



STATE OF ILLINOIS
JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION- May 29, 2025

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on May 29, 2025, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following individuals in custody:

M01314	Guerrero, Rafael * (Youthful Parole)
R54365	Riley, Anthony * (Youthful Parole)
C92772	Johnson, Franklin (Indeterminate)
C62434	Martin, Freddie (Indeterminate)
C63418	Thegpen, Melvin (Indeterminate)

* denotes Cook County Case

The meeting was called to order by Kenneth Tupy, Board Member.

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Ellen Wayne.

MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mr. Jared Bohland	X	
Mr. Matthew Coates	X	
Ms. Julie Globokar	X	
Mr. Jeffrey Grubbs	X	
Mr. Rodger Heaton	X	
Ms. Robin Shoffner	X	
Ms. Carmen Terrones	X	
Ms. Krystal Tison	X	
Mr. Kenneth Tupy	X	

9 Members Present

0 Members Absent

The Board heard the case of Rafael Guerrero M01314, Anthony Riley R54365, Franklin Johnson C92772, Freddie Martin C62434, and Melvin Thegpen C63418.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL 01-29-2025 RHEATON-MCOATES

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL 02-25-2025 CONTINUED

Open Session: KTUPY-KTISON

Meeting was adjourned by: JBOHLAND-KTISON



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION- May 29, 2025

Individual in Custody's Name: Rafael Guerrero* IDOC Number: M01314

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on May 29, 2025, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Rafael Guerrero M01314.

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

Recording Secretary: Ellen Wayne

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

On April 15, 2025, Mr. Rafael Guerrero IDOC #M01314 was interviewed at Lawrence Correctional Center via Webex by Board Member Krystal Tison. Mr. Guerrero's interview lasted approximately one hour and 30 minutes. Mr. Guerrero is represented by Ms. Sheree A. Davis, Attorney at Law, who was present for the interview, along with Ms. Bianca Guerrero, Mr. Jeremy Guerrero, Ms. Evelyn Guerrero, Ms. Daniele Guerrero, Ms. Denise Guerrero, Ms. Juanita Guerrero, Ms. Nakita Thomas, Ms. Monica Castellanos, and Mr. Javier Guerrero, who are all family members.

Mr. Guerrero is a 37-year-old male who has been in Lawrence Correctional Center since October 23, 2024. Previously, he was at Menard Correctional Center, Statesville Correctional Center, and Pinckneyville Correctional Center. Mr. Guerrero's Mandatory Supervised Release date is October 11, 2032. He was 17 years old at the time of the offense.

During the interview, Mr. Guerrero was polite, and he communicated clearly. He cried when speaking of being sexually abused, his childhood, and the death of Miguel Diaz.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On April 2, 2005, Rafael Guerrero was 17 years old, standing outside with another Latin King member when the victim walked past. Mr. Guerrero then shot the victim in the chest and continued to shoot as the victim ran away. Mr. Guerrero had been a member of the Latin King street gang since age eleven.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Guerrero was arrested numerous times, and he was convicted on December 4, 2006, of Attempt Battery/Bodily Harm in Cook County and received 30 days in jail.



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INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Guerrero was raised in a community where gangs, drugs, and violence are common. He did not know his father and his mother had relationships with different men. When Mr. Guerrero was nine or 10, he was sexually abused by his mother's boyfriend, and he sold drugs to buy food and clothes. His mother was addicted to illicit drugs and Illinois Department of Child and Family Services put him in the foster care system at age 11 for a few weeks until a family member took custody of him.

He lost family members to violence and alcohol, and he was harassed, bullied, and physically assaulted at school and on the street. Some of his cousins were gang members, and he joined a gang at age 11 or 12 years of age. Mr. Guerrero witnessed his cousin die because of gang violence, and his grandmother died when he was young. He stated both of those deaths hurt him.

He explained he has not been able to take many classes due to the policy of the Illinois Department of Corrections. He has certificates showing completion of 11 courses, including Rehabilitation by Regeneration and ACCI Life Skills classes. While at Menard Correctional Center, he worked in the kitchen and as a sanitation worker and he requested a work assignment at Lawrence Correctional Center and hopes to be eligible soon.

Mr. Guerrero could not read or write when he entered prison and stated his cellmate read his mail to him until he decided to teach himself to read and write. He is now proficient at both. He is in school now, taking Adult Basic Education classes and working toward qualifying to take the General Education Development (GED). He needs to pass the GED to take classes to become a barber.

He received tickets over 14 years between April 2010 and July 2024. Seven of the eight tickets are major tickets, and one is a minor ticket.

In 2014, he received a ticket for gang or unauthorized organizational activity. In 2015, he received a ticket for gang or unauthorized organizational activity and fighting. In July 2024, Mr. Guerrero received a ticket for a security threat group or unauthorized organization and gang or unauthorized organization activity, specifically "establish Safety Threat Group at Pinckneyville Correctional Center." Overall, Mr. Guerrero has been placed in segregation six times, once for one year.

Mr. Guerrero's other major tickets include rule violations, disobeying direct orders, unauthorized movement, unauthorized property, insolence, sexual misconduct, and impairment of surveillance.

STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

Mr. Guerrero stated he was riding around in a van with other individuals at the time of the shooting and is innocent of the murder.

In his petition, he explains he was in the police station for three days, and they tried to force him to tell who committed the crime. He said the police told him they would get his friend, Ramon Ayala, to say he did it. Mr. Guerrero explained, and the Appellate Court noted, that some people who signed statements against him renounced their statements. Mr. Guerrero stated those who renounced said the



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statements were made after they were locked in a room for days, not given food and water, and not allowed to see an attorney. Mr. Guerrero stated, and the State's Attorney letter dated May 21, 2025, acknowledges, that the two who made statements filed and settled a civil lawsuit against the Chicago Police Department alleging improper police conduct during their stay at the police station. They received a monetary settlement before the trial began. Mr. Guerrero believes that improper police conduct led to statements implicating him.

The jury that found Mr. Guerrero personally discharged a firearm, proximately causing Miguel Diaz's death. Mr. Guerrero was sentenced in Cook County for the criminal offense of First-Degree Murder, and he was sentenced to imprisonment of 53 years, which included a 25-year enhancement for personally discharging a firearm. After the decision in *Miller vs Alabama*, his sentence was vacated, and the case was remanded for a new sentencing hearing. He was resentenced to 28 years at 100% on April 1, 2022.

