatman responded saying, "I was naïve and took it for granted. I had an addiction that I couldn't control."

Mr. Chatman was asked why he used knives and violence during the rapes, and why he utilized rape as the method of meeting his sexual addiction. He responded stating, "I was shy and lacked self-confidence. I didn't know how to approach women or maintain relationships. I took the easy way out, like a wild animal giving into basic needs. I'm sure now that I can control my own urges and lack the urges in my old age." In regards to the knives being used on children, Mr. Chatman stated, "That was wrong. I could never do that. Victims were dishonest about the knives and told prosecutors what they wanted to hear." Digging further into the claim that the use of knives was false testimony on the part of the victims, Mr. Chatman admitted that he did use knives during his offenses, just never used them on children. He stated, "I used the knives to frighten women, but the baby thing was false."

CRIMINAL HISTORY

The only criminal history outside of Mr. Chatman's felony convictions are within his youth record. As mentioned, Mr. Chatman was released previously on parole via En Banc by the Prisoner Review Board in 1975, and he violated that parole term that same year when he committed further rapes. He has quite literally spent his entire adult life in IDOC custody except for that short parole term.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Chatman has a very poor institutional adjustment with almost no efforts made throughout the years toward rehabilitation.

Mr. Chatman has had contact with his sister but, has not had a visit since entering IDOC. During the current interview, Mr. Chatman stated that all his family is deceased.



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Mr. Chatman is quite healthy and has no issues to report with his mental or physical health. In the past, a mental health and psychiatric evaluation had been requested. The most recent report for mental health from 2018 states he has never received mental health services and that he shows no signs of concern for any mental health conditions. His 2016 SPIN assessment states there are no mental or physical health concerns.

Mr. Chatman confirmed during interview that there is no engagement in any services to discuss. His most recent Offender Overview states that Mr. Chatman has not taken part in any programming since being transferred to Big Muddy for the sex offender program in 2016, which he never took part in.

Mr. Chatman's disciplinary record isn't reassuring. The old forms confirm issues with fighting and assault. Mr. Chatman recorded 2 minor and 11 major tickets from 1998 to present including a 2013 ticket for stabbing another inmate in the mouth with a pen resulting in hospitalization of the victim and 6 months of segregation for Mr. Chatman. Other tickets including a fighting ticket while in segregation in 2013, a 2014 ticket for intimidation or threats, and a 2016 fighting ticket that the SPIN assessment confirms was the result of him stabbing a cell mate again. In response to his ticket history, Mr. Chatman stated, "We are in prison with violent people who start fights. If I fight, I'm violent. If I leave the situation, I'm refusing housing."

Mr. Chatman's interview testimony regarding his work history within IDOC conflicts with the record in his SPIN assessment. Mr. Chatman states he worked for 10 years in the bakery at Illinois River without issue and for 5 years in the bakery at Galesburg. Mr. Chatman stated that he lost jobs due to fights with gang members. He also stated that he experienced reprisals from staff due to filing grievances against prison staff. He claims this resulted in him not being able to get jobs. Mr. Chatman states he got a job as a laundry porter, and they wouldn't let him get any other job. As mentioned, the 2016 SPIN assessment conflicts somewhat, stating that he has not worked for longer than 6 months during his entire incarceration.

Mr. Chatman has no moral or faith system he wished to disclose. He has not pursued any education opportunities to speak of. He has not taken on any voluntary or leadership opportunities either.

Other notable comments from his 2016 SPIN assessment are worth mentioning. It states concerns about his lack of anger management skills, stating he has a pattern of using violence to control outcomes and solve problems. It states that Mr. Chatman has a poor use of time and social networking but does appear to at least have started the renunciation process for his gang involvement. The assessment states that Mr. Chatman has an utter lack of empathy for his actions. Mr. Chatman stated to the evaluator in 2016 that he has a sex addiction, just like an alcoholic is addicted to drinking, and therefore he should be treated as having an illness and not



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as a criminal. He also seems to lack adaptive skills for both experiencing stress and coping with stress.

