



STATE OF ILLINOIS
JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION- June 25, 2026

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1001 N. Walnut Street, Springfield, Illinois, on June 25, 2026, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following individuals in custody:

M40764	Aikens, Jansen*
<i>*Cook County Case</i>	

The meeting was called to order by Jeffrey Grubbs, Board Member.

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Ellen Wayne.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mr. Jared Bohland	X	
Ms. Tracy Buckley	X	
Mr. Matthew Coates	X	
Mr. Jeffrey Grubbs	X	
Mr. Rodger Heaton	X	
Ms. Holly Lemons	X	
Ms. Robin Shoffner	X	
Ms. Carmen Terrones	X	
Mr. Kenneth Tupy	X	

9 Members Present

0 Members Absent

The Board heard the case of Jansen Aikens M40764.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL for April 23, 2026

HLEMONS – KTUPY

Open Session: KTUPY – HLEMONS

Meeting was adjourned by: KTUPY – TBUCKLEY



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Individual in Custody's Name: Aikens, Jansen* IDOC Number: M40764

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1001 N. Walnut Street, Springfield, Illinois, on June 25, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Jansen Aikens M40764.

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

Recording Secretary: Ellen Wayne

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

On May 20, 2026, Mr. Jansen Aikens, IDOC #M40764, was interviewed by Board Member Rodger Heaton via Webex at Robinson Correctional Center. He was represented by his attorneys Ms. Lindsay Strong, Ms. Dina Hayes, and Mr. Cameron Davis.

Mr. Aikens was convicted following a bench trial of First Degree Attempt Murder of Police Officer, Aggravated Unlawful Use of Weapon, and Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm. He was sentenced to 40 years for attempted murder and three years concurrent on the Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon. Mr. Aikens' sentence was later reduced on May 21, 2021, to 22 years due to changes in the law regarding de facto life sentences for youthful offenders.

After his re-sentencing, Mr. Aikens' minimum projected Mandatory Supervised Release Date is July 11, 2031, at which time Mr. Aikens will be 36 years old.

Mr. Aikens was 17 years old and nine months at the time of his October 13, 2012, offenses. Mr. Aikens' date of birth is January 6, 1995. He has served 13 years and eight months as of this En Banc hearing, which is approximately 62% of his final sentence, of which he is required to serve 85%.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Records reflect that on October 13, 2012, Mr. Aikens and at least a couple of other members, one named Mr. McKinley, of the gang that he participated in, called the Black P Stones, went into what was known to be territory of a rival gang with the Conservative Vice Lords. There were three undercover police officers near the location who recognized one of the persons with Mr. Aikens as a P-Stone, and that their presence in this location would create a risk of provoking an incident. One of the officers got out of the unmarked police vehicle and approached them, Mr. McKinley began to walk away, and Mr. Aikens also started to walk away in a different direction. He was seen reaching toward his right side, so officer who had been approaching began following him. As the officer continued to approach Mr. Aikens, Mr. Aikens pulled a .38 caliber revolver from his right side. The other two police officers who had remained in the unmarked police car observed Mr. Aikens running away from the approaching officer, as



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they were following in their vehicle behind the officer who was on foot. They observed Mr. Aikens run for about a half a block, then turn back toward the three officers, get into a shooting position and with both hands on the firearm shoot at the unmarked car five times. The officers returned fire to Mr. Aikens. The officers then continued to chase Mr. Aikens, after which they caught and arrested him approximately one block away. They recovered the gun that Mr. Aikens had used, and five spent shell casings.

Mr. Aikens made a post-Miranda admission that he knew he had been shooting at police officers even though they were undercover and not in uniform and were wearing police vests and badges. The vehicle was a Crown Victoria with municipal plates.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

This was discussed in closed session.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Aikens completed his General Educational Development (GED) in November of 2017. While housed at Western Correctional Center, he did start a business math class, and another class that he thought was psychology, but was only in the classes for about one month before he moved to Pinckneyville Correctional Center. At Pinckneyville, he won the chess tournament for his house.