At the time of the offense, he was living with his mother, sister, and niece and was not working or going to school. He was running the streets and was a member of the Latin Kings.

Mr. Guerrero is now 37 years old now and will be 45 years old at the time of his anticipated release. He believes he will be released without the skills to support himself due to the amount of time it takes to be allowed to enroll in GED classes and the limited courses that are offered. He desires to learn a trade and he realizes it is likely that if he stays in prison until he is 45 years old, family members will have passed, and he will not have the skills to support himself. One day, he hopes to own his own barber shop, and he wants to get a Commercial Driver License.

Mr. Guerrero seeks release to prove his innocence and become a useful citizen. He hopes he will find new evidence from neighbors who live in the neighborhood, and he looks forward to building solid relationships with his family members. He wants to start a business, give back to his community and wants to help troubled youth so that they will not be influenced by the wrong people, help the homeless, and help rescue animals. He hopes to marry and have a family, travel, and join a church and believes he has been a model individual in custody. While incarcerated, he received a certificate from Clothing the Homeless Winter Project in acknowledgment of his donation of \$200 to help with clothing for the homeless shelter.

PAROLE PLANS

Upon release, Mr. Guerrero would like to live in Berwyn, Illinois, with his cousin, Daniele Guerrero, her long-time boyfriend, and her three sons, ages five, seven and 11. They are all in good health. Daniele's boyfriend has been a forklift operator for eight years, and she is a housekeeper. Mr. Guerrero stated when he is released, they plan to set up a bedroom for him in the basement and then remodel the living area, update the bathroom, and install a kitchenette for him. Daniele Guerrero testified that she would welcome Mr. Guerrero into her home when he is released.

Mr. Guerrero stated he can work with his sister's boyfriend, painting, sanding, and doing construction. His sister, Ms. Denise Townsend, confirmed that when released, he will have a job.



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In addition to a full-time job, Mr. Guerrero hopes to work for a non-profit as a mentor. In the future, he is interested in obtaining a CDL and hopefully, one day can open his own barbershop.

When released, he will continue to seek medical treatment. According to his attorney, Precious Blood Ministries will assist with mental health, education, professional workforce assistance, substance abuse, and housing. Mr. Guerrero has excellent family support, nine family members were present for his interview and his mother and sister said they are willing to assist him in his adjustment to the community, and they spoke of their love for him.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

The Cook County State's Attorney opposes the granting of parole in their letter of May 21, 2025. They take the position that, given that Mr. Guerrero takes no responsibility or accountability for the violent crime he committed and the life he took, there is a substantial risk that he will not conform to the reasonable conditions of parole. She stated granting him parole would depreciate the seriousness of the offense, promote disrespect for the law, and have a substantially adverse effect on institutional discipline.

ENBANC HISTORY

This is Mr. Guerrero's first consideration for parole.

Closed Executive Session: KTISON-RSHOFFNER

Open Executive Session: RHEATON-KTISON

DISCUSSION

Ms. Sheree Davis, Mr. Rafael Guerrero's attorney, stated the presentation was done perfectly but there were a couple things that she wanted to update the Board on. She stated he has petty arrests for theft and joy riding and stated Mr. Guerrero's mother was incarcerated which allowed him to wander the streets which is how he ended up with the murder charge. Ms. Davis stated in 20 years, he only has seven disciplinary tickets, because after that long, you become acclimated with those surroundings. Ms. Davis explained how Mr. Guerrero was forced into the gang, jumped by his cousin because he was seen as being weak. She explained the last gang related ticket from 2024 was from papers that were given to him from another individual in custody which were then found in his cell. The 2015 ticket was him being jumped and then others jumped in to help him. Ms. Davis then stated the sexual ticket was not deliberately done to make the female employee uncomfortable, he was simply showering and vulnerable. She explained how Mr. Guerrero always follows the rules and takes accountability for the things he has done wrong, from being a juvenile to being an adult. She stated he still maintains his innocence and he even tried to take the conviction to trial but there was a civil suit right before his trial; regarding how others were forced to give statements. Ms. Davis stated that Mr. Guerrero has been in prison for 20 years for a crime he did not commit. She said he has no place to call home, his mother was a drug addict who allowed men inside the home and as a result he was molested. His mother went to prison while Mr. Guerrero was left to the streets. She stated he did not run off or hide when his family contacted him about how the police



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were looking for him. He was immediately arrested and has been in custody ever since. Mr. Guerrero applied for Youthful Parole when he was feeling lost. She stated the facility he is at does not offer the best programs for education, then Covid happened, but he kept writing so no one would forget about him. Ms. Davis stated Mr. Guerrero was diagnosed with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder at seven years old and was bullied as a child. Ms. Davis explained how Mr. Guerrero has a very detailed parole plan, and how he plans to get his GED so he can get his barber license and open his own barbershop. He would also like to get his CDL. She stated his cousin has renovated her home for him, therefore he can be supported by family even financially.

Ms. Daniele Guerrero, Mr. Guerrero's cousin stated that he is the victim in this case and has lost time with his family. She stated he is innocent, and they will stand behind him. She explained if he is not released today, they will stand by him for another seven years. She stated she has three boys, and she would like him to be there for her kids.

Mr. Guerrero started off with stating he is 37 years old now and has been incarcerated since he was 17 years old. He stated he was not an innocent person while on the streets but now, he has a support system with family and a job waiting for him. Mr. Guerrero stated his sister has always believed in him. He started to believe in God and that is when he wanted to change his life around. He stated now that he looks back on his childhood, he realizes all the bad decisions he made that he is not proud of. Mr. Guerrero stated when he was growing up, he did not have a father or a big brother, he did not attend school, nor could he read or write. He comes from a community where he is surrounded by gang violence. He stated now that he is a man, he believes that he was fooled and lied too. He stated he has changed and can use the tools he has learned while being incarcerated to help the younger generation. Mr. Guerrero stated since being in Illinois Department of Corrections, he has gained several certificates. Mr. Guerrero explained, if released he will be a law-abiding citizen, and he wants to start his own family and go back to school for his GED so he can obtain his CDL.

Mr. Heaton questioned if Mr. Guerrero's lawyer was his attorney at his resentencing hearing. He questioned what Mr. Guerrero's attorney did to present to the jury about witness statements being recanted, and what steps are being taken to pursue Mr. Guerrero's innocence in the court system.