PAROLE PLAN

Mr. Chatman has no legitimate parole plan to discuss. He mentioned the possibility of using a halfway house in Chicago with no further details. He would qualify for Medicare. Mr. Chatman stated that nobody would hire a rapist. He has no health care needs to plan for, no community or family support systems to speak of. No plans for wrap-around services and no letters of support. He would also qualify as a potential sexually violent person which would add roadblocks to his parole.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

There is a current letter dated October 2021 from the Peoria County State's Attorney stating strong opposition to release citing details of the offenses committed as well as a troubling juvenile record that preceded his future felonies. They state that he was paroled as a juvenile in

1957 and committed his first adult felonies for rape within a month of release. They describe Mr. Chatman as a serial rapist and a serious threat to society. They state that he has squandered his chances at freedom by using them to commit appalling crimes, that he is no longer fit for society. They urge for parole to be denied and request a five-year set to be given as well.

EN BANC HISTORY

Mr. Chatman was first considered for parole in 1969 for his 1957 convictions and was granted parole in 1975. He was first considered for parole in 1983 for his 1975 convictions. Mr. Chatman was seen 6 times prior to being granted parole in 1975. He has come up for parole consideration 27 times since 1975. Mr. Chatman received 3-year sets in 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, and 2018. It does not appear as though Mr. Chatman has received a single vote in favor of parole since returning to IDOC custody after his 1975 conviction.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Shelton stated that Mr. Chatman raped 9 times before he was incarcerated the first time. Mr. Shelton also discussed that Mr. Morgan was only out for 54 days before he started raping woman again. He also stated that Mr. Morgan is 82 years old and still a dangerous person.



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DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (JB—MC). Motion prevails by unanimous vote.

Motion for a 3-year set (JR—MC). Motion prevails by a vote of 9-3. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Cerda, Mr. Mears, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, and Mr. Tupy and Mrs. Wilson. Ms. Daniels, Mr. James, and Madam Chair Crigler dissented.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Chatman’s case, the Board voted to deny parole. The Board feels that parole release at this time would not be in the interest of public safety, as there is a substantial risk that Mr. Chatman would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole release, and that parole release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of the offenses 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. The Board further notes that, pursuant to Illinois law, victim statements are confidential and privileged.”

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION—February 24, 2022

Name: **EDWARD SPICER*** IDOC Number: **C66263**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison, Springfield, Illinois, on February 24, 2022, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Edward Spicer* C66263.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Cerda, Ms. Daniels, Mr. James, Mr. Mears, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Mrs. Wilson, and Madam Chair Crigler.

Recording Secretary: Andrea Hegland.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Mr. Edward Spicer C66263 was interviewed on December 15, 2021, and on Jan 12, 2022, via video conference at Pinckneyville Correctional Center. Mr. Spicer is medium Security, A Grade. He was 71 years of age on the date of his interview. Mr. Spicer’s has been designated a sexual predator since 1997, he strongly disagrees. Mr. Spicer is serving 410 to 830 years aggregated sentences for armed robbery, 3 counts of murder, and Attempt Murder.



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Mr. Spicer was very open to discussion during his interview. He did not hold out much hope during his interview but was willing to share about his crimes committed and about his time while incarcerated. He was very positive when talking about his family, whom he would also reside with if he were to be released on parole. Due to Mr. Spicer's lack of hope and feeling that

he would never be paroled he has been unable to see the value in obtaining his GED or completing other certificates. He understands that this is not helpful for his argument to be paroled but is willing to pursue and asked for direction on what would be most helpful. He appeared to be in good health, but does require a wheelchair to get round, although he can stand and walk short distances.