Ms. Davis stated she was his attorney for his resentencing and the parties were not allowed to discuss the statements that were taken, and it was very limited. She stated some of the witnesses did get on stand and recant the circumstances; she explained how the witnesses stated they did not write the statements, they only agreed and signed paperwork so they could leave. Ms. Davis stated she filed a post-conviction motion, but he was denied because no new information could be given to support him being innocent.

Ms. Guerrero stated they have submitted information to the Innocence Project.

Ms. Tison stated PRB has attempted several times to obtain the transcripts of the resentencing; however, PRB never received them.

Ms. Courtney Quam, Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, was in person, opposing parole. She stated he did file a post-conviction in January 2012, which was reviewed and read by the Circuit



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Clerk and denied. She stated he filed another post-conviction in 2018, which he was resentenced to 28 years. Ms. Quam stated the court determined that was the appropriate sentence for the crime he committed. She stated that he does not take accountability for his actions and the crimes he committed, and he has received several tickets after being resentenced and has not shown any rehabilitation.

Mr. Tupy questioned Ms. Quam if there are any more post-conviction appeals that are pending.

Ms. Davis stated the ones Ms. Quam listed are the only ones she is aware of; therefore, she does not believe anything is pending.

Ms. Davis agreed Mr. Guerrero should take accountability, but she believes he has, and she does not think he should have to take accountability for something he did not do. She stated he has respected the process of due process and there is no substantial risk that Mr. Guerrero would violate his parole. She stated he has been in numerous education programs; if they offered a program, he took it. She stated he won a soccer and basketball tournament and has earned the trust of staff and peers. Precious Blood stated they would make sure he receives the mental health care he needs. Ms. Davis stated Mr. Guerrero told his mother she did the best she could and that he was sorry. She stated he is rehabilitated; he never intended to cause harm to someone else. She stated parole is for a second chance.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (KTISON-JGRUBBS). Motion prevailed by a unanimous vote.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Rafael Guerrero'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. Guerrero's 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."



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION- May 29, 2025

Individual in Custody's Name: Anthony Riley* IDOC Number: R54365

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on May 29, 2025, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Anthony Riley R54365.

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

Recording Secretary: Ellen Wayne

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Mr. Anthony Riley was interviewed on April 23, 2025, via WebEx by Board Member Ms. Carmen Terrones at Western Correctional Center. Mr. Riley was accompanied at the interview by his attorney, Ms. Rachel Lindner, Illinois Prison Project, Dr. Elana Quintana from Adler University, Author of the Psychological Evaluation, Ms. Angelila Riley and Mr. Brian Johnson, affiliated with the Illinois Prison Project. Mr. Riley was prepared and eager to share.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On November 20th, 2004 at 141 W. 57th Street, Chicago, IL, when the defendant Mr. Riley pulled his car up to the witnesses' car. The defendant and his friends, and the witness had a prior fight. As they were talking, the victim came walking up to talk to the witnesses. The defendant took out a gun and fired at the victim four times. The defendant shot the victim in the face killing him. The defendant had someone else drive his car home and parked the car behind the house. The police found the defendant hiding in the closet with the murder weapon. The defendant gave a videotaped statement to the police and Assistant State's Attorney.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Riley has no past criminal.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Riley has six Good Conduct Revocation Tickets since being incarcerated.



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STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

One night, Mr. Riley attended a party with some friends and to this day, he does not understand why he went. Mr. Riley described himself as an introvert and he rarely attended parties. While Mr. Riley was at the party, an argument broke out and it escalated into a brawl. Mr. Riley and his friends tried to break up the fight, but resentments remained afterwards.

In the days that followed, shootings on Mr. Riley's block continued. Mr. Riley specifically remembers an incident where his brother Alfred and his young family were driving down the street, past his grandmother's house, and immediately after they turned the corner, Mr. Riley heard the unmistakable sound of close gunshots. For one devastating moment, Mr. Riley was sure that he lost Alfred, the big-hearted brother who doted on him, who encouraged him, and who protected him from the world. Mr. Riley then saw Alfred's car drive back around the corner and the car was marked by bullet holes, but miraculously, nobody inside was injured. Mr. Riley was shaken to his core. In his mind, if the person who protected him from the world was not safe from the violence, then nobody was. After that day, he began to carry a gun. Mr. Riley stated it was too easy to get a gun and remembers shaking his head.

The day after Alfred's car was shot at, Mr. Riley was in a car with some friends. Mr. Riley stated when they passed another car, he recognized the occupants as people who had been involved in the fight at the party a few weeks before. Mr. Riley and one of the occupants of the other car, Taya Martin, had just learned that they were related, and they agreed that that was reason enough to resolve whatever resentments remained after the fight. The two cars pulled up next to each other to discuss resolving this conflict. In the middle of this discussion, an occupant of the other car exclaimed "M-Murder, what are you doing here?" Mr. Riley was familiar with "M-Murder," or Marcus Murphy. Mr. Murphy had told people that he did not like Mr. Riley, in part because of a dispute over a young woman they were both interested in, and in part because he was friends with some of the people involved in the fight at the party. Mr. Riley had heard that Mr. Murphy was after him and that Mr. Murphy had a gun. Mr. Riley even knew that Mr. Murphy was on house arrest for a gun case. Mr. Riley was terrified. Someone in the other car said, "There goes M-Murder!" Mr. Riley looked into his rearview mirror and saw Mr. Murphy emerge from the dark, walking towards the back of Mr. Riley's car. Mr. Riley thought he saw Mr. Murphy reach under his shirt and into his waistband. Mr. Riley was sure Mr. Murphy was coming after him. Mr. Riley ducked, grabbed the gun he had been carrying since the day before, pointed it behind him and shot three times as he drove away.

PAROLE PLANS

St. Leonard's House has offered to house Mr. Riley, should he prefer a supportive living environment, specifically for formerly incarcerated individuals. Mr. Riley would like to work in the field of violence prevention with young individuals. Mr. Riley's father currently works as a driver and helper of disabled children; therefore, he believes he can arrange work for Mr. Riley as a driver. Mr. Riley also hopes to secure his Commercial Driver's License, as a potential job opportunity. NAMI Chicago has offered to support Mr. Riley to receive counseling to aid in his reentry transition. Mr. Riley has several family members who are sober, gainfully employed, and supportive of his reentry. The Illinois Prison Project Social Work Team provides social and logistic support to ease the transition from incarceration into community and will continue to lend Mr. Riley the support, shall he be released.



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OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

Assistant State's Attorney of Cook County wrote a letter in opposition of Mr. Riley's release stating granting Mr. Riley parole at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law. Mr. Riley was resentenced by the trial court in April 2023, taking in consideration of the fact that he was 17 years old at the time he shot and killed Marcus Murphy. During the resentencing of Mr. Riley, the court considered his institutional adjustment, rehabilitative efforts, and expressions of remorse, and after hearing testimony, determined that 25 years imprisonment was the appropriate sentence in this case.

The mother of the victim also strongly objects to the granting of parole.

ENBANC HISTORY

This is Mr. Riley's first En Banc.

Closed Executive Session: RHEATON-JGRUBBS

Open Executive Session: RHEATON-RSHOFFNER

DISCUSSION

Ms. Rachel Lindner, Mr. Riley's attorney, stated Board Member Ms. Terrones highlighted every point that she would want them to make. She explained how Mr. Riley comes from a big family, and most are in person to support but some are watching the livestream from home. Ms. Lindner stated his community supports him as well. She explained how Mr. Riley has a profound understanding of his juvenile decisions, and he has done the hard work to rehabilitate himself. She stated he has done individual counseling sessions on his own for years; he recalls hearing gun shots as a child and random acts of violence. He experienced a lot of violence between the ages of four to 17 years old. She explained how during his junior year of high school, he personally witnessed friends and family become victims of violence. She stated he was in fear for his life, as this person made it known he did not like Mr. Riley, and she stated he blindly shot behind himself three times.

Dr. Elena Quintana, Doctor of Clinical/Community Psychology stated she worked with incarcerated or formally incarcerated individuals on programs to help them safely return to society. She stated her main goal is public safety. She stated when he was growing up, crime rates were very high; murder was 10 times higher than the national average in his neighborhood. She stated as a child he never felt safe, always threatened. She stated he has also been to maximum security facilities and its usual to receive one ticket annually. She stated he has only received six tickets in the last 21 years. She stated violence was normalized in his childhood. While in custody, Mr. Riley chose to seek out mental health professionals and stated he wants to engage in healing. He has taken the chance to use all the programming he can, and he has now been moved to a minimum facility. According to science, Mr. Riley is less likely than the average person to recommit. Dr. Quintana stated Mr. Riley's intelligence test shows that he is able to function well and in society. She stated he scored moderately high on post-traumatic stress disorder



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and his symptoms are non-violent and well managed. She stated during a frustrating situation; he was able to control his emotions and that he is very resilient. She stated he never once tried to make himself come off better than he is. She stated his hypervigilance was a little high but that is because he is aware of what is surrounding him and on a clinical scale, Mr. Riley has no signs of inappropriate thoughts.

Mr. Tupy questioned Dr. Quintana if this was the same report that was already submitted. She stated yes it was, but she just wanted to touch base on a couple of the topics.

Ms. Lindner stated Mr. Riley's plan is not speculative and in place; they are finalized. She explains how St. Leonard's offers programming and housing for him and they have onsite counseling as well. Precious Blood also offers programs immediately. She stated these programs are in high demand because of how productive they are. He has formed relationships that will stem into his release, such as Mr. Riley befriending the housing person at St. Leonard's. She stated how family has always been important to him; he has intentionally worked with his family for his reentry plan. St. Leonard's stated his family can even join in the counseling sessions with him. Precious Blood stated they will also work with Mr. Riley's family as well. Mr. Riley wants to work with the younger youth to prevent violence and he has also been a mentor to several other inmates. Eric Anderson, from St. Leonard's, agreed to work with Mr. Riley on this new field.

Mr. Riley stated he has felt nothing but guilt and remorse since he committed that crime. Mr. Riley stated as he was going through the process, he learned from what his past behaviors have given him. He stated it was his choice to pull the trigger and take Mr. Murphy's life and he accepts that. He plans to continue treatment for his mental health no matter what and his goal is to never return to prison again. He continues to work hard so he can contribute to his community, he wants to help others, and he will not allow himself to be limited to one thing. He stated he would not be the person he is today without IDOC and mental health counselors. He is proud to be a part of Precious Blood and Blood Ministries. Mr. Riley stated it was never his intention to take another person's life, and he wants to help others to not make the same mistakes he made. He apologized for his past mistakes.

Ms. Lindner stated the crime that happened that night shocked the community, and he has been reflecting on that crime for the last two decades. He has accepted responsibility and has been working hard. He wants to be a father to his son and help others not to make the same mistakes.

Ms. Courtney Quam, Cook County Assistant State's Attorney stated this would show disrespect for the law. She stated he was resentenced in 2023 and was given the appropriate sentencing. She brings up his disciplinary ticket history while being incarcerated. Ms. Quam also stated there are two victim protests as well.

Ms. Lindner discussed how the last two years, Board Members have seen several youthful parole hearings, and the Board understands how the guidelines work. She stated the Board is best to make this decision of parole, that the sentencing judges expect these individuals to be able to see the Board for parole when they resentence. She stated he is at the lowest risk for reoffending.

Mr. Bohland stated the victim was on house arrest, he then questioned Mr. Riley why he was at the victim's house.



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Mr. Riley stated he was one block away.

Mr. Bohland stated Mr. Riley had a large number of tickets in the time span of 2017-2021, he then questioned what happened during that time. Mr. Bohland questioned tickets in 2019, 2020, 2021.

Mr. Lindner stated this happened at Menard Correctional Center and everyone was issued a ticket in the yard for fighting. She stated this happened at least three times. Ms. Lindner stated the phone ticket in 2019, was not his phone, and it was someone else's phone who lived in another wing.

Mr. Bohland questioned Mr. Riley if he has ever not been honest about his ticket history and if he has ever withheld information.

Mr. Riley stated not to his knowledge.

Ms. Globokar questioned if they can verify the 2021 ticket, that multiple people were actually cited for fighting.

Ms. Terrones questioned Ms. Lindner where she found that information.

Ms. Lindner stated she gathered that information from speaking with Mr. Riley.