He stated that over the last year he has reached out in hopes of receiving assistance from an attorney, but he has not heard back. Mr. Spicer is seeking more direction on how to best move forward, as stated before, he has found it difficult as he often feels hopeless.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On November 10, 1975, Mr. Spicer, and co-offender Earl Good, having armed themselves with handguns, committed armed Robbery and Murder at Wonder Inn, a tavern on North Pulaski in Chicago. During the Robbery, three victims were forced to line up against a wall and took their wallets. The victims were the tavern's co-owners Prince Humphries and Herman Humphries, and a caretaker named Otto Kamitke. The victims were then forced to a bedroom at the rear of the establishment and made to lie face-down on a bed.

While Co-offender Mr. Good searched the Business for money, Mr. Spicer held the victims at gunpoint. At the same time a Schlitz delivery driver arrived at the business. He was let in by co-offender, Mr. Good and was then made to lie on the floor near the other victims.

All four victims were shot, killing the two co-owners while both the caretaker and delivery driver survived. The survivors identified Mr. Good and Mr. Spicer as the shooters. Mr. Spicer ultimately pled guilty to the charges of murder and attempt murder, receiving 25-45 years.

Five days later, on November 10, 1975. Mr. Spicer and Mr. Good committed Armed Robbery and Murder at Leading Food Store in East St. Louis. When the proprietors of the business, Ben Siegel and Emanuel Ukaman arrived in the morning, Mr. Spicer and Mr. Good entered the business with them. A third co-offender, James Phillips, waited nearby in a getaway car. Mr. Phillips was later described by a witness as "elderly." After robbing the business of money, Mr. Spicer and Mr. Good shot both victims.

Both victims of the shooting died. Police Officer Bruce Moore was shot upon arriving at the store and seriously wounded. Officer Moore was dispatched to the store due to an audio surveillance system that alerted the Police.



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Mr. Spicer and Mr. Good escaped, but were captured one month later, on December 10, 1975 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Following an interview by two Assistant State's Attorneys from Cook County and his subsequent confession, he was extradited back to Illinois. Ultimately, he was sentenced to 25-45 years on the Cook County case and 200-400 years following his conviction in the St. Clair County case.

MR. SPICER'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

Mr. Spicer openly admits to the murders and shootings in Chicago. He further states the robbery and murders were due to gang related activities. He states that he was not present at the East St. Louis murders. He was very open and willing to talk in detail about both crimes but was adamant that although he was in East St. Louis, he was not a part of that crime. He was not defensive during the conversation. He states there were witnesses that were "not allowed" or "unable" to testify at his trial. Mr. Spicer is not proud of what he did in Chicago and does not try to minimize the harm his actions caused to others, including his own family.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Spicer's institutional discipline has greatly improved over the past decade. Although he had two minor violations in 2021, his last violation before that was 2015 and 2010 before that. He states that he has tried to denounce his gang affiliation with DOC, but the DOC still classifies Mr. Spicer as active.

While incarcerated Mr. Spicer has been sanctioned multiple times from sexual misconduct to Sexual Assault. Mr. Spicer's 2019 SPIN Assessment concluded that he was a high risk to recidivate.

Mr. Spicer has held multiple work assignments in the Dental Lab, Commissary, ran the Shack (candy/ice cream) for five years Western, Commissary Clerk, LCS Attendant and in the Laundry at multiple facilities.

Mr. Spicer custodial history is as follows: Menard, Pontiac, Statesville, Pontiac, Shawnee, Dixon, Menard, Mt. Sterling, Danville, Pontiac, Statesville, Galesburg, Lawrence, Pinckneyville (2021)

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Spicer states two of his sisters (Tracey Spicer/Chicago and Tiffany Savers/Oak Park) have committed to providing their home as a permanent place for Mr. Spicer to reside. Mr. Spicer cites that he does not have the strength or hand movement for physical work. States he is eligible for SSI and will try to be a greeter at Walmart.



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Although Mr. Spicer does not currently have a parole plan, he does have family support to execute a parole plan if he were to be paroled. He has a strong desire to work although due some physical limitations he may be restricted to the type of work he may be able to do.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

There are no letters opposing Mr. Spicer's petition.