Ms. Globokar offered clarification for the statistics set forth by Dr. Quintana. Dr. Quintana cited high homicide rates from the 1990s as context for this offense. She clarified that national homicide rates peaked in 1991 and declined significantly throughout the time Mr. Riley would have been growing up, and by the early 2000s when this crime occurred, it was not dissimilar to current rates. She also challenged the characterization that crime rates then were much higher than now, citing statistics from the Chicago police that there were 448 murders in Chicago the year of this crime and 573 murders in 2024. Ms. Globokar requested that attorneys and expert witnesses ensure the information they bring before the Board is defensible and that they avoid smoke and mirrors approaches to most clearly highlight the genuine merits of those they represent.

End of Discussion.



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DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to grant parole (CTERRONES-RHEATON). Motion granted with a 5-4 vote. Members voting in favor of the motion were Ms. Terrones, Ms. Globokar, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Tison. Mr. Bohland, Mr. Coates, Mr. Grubbs and Mr. Tupy dissented.

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

"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- May 29, 2025

Individual in Custody's Name: Franklin Johnson IDOC Number: C92772

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on May 29, 2025, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Franklin Johnson C92772.

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

Recording Secretary: Ellen Wayne

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

On April 2nd, 2025, Mr. Franklin Johnson was interviewed by Board Member, Matthew Coates via Webex at Dixon Correctional Center. Mr. Johnson presented by himself, and his interview began at 9:00 am and ended at 11:26 am. Mr. Johnson is currently 82 and a half years old and has been incarcerated for just over 47 years.

Mr. Johnson was put together with a grey sweatshirt and prepared for the interview. Mr. Johnson presented a positive attitude and demeanor for the duration of the interview. He answered all the questions Mr. Coates presented and was able to communicate his thoughts clearly.

Mr. Johnson was on parole after serving 11 years on a 30 to 60-year sentence for three robberies and a rape conviction, when he committed the two rapes for which he is currently incarcerated. In describing these offenses, Mr. Coates stated he will use the terminology rape, instead of criminal sexual assault, due to that being the original terminology that was used for Mr. Johnson's offense and conviction.

On May 11, 1978, Mr. Johnson was found guilty of rape, deviate sexual assault, burglary, and robbery after a jury trial. Mr. Johnson chose to be sentenced under the old law, and he was sentenced to a term of 50 to 100 years on each count, to be served concurrently.

On August 28th, 1979, Mr. Johnson was found guilty after another jury trial of rape and deviate sexual assault. Mr. Johnson chose to be sentenced under the old laws, and he was sentenced to 100 to 200 years for the rape and 50 to 100 years for the deviate sexual assault to be served concurrent to each other and consecutively to the sentence he received just a year prior.

Mr. Johnson's conviction was affirmed on direct appeal and the appellate court modified the sentence ordering that it run concurrently with his 1978 conviction. In 1999, Mr. Johnson filed a pro se petition for habeas corpus which the trial court denied and was affirmed on appeal. In the year 2007, Mr. Johnson filed a pro se petition for post-judgment relief contending that he had not known the differences between the old and new sentencing laws, and had he known the differences, he would have chosen the new laws.



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The trial court dismissed the petition and assessed fees and costs for filing a frivolous pleading. On appeal, the appellate court affirmed the decision.

In 2015, Mr. Johnson filed an unopposed motion for post-conviction forensic testing, claiming his innocence. During that litigation process, Mr. Johnson stated that he has always maintained his innocence regarding these cases. Forensic DNA testing was conducted on evidence that was collected in both of his most recent cases and under the first case, sperm fraction from vaginal slides was examined and matched to Mr. Johnson.

In the second case, sperm fraction from a vial of vaginal wash was examined and a partial DNA profile matched Mr. Johnson. This evidence completely contradicted Mr. Johnson's claim in innocence. That was the extent of Mr. Johnson's post-conviction litigation.

Mr. Johnson became eligible for parole in November 1986 and has a projected discharge date of November 2076.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On July 6, 1977, Mr. Johnson at the age of 34, attacked the 15-year-old victim, Genevieve "Genny" Costello, as she was baby-sitting in an apartment at 636 Hinman in Evanston. At approximately 1:30 p.m., she and the three-year-old girl she was watching were outside the building in a wading pool in the alley.

After about an hour, they decided to go inside. As they made their way back to the apartment, the victim almost bumped into Mr. Johnson. The victim and the younger girl went up to the third floor of the building by way of the back exposed stairs. She entered and latched the screen door. The victim put the younger girl in her bedroom and went back into the living room to put on some earrings. When she turned around, she observed Mr. Johnson standing in the doorway with a towel in his hand.

Mr. Johnson told the victim to be quiet and began to advance toward her. The victim asked Mr. Johnson to go away and backed away from him. Mr. Johnson ordered the victim into a nearby bedroom and gave her the towel to put over her face. Mr. Johnson asked the victim about the little girl and the victim told him that she was in her bedroom. When Mr. Johnson went to look for the child, the victim began screaming. Mr. Johnson ran through the living room back into the bedroom, jumped on the victim, and began choking her with his arm, ordering her to "shut up." Mr. Johnson told the victim that he could break her neck.

The victim stopped screaming and began to whimper and Mr. Johnson released the victim. She rolled over and the towel fell from the bed. Mr. Johnson told the victim to put the towel around her face and asked her when her husband would arrive. The victim told Mr. Johnson that she was only 15 years old and was not married. Mr. Johnson then asked when the child's parents would be arriving, and the victim told Mr. Johnson that she expected them in 15 or 20 minutes.



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Mr. Johnson ordered the victim to remove her pants, which she did. Mr. Johnson then forced the 15-year-old victim to submit to oral sex upon her and then forced her to have intercourse. Following that, Mr. Johnson tied the victim's feet up with a scarf, then went to the kitchen and rummaged around for a while and then left the apartment through the back door. The victim freed herself, locked the back door, called her mother, and then called the police. Eight days later, on July 14, 1977, Mr. Johnson raped another woman.

On July 14, 1977, the victim, Noreen Berland, returned home from a drugstore on her bicycle at approximately 9:30 a.m. She entered the outer door and was unlocking the security door when she saw Mr. Johnson. The victim thought she recognized Mr. Johnson, said hello, and held the door. As she ascended the stairs, the victim glanced back twice and saw that Mr. Johnson was following her. As the victim entered her apartment, Mr. Johnson forced his way in and grabbed her. Mr. Johnson covered the victim's mouth and said, "Just shut up and I won't hurt you." Mr. Johnson asked the victim if anyone else was in the apartment, and the victim falsely answered that her son was there.