EN BANC HISTORY

Mr. Spicer has no previous votes in his favor. His last time before the Board was March of 2020.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Tupy stated that there were a number of rape charges that were never pursued.

Members discussed that Mr. Spicer has not had any counseling. They also discussed the lack of participation in any programs.

Members discussed that Mr. Spicer was on parole when he raped again and that he had 2 previous rapes. Members stated that Mr. Spicer has not taken any steps towards parole.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (OJ—DS). Motion prevails by unanimous vote.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Spicer's case, the Board voted to deny parole. The Board feels that parole release at this time would not be in the interest of public safety, as there is a substantial risk that Mr. Spicer would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole release, and that parole release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of the offenses 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. The Board further notes that, pursuant to Illinois law, victim statements are confidential and privileged."

**EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION—February 24, 2022**

Name: **MICHAEL LETT**

IDOC Number: **C68712**



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Edith Crigler, Chair

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison, Springfield, Illinois, on February 24, 2022, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Gerald Chatman C61397.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Cerda, Ms. Daniels, Mr. James, Mr. Mears, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Mrs. Wilson, and Madam Chair Crigler.

Recording Secretary: Andrea Hegland.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Michael Lett C68712 was interviewed on January 6, 2022, via video conference at Dixon Correctional Center. Mr. Lett is medium Security, A Grade and has an Escape Risk of None. He was 67 years of age on the date of his interview. Mr. Lett's original convictions included Murder (100-199), Concealing Homicide (3-10), Aggravated Kidnapping (100-199), Indecent Liberties with a child (50-100), Armed Robbery (5-25 years), and Theft (1-10) with the sentences to run concurrently. Mr. Lett has spent the last 45 years in the IL Dept. of Corrections.

Mr. Lett appeared to be in good health. He is challenged with some back issues that have led to him not having a job assignment since the Fall of 2021.

Mr. Lett was very forthcoming and open in his discussion. It became apparent that this crime, even if he cannot remember the details, haunts him as he tries to move forward in life. At 67, he appears to have come to terms with difficulties he faced as a child that had a profound impact on his thoughts and actions. He relates his abuse as young boy to the age group of adolescent girls that he committed his crimes against. He further states he does not focus his anger toward others now as he did in the past for abuse he faced in his childhood.

Throughout the discussion, it became more obvious he has learned various conflict management skills. This has helped him pursue personal help at various times over the last 45 years. In this regard, he spoke about receiving his GED, a Drafting Certificate, some sex offender programming, and drug programming. Recently he took another sex offender class at Dixon Correctional Facility where he has been for about two years. Before that he was at Danville Correctional Facility.

If paroled, Mr. Lett would have to live in a halfway house as he has no one living to assist him at this time. Mr. Lett would like to work outdoors, if possible, in the field of landscaping. He feels once he gets his back surgery, he will be mobile enough to do light to moderate physical work.



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Mr. Lett stated he would like the Board to know he is a changed man. He used to deny what he did, however, he does now completely own what happened and He can take responsibility for his life in all areas. He would like to work and provide for his own living and maintain his own apartment one day.

By time the interview was over I was able to recognize a man that did a horrible crime who may still have impulses that he may need to learn how to control. However, I also believe I met a man that recognizes the pain and suffering he caused others and has come to terms with his own “demons” that he must learn to control daily. If Mr. Lett could get an attorney or someone to help guide his steps, one day he could be a candidate for parole. He has taken some significant steps in that direction, but he will need to do more to be a viable candidate for parole.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Mr. Lett had a troubled youth. From the previous interviews he suffered from different traumas from an unstable and abusive home life. He was convicted of two rapes while he was under the age of 18, before he raped and murdered Cathy Jo Harris in 1976 when he was 21.