The victim was able to free herself from Mr. Johnson's grasp and attempted to escape through the back door. However, Mr. Johnson caught her and wrapped a kitchen towel around her head. Despite Mr. Johnson's warnings, the victim tried to push the towel up so she could see him. The victim entered the dining room where she screamed and struggled with Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson threatened the victim with a hammer that he took from the table and told her to stop screaming. Mr. Johnson told the victim that he would not hurt her but that he was going to rape her. The victim continued to push the towel up and was able to see Mr. Johnson's face.

Mr. Johnson forced the victim into her son's bedroom where he told her to undress. At that time, he forced the victim to submit to oral sex upon her for 10 to 15 seconds, then forced the victim to have sexual intercourse.

Afterwards, Mr. Johnson dressed himself, left the bedroom and returned with a rope and tied up the victim. He then left the residence. The victim freed herself, locked the door, and discovered that the 10 dollars she had got that morning was missing from her purse. The victim called the police around 9:50 a.m. and gave them a description of Mr. Johnson.

After he was arrested for these offenses both victims in these incidents positively identified Mr. Johnson in a line-up.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Johnson's criminal history is extensive and troubling. In January 1960, Mr. Johnson was convicted of attempt robbery of Mary Smith and was sentenced to five years' probation, with the first six months to be served in the Cook County House of Corrections.

In March 1963, Mr. Johnson was found to be in violation of that probation for additional attacks on women and was sentenced to 30 to 60 years in prison. He was convicted of rape and armed robbery, due to attacking three different victims on different occasions within the same apartment complex. He was paroled in March 1974.



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While still on parole for those convictions, Mr. Johnson committed his most recent offenses. Additionally, it should be noted that Mr. Johnson committed the offense of rape with four different victims. As he was convicted in 1977 for two rapes of two victims, the other two charges for the other two victims were dismissed due to the sentence he received.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Since 1998, Mr. Johnson has received 11 tickets total. Starting with his earliest ticket since 1998 being in 2005 for unauthorized movement and his most recent ticket being in April of 2024 for Unauthorized movement. Mr. Johnson's tickets ranged from multiple disobeying a direct orders, insolence, contraband, drugs & drug paraphernalia, and unauthorized movement. In the past five years, Mr. Johnson has received two tickets; one in 2021 for drugs and drug paraphernalia and his most recent ticket Mr. Coates preciously mentioned from 2024.

Mr. Johnson was proud to discuss his programming, education and involvement with art. Mr. Johnson taught Art classes at Graham Correctional Center for 16 years and enjoyed mentoring other individuals in custody in art and making positive choices. Mr. Johnson earned his GED and associate's degree in art, and he shared he has three years of college course work completed and would like to complete his bachelors. Mr. Johnson is a talented artist and has sold his artwork at art fairs. Mr. Johnson shared being an artist and creating art was healing for him and he sought to help other individuals in custody use art as a coping skill to the issues they were having. Mr. Johnson prides himself on who he is today and how he has grown as an individual from his education.

STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

Mr. Johnson shared most of the things from 1977, as he has tried to put them out of his mind. He shared the repressive attitude within him that stemmed from his childhood may have caused him to do some of the things he did. He felt he was trying to do better as a human being, going to work, taking care of his wife and family, but much of it at times was overwhelming.

Many things he was experiencing within his family around eight or nine years old, caused him to have problems as he got older that he was unaware of at the time. During his education, he learned about himself, and how his childhood impacted his choices as a young man.

He despises himself for committing rapes and shared that is not him anymore. Mr. Johnson shared he did not really know what he was doing at the time and felt his psychological blocks contributed to this his criminal behavior. He tries not to live in the past and seeks to grow as a person.

Mr. Johnson felt it was unhealthy for him recall the specific details of these offenses and to relive it. He shared these crimes were heinous and when he thinks about it, he does not like himself and it was a deplorable thing. For some reason, committing those crimes was like relieving a pressure for him mentally at the time, adding it was very hard for him to picture himself being involved in rapes.



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Mr. Johnson stated he has a bad feeling when he thinks about those crimes. He shared he is very sorry for what he did, at the same time, those are things that he would never attempt to do today. He personally has tried to put the raping, entering apartments, tying women up in the past as it is just not healthy for him to relive as he only focuses on growing as a person. He feels he has beat himself up enough over the years for those deplorable acts, and he expressed gratitude to his education in learning about himself and where he was psychologically at that time of his life that caused him to commit these crimes.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Johnson would like to parole to the Regeneration Center in Alexandria, Minnesota, which is near his wife. Mr. Johnson feels he needs support medically and would be happy with a facility that could support his medical needs.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

Cook County State's Attorney provided a letter of opposition.

ENBANC HISTORY

Mr. Johnson has appeared before this board for parole consideration 26 times since 1986.

Closed Executive Session: MCOATES-KTUPY

Open Executive Session: JGRUBBS-RHEATON

DISCUSSION

Ms. Courtney Quam, Cook County's Assistant State's Attorney opposes parole, she does not believe he will conform to parole and his parole would be disrespectful to the law. Ms. Quam stated he did not take accountability for the crimes he committed until 2017 when DNA was tested. She stated they would like a five-year set.

Mr. Heaton stated due to the victim being traumatized more than three times just this year when providing testimony, he suggested moving forward, they get a recorded story from Ms. Costello to avoid retraumatizing her again and again.

Ms. Nichole Bartell, General Attorney for Cook County stated if Mr. Johnson was granted parole, he would have a 90 day stay required.

Mr. Bohland stated on December 31, 2024, Mr. Johnson stated that in his parole plan he wanted to work with youth is very concerning due to the crimes.

End of Discussion.



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DECISION AND RATIONALE

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

Motion for a 3-year set (MCOATES-RSHOFFNER). Motion prevailed by a unanimous vote.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Franklin Johnson'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. Johnson's 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."



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION- May 29, 2025

Individual in Custody's Name: Freddie Martin IDOC Number: C62434

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on May 29, 2025, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Freddie Martin C62434.

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

Recording Secretary: Ellen Wayne

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

On March 21, 2025, Mr. Freddie Martin was interviewed by Board Member, Jeffrey Grubbs, via WebEx, at Illinois River Correctional Center in Canton, Illinois.