Mr. Lett was convicted of each of the crimes stated above on July 15, 1976. Each of these crimes stem from a series of decisions 6 days after he escaped from Norman Berry Memorial Hospital where he was to be confined for observation and treatment for two previous rapes and sexual deviate behavior. After fleeing the hospital in Indiana, he traveled to Newton, IL where he abducted, raped, and murdered Cathy Jo Harris. After the murder, he dumped her body in the nearby woods. He proceeded to travel to Florida in a car he took before he came upon finding Cathy.

After finding Cathy, he abducted her, raped, and then murdered her. He dumped her body and then proceeded to Florida where he would eventually be arrested.

MR. LETT’S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

Mr. Lett states that he does not remember the crimes due to being on multiple drugs and a high consumption of alcohol. In his interview, he did not deny that the crimes happened and stated he takes full responsibility for his actions. He states he has pieced some broke memories together with statements that he has heard from others. He mainly remembers details about leaving the hospital in Indiana and ending up in Florida where he was arrested. Other than that, he does not recall much about the day he murdered Cathy Jo Harris.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

From 1971 through 1976, Mr. Lett had a total of 3 arrests that 8 convictions arose from.



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The following are Mr. Lett's convictions:

1971	Juvenile Delinquent Rape
1971	Rape
1976	Agg Kidnapping
1976	Murder
1976	Concealment of homicidal death
1976	Indecent Liberties with child
1976	Armed Robbery
1976	Theft

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Throughout his 45 years in IDOC, Mr. Lett has maintained a work assignment, although he is not working currently due to physical limitations due to his back injury. He has not received any tickets since 2015. Mr. Lett's health is good except for his back injury that he shared requires surgery.

Mr. Lett has received sex offender therapy at Menard, Danville, Mt. Sterling and most recently at Dixon where he currently resides. He has also received his GED, certificates in electronics, food sanitation, chef college class and drafting. He is housed in medium security, A grade.

Mr. Lett custodial history began at Menard CC (1976), and follows Danville CC (1988), Galesburg CC (1993), Pontiac CC (1996), Logan CC (2003), Mt. Sterling CC (2004), Pinckneyville CC (2007), Graham CC (2011), Dixon CC (2019).

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Lett currently does not have any parole plans. He states he would have to live in a halfway house and currently has no leads.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

There are no letters opposing Mr. Lett's petition.

EN BANC HISTORY

Mr. Lett was last up for parole in 2019 where he received 0 votes in his favor. Before that he was up for parole in 2016, where he also did not receive any votes in his favor. This has been the outcome of every parole hearing for Mr. Lett before 2016 as well. Furthermore, he has most always received a 3-year set.



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DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

The Attorney General's Office requested that if Mr. Morgan be paroled, they request a 90 day stay for an evaluation for a sexually violent or dangerous person.

Members discussed Mr. Lett being a pedophile. They discussed that Mr. Lett has not been around young women and that is a problem. They state that Mr. Lett needs to get counseling and that he needs help.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (OJ—JR). Motion prevails by a vote of 11–1. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Bohland, Mr. Cerda, Mr. James, Mr. Mears, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Mrs. Wilson, and Madam Chair Crigler. Ms. Daniels dissented

After thorough consideration of Mr. Lett case, the Board voted to deny parole. The Board feels that there is a substantial risk that Mr. Lett would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole release, that a grant of parole release would have a substantially adverse effect upon institutional discipline, and that parole release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of the offenses 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. The Board further notes that, pursuant to Illinois law, victim statements are confidential and privileged.”

**EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION—February 24, 2022**

Name: **DAVID LOTT** IDOC Number: **C56165**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison, Springfield, Illinois, on February 24, 2022, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for David Lott C56165.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Cerda, Ms. Daniels, Mr. James, Mr. Mears, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Mrs. Wilson, and Madam Chair Crigler.

Recording Secretary: Andrea Hegland.