Mr. Martin is 76 years old. He has three sisters and one brother, though one sister is deceased. In his last parole interview, he stated he is married and that his wife was still living somewhere in Virginia, but he is no longer certain of this at present. Together, they had a daughter, though she died in 1973. Mr. Martin's last contact with a visitor was in the early 1990's, with his mother and sister-in-law. He indicated he has since spoken with friends and attorneys on his behalf.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On the early evening of January 15, 1976, Mr. Martin, then 27 years of age, entered the Harvey, Illinois home of Herbert and Catherine Alferink, who were in their mid to late 70's at the time. Upon gaining entry, Mr. Martin tied and bound both victims and searched their home for valuables. He took jewelry, money, and a television. Next, he stabbed both victims repeatedly in the chest, until they were deceased.

After Mr. Martin robbed and murdered Mr. and Mrs. Alferink, he went to a nearby bar where he met another man and asked for a ride to Chicago. The man noticed Mr. Martin had blood on his shirt and pants, so he questioned him about whether he had been in a fight. Mr. Martin stated he had killed two people at a residence on a nearby street. This caused the man to tell Mr. Martin he would not get involved, so Mr. Martin threatened him with a knife, causing the man to run away.

Mr. Martin left the bar on foot and was stopped by police shortly afterwards, carrying a television. He explained to officers his car had broken down and the police officers documented the encounter with Mr. Martin and released him. Mr. Martin then summoned a taxi, which took him to within a half block of his home.



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When the daughter of the elderly victims arrived at their home the following day, she discovered her murdered parents on the kitchen floor. Her father was lying face down, while her mother was on her back with a knife in her chest. The hands and feet of both Mr. and Mrs. Alferink were bound with rope and when the police turned Mr. Alferink's body over, they discovered a knife embedded in his chest. An autopsy revealed Mrs. Alferink had been stabbed five times in the upper chest. She had abrasions in her lower and mid-chest and right thigh, as well as hemorrhages in the areas of her ankles and right wrist. The cause of death was a stab wound, which had severed her aorta and lung. Mr. Alferink had two stab wounds in his upper chest, one of which severed his pulmonary artery and aorta. The police found the bedrooms of the home ransacked.

The same day, a vehicle was stolen from a local business. A few hours later, Chicago Police officers located the stolen vehicle, which Mr. Martin was driving. The police tried to stop the car, but Mr. Martin took off at a high rate of speed and tried to elude the police. He eventually abandoned the car and fled on foot, though officers captured him. When they did, they discovered a revolver and several keys on his person. Mr. Martin was charged with theft of the vehicle. Following a bench trial, the Judge found him guilty and in June 1976, he was sentenced to one to four years in prison.

After Mr. Martin was taken into custody for the theft of the vehicle, Harvey Police received a tip from an informant regarding the murder of the Alferinks. This resulted in a search warrant of Mr. Martin's home where police recovered the Alferink's stolen television. The police were next directed to Mr. Martin's wife's home, where they recovered two rings stolen from the Alferink's home. This also led police to another person's home, where they recovered a \$1,000.00 cash bond of the Alferink's. Mr. Martin's wife informed police she got the rings from Mr. Martin and that he gave the other man the \$1,000.00 cash bond. She also told police he showed her a large bundle of money he had hidden in his sock.

Mr. Martin was charged with murder, armed robbery, and burglary. A jury found him guilty on all counts in December 1976 and the judge sentenced Mr. Martin to 150 to 450 years for the murder of Herbert Alferink, 150 to 450 years for the murder of Catherine Alferink, 20 to 60 years for Armed Robbery and three to nine years for burglary. All sentences were ordered to be served concurrently.

At Mr. Martin's jury trial, the State introduced information regarding two other murders which were being investigated where Mr. Martin was the prime suspect, though no charges were ever brought forward.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Martin has been incarcerated three times. Following a 1971 parole release and less than six months later, he committed a robbery. In 1975, he had been paroled for less than four months, when he murdered Mr. and Mrs. Alferink. Mr. Martin's criminal history dates from 1968-1976 for robbery, theft and burglaries. Of significance are the crimes committed against elderly victims.



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INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Martin has had over 75 institutional disciplinary incidents. Most of his disciplinary tickets were from 1977-2016. He has only had one disciplinary ticket since 2016 in November 2021, for unauthorized property. He is currently A grade, minimum security.

Mr. Martin has earned an Associate's Degree in Applied Science and has several certificates in electronics from Joliet Jr. College, though he has not participated in programming or employment for the last six years. He explained this was due to his age.

STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

Mr. Martin would only state he had a trial and was found guilty, denying his guilt. He also denied a statement attributed to him where he was said to have indicated in his previous parole interview that he did not care what the Board thought about him. He said he never made that statement.

Mr. Martin went on to mention, without questioning, that he was a member of a street gang prior to incarceration. He alleged he formally renounced his gang membership, but there was no documentation of this in his file.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Martin's only parole plan is to temporarily live with his sister before transitioning to a yet to be determined transition center. He would prefer to reside at St. Leonard's Ministry. He recognized he will need assistance with re-entry, especially his mental health needs. He stated he is too old to work and did not know how he would support himself.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

The Cook County State's Attorney's Office submitted a May 2025 letter opposing parole. A representative from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office was present at this hearing and indicated there was no additional testimony from their office, other than the information they presented in their opposition letter.

There are detailed and impactful opposition letters which have been received currently, and throughout the years, from family members of the victims regarding the murders, their loss, and the impact it continues to have on them.

Impactful protest testimony was also heard in person during this hearing from the family and a friend of the Alferinks. They provided additional, powerful, and impactful testimony regarding the impact this crime has and continues to have on all of them. They each requested Mr. Martin's parole be denied and a five-year set be approved.



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ENBANC HISTORY

This is Mr. Martin's 31st En-Banc hearing and his last En Banc was in May 2022.

Closed Executive Session: JGRUBBS-RHEATON

Open Executive Session: JGRUBBS-MCOATES

DISCUSSION

Ms. Courtney Quam, Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, opposes the granting of parole for Mr. Martin and requested an extended set from the Board.

Ms. Joann Alferink stated her husband is the grandson of the victims and how they were innocent people, too nice, and this has caused them to be victimized by coming to these hearings. She stated they do not want anyone in their family or community to be at risk if he is released. She said it would be nice to get a break and requested for a five-year set. Ms. Alferink stated just receiving the letter in the mail is painful.