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PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Mr. David Lott was interviewed for release consideration on January 23, 2022. Present at the interview were Mr. Lott and Board Member Edith L. Crigler. Factors considered by the Board at En Banc included, but are not limited to, testimony of Mr. Lott, a review of the file, parole plans, Institutional adjustment and the nature of the sentence for the offense.

Mr. Lott stated he had a good family background and that he comes from a loving two parent family with five siblings. He stated he made the choice to pull away from his family and that he went into the streets and became involved with a criminal lifestyle.

Both of his parents are deceased. He has one sister and one brother living. He is the father of four children (one deceased). He does not have any contact with his children. He never married, dropped out of high school, but was able to attend Mortuary Science School in both Arkansas and Chicago. He claims to have received his license and worked as a Mortician from 1968-1974.

Mr. Lott's last visit was in 2011, from a niece. If paroled, he claims that he would live with his brother.

Mr. Lot was cooperative, mannerly, and talkative. He strongly stated that he is sorry for how he lived his life as a young man and that he knows that drugs ruined his life and he now hates drugs. His only request was that he moved to Dixon Correctional Center where he would be with other older men. He stated he wants to get away from the younger men and be able to stay out of trouble.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On the evening of July 28, 1974, the two victims, Mr. Walter McDowell and Mr. Roscoe Gilmer were in a package liquor store in East St. Louis, Illinois. Mr. Lot and his co-defendant, Mr. Willie Cotton were also in the liquor store. Mr. Lot and Mr. Cotton left the store and the victims followed. They were all observed getting into the victims' car, witness heard a single gunshot, followed by two more gunshots. Mr. Lott and Mr. Cotton had shot and killed the two men and their bodies were found on the street close to the liquor store. The bullets removed from Mr. McDowell were traced back to a gun belonging to Mr. Lott. Mr. Lott admitted to the jailer that he shot the passenger because "he was old and the driver because he begged for his life."

Mr. Marcel Holton the proprietor of Lulu's Package Liquor Store testified during the trial that Mr. Lott returned to the store around 12:30am. Mr. Lott was sitting at the end of the candy counter and his coat was pulled up. Mr. Holton testified that he saw a gun in Mr. Lott's right hip pocket, and he pulled it out of his pocket. Mr. Holt described the gun as a .38 revolver, short barrel, with a brown handle. Linda Carter testified that she lived with Mr. Lott during the latter



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part of July 1974. She stated that she was given a gun by Mr. Lott, who instructed her to give it to her brother if the “police came around.” Linda Carter stated that she took the gun to her sister Brenda Carter’s home shortly after Mr. Lott was arrested. Brenda Carter identified the gun as the one that had been brought to her by her sister, Linda Carter. She further testified that sometime after her sister had brought the gun to her house, police picked up Linda Carter for questioning. Brenda stated that she then called Mr. Lott’s father and she gave him the gun. During the investigation, the murder weapon was recovered from the subfloor at Mr. Lott’s father’s home.

A firearm expert testified that the slug recovered near the scene, where the bodies were discovered, and the slug recovered from the body of Rosco Gilmer were “definitely” fired by the gun recovered from the residence of Mr. Lott’s father.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Lott has glaucoma and is legally blind and cannot work. He has weak parole plans and he stated he does not know what his family has for him. He has no commitment from his family or any type of re-entry program. There is no evidence of support in his file, but he stated his family would not want him to live in a re-entry program or housing.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

There was not discussion on Mr. Lott.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (EC—DS). Motion prevails by a vote of 11–1. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Bohland, Mr. Cerda, Mr. James, Mr. Mears, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Mrs. Wilson, and Madam Chair Crigler. Ms. Daniels dissented

After thorough consideration of Mr. Lott case, the Board voted to deny parole. The Board feels that there is a substantial risk that Mr. Lott would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole release, that a grant of parole release would have a substantially adverse effect upon institutional discipline, and that parole release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of the offenses 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. The Board further notes that, pursuant to Illinois law, victim statements are confidential and privileged.”