Mr. Grubbs questioned Ms. Alferink why she stated three years in the handwritten letter but today she is asking for a five-year set. She stated that must have been an error and she would love for a five-year set.

Ms. Georgia, the victim's daughter-in-law, stated the victim was her mother-in-law, she was tied up, beaten and he stole a chain purse. He was sentenced and then paroled, then stabbed other victims and set them on fire. She wants their loved ones to be remembered while he still takes accountability for what he has done.

Mr. Tupy questioned the original statement of facts, he was suspected of six other murders but was only convicted of one.

Ms. Quam verified that was accurate.

End of Discussion.



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DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (JGRUBBS-RHEATON). Motion prevailed by a unanimous vote.

Motion for a 5-year set (JGRUBBS-JBOHLAND). Motion prevailed by a unanimous vote.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Freddie Martin'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. Martin's 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."



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION- May 29, 2025

Individual in Custody's Name: Melvin Thegpen IDOC Number: C63418

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on May 29, 2025, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Melvin Thegpen C63418.

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

Recording Secretary: Ellen Wayne

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

On April 22, 2025, Mr. Melvin Thegpen was scheduled to be interviewed by Board Member, Kenneth Tupy via WebEx at Joliet Treatment Center. However, Melvin Thegpen refused to come to the interview. Mr. Thegpen, age 72, was convicted of aggravated kidnapping, rape, and attempted murder, in Cook County. He was sentenced to serve 50-100 years concurrently for each of those three offenses. He has been in Illinois Department of Corrections custody since December 1975; therefore, he has served over 49 years in custody as of the May 30, 2024, En Banc hearing date. Mr. Thegpen's current Mandatory Supervised Release date is May 4, 2044. Mr. Thegpen has refused to be interviewed for parole purposes since 2006 until 2023 when he was interviewed by Board Member, Rodger Heaton.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On December 1, 1975, the victim, a 17-year-old girl, was attending Rich East High School. She stayed after school to attend cheerleading practice. After practice, she walked alone down a school hallway to the parking lot of the school. It was there she encountered 22-year-old Mr. Thegpen. He asked her if she had been at girls' volleyball, and she tried to ignore him and continued walking to the parking lot. He then grabbed her and placed a gun to her back. He told her he had a gun, and she saw in fact that he did have a revolver. He then forced her out of the school parking lot at gunpoint and forced her into his car.

Mr. Thegpen drove her out to a rural area and sexually assaulted her at gunpoint. After sexually assaulting her, he asked her what her age was. She told him that she was 15 years old. He replied, "oh you're just a baby. I'm so sorry." Mr. Thegpen then told her that he would take her back to the high school. Instead, Mr. Thegpen drove a short distance and forced her out of the car into a ditch. While she was lying in the ditch, he pointed the pistol at her and fired a total of four times.

The first shot struck the victim in the right side below her ribs and exited out her back. When she screamed, he fired a second time. The second bullet grazed the left side of the victim's body. She screamed again, and Mr. Thegpen fired a third time, missing her. After the third shot, she pretended to be dead. He began to walk away but returned and fired a fourth shot at the victim. The fourth shot



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struck the ground approximately two feet away from the victim where she was lying in the ditch. When she believed he had left, she made her way to a farmhouse in Monee, Illinois to get help.

She was taken to St. James Hospital and the victim identified both Mr. Thegpen and his car to authorities. He was found guilty by a jury at trial and sentenced to 50-100 years for each of the three charges. Three years after the conviction and sentencing, he filed a late notice of appeal which was denied because it was untimely.

During prior interviews with the Board, Mr. Thegpen is reported to have made delusional statements including that, "The judge sees [Mr. Thegpen] every day," that he "has all the keys," that he does not want to get out, that he owns financial institutions all over the country, that he doesn't want to see the Parole Board," and that, "my work is here."

In a prior parole interview, Mr. Thegpen said he had not been convicted, but instead had experienced a mistrial, and simply was not re-tried or ever released thereafter. After being advised that this contradicted the information in the file, that he had been convicted following a jury trial, and sentenced, Mr. Thegpen did not have a response other than to repeat the remark regarding a mistrial. There is no appellate and post-conviction record. An untimely appeal, filed three years after judgment, was rejected.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

In 1970, Mr. Thegpen was charged with Criminal Damage to Property.

On May 1, 1973, Mr. Thegpen was arrested for Aggravated Battery and Rape; the allegations involved the abduction of a girl from Bloom High School by knifepoint. According to the Cook County State's Attorney's Office letter of opposition dated June 28, 2018, "Thegpen was also placed in a lineup on two prior occasions in which female victims conditionally identified him but failed to make positive identifications because of fear of retribution.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

During his incarceration, Mr. Thegpen has accumulated 113 disciplinary violations; most are related to failure to submit to medical testing. However, there are a number of tickets for fighting or assaults, but none since May 14, 2011, when he received one month of isolated confinement for fighting.

IDOC records indicate that Mr. Thegpen has held no job assignments during his incarceration. He is currently a resident at the Joliet Treatment Center, due to mental health issues. Staff has advised that he stays mostly in his cell and does not come out.

Mr. Thegpen was born in Jackson, Mississippi, and was raised by his mother, as his parents had divorced. Mr. Thegpen's mother worked at Ford Motor Company in Chicago Heights and his father lived in Chicago. Mr. Thegpen has a son, according to a pre-sentence report from 1976. IDOC records, however, indicate that he has no recent contact from family or friends.



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PAROLE PLANS

He has presented no parole plans and only wants to be left alone.

ENBANC HISTORY

Closed Executive Session: KTUPY-JGRUBBS

Open Executive Session: JGRUBBS-JBOHLAND

DISCUSSION

Ms. Courtney Quam, Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, stated due to his prior offenses, she opposes parole and mentioned his extensive ticket history.

Ms. Nichole Bartell, Assistant Attorney General, stated Mr. Thegpen would have a 90 day hold if paroled under Sexually Violent Persons Act.

End of Discussion.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (KTUPY-JGRUBBS). Motion prevailed by a unanimous vote.

Motion for a 3-year set (JGRUBBS-JBOHLAND). Motion failed with 4-5 vote. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bohland, Ms. Globokar, Mr. Grubbs, and Ms. Terrones. Mr. Coates, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Tison and Mr. Tupy dissented.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Melvin Thegpen'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. Thegpen's 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."