While he was at Cook County Jail, in connection with his re-sentencing, he started a couple of college classes there such as Restoration Justice, creative writing, and yoga through DePaul University. He also started working two hours a day as a tutor on pre-GED work with other individuals in custody, after his re-sentencing in 2021, until he was transferred out.

He is presently housed at Robinson Correctional Center, adding he enjoys reading books, his favorite is fantasy but said he enjoys everything. He shared his favorite pastime is drawing and he is able to trade his drawings for things with other individuals and envisions completing enough drawings that he could have an online presence and develop a following of his work. Importantly, he is on the waitlist for Thinking for Change, Aim Higher, Drug Awareness, and New Directions.

Mr. Aikens worked as a baker in the kitchen and as a porter for his housing wing at Western Correctional Center. He currently works as a laundry room operator at Robinson Correctional Center and has been working since December 1, 2024.

Records reflect Mr. Aikens has received six minor tickets and one major ticket. The first minor ticket was issued January 24, 2019, and the second on March 14, 2022. However, he received three in 2023, including the major ticket for drug use to which he explained that he had planned to trade another individual for a drawing he created, but the individual could not pay what was originally agreed to and he offered some drug laced paper instead, to which Mr. Aikens accepted and smoked. He readily admitted that this was wrong, adding it was a stupid decision, and he regretted it.

The most recent minor tickets were issued on February 6, 2026, and February 26, 2026. He stated he had slept past the time he was supposed to be at work in the laundry room, and when he woke up, he



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realized he had overslept. He stated that he knew he was late, so he just did not go to work that day. The other ticket was his failure to sign in, in connection with going to his work assignment. He received verbal reprimands only for these tickets.

STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

In Mr. Aikens's petition, he describes the offense similarly but stated that he and his brother were drunk and high while hanging out with older gang members. He stated the older gang members wanted to go into the rival gang's territory to provoke them, and they wanted Mr. Aikens' brother, because he was the youngest among them, age 15 years old, to carry the gun they would take along with them. Then, when a signal was given, he was to give the gun to an older gang member. Mr. Aikens did not want his younger brother to be involved in this, so he volunteered to hold the gun instead of his younger brother and that is then what happened. When he approached the older gang member with the gun, he would not take it because the undercover police officers had approached in the unmarked car, and one of them had gotten out to approach. He stated that is when Mr. McKinley and Mr. Aikens turned to walk away. In his petition, Mr. Aikens explained that he did not know the approaching person was a police officer at first but realized it thereafter.

Mr. Aikens explained that he was scared of what was going to happen to him, especially since he was carrying a gun, so he panicked and started walking away. He then decided to fire the gun into the air, hoping it would cause the police to hesitate and he could get away. Instead, they returned fire, and it culminated in his arrest, after he had fired multiple more shots in their direction.

He stated at his sentencing, at his re-sentencing, again in his petition for Youthful Parole, and in his interview with Mr. Heaton, that he regrets his choices and actions, and that he is very thankful that no one was hurt or killed in this incident.

Mr. Heaton questioned Mr. Aikens in his interview where he got the gun that he used in the offense. He stated that the older gang member present at this incident, Mr. McKinley, had given it to him to carry. He stated he has not spoken to Mr. McKinley since the crimes occurred. He has not been involved with the gang at all since being incarcerated and has recently learned about Illinois Department of Corrections formal renunciation process adding he now intends to follow through with that process.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Aikens has been accepted to reside full-time at St. Leonard's, and to participate in their programming. He would have a case manager, participate in vocational training programs, have access to mentoring, counseling, life skills, financial literacy training, health care services, educational and employments services, and support of staff. He intends to do so, taking advantage of these reentry resources and after that transition, he will return to living at his mother's home.

As time permits on weekends, and other occasions, even while living at St. Leonard's, he will work alongside his uncle learning to do the maintenance for their family's six unit, three story building in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago. He will assist with snow removal, cleaning, cooking and



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other life duties. He expressed that he feels a strong sense of responsibility to help care for his mother and uncle as they continue to get older.

He then plans to enroll in college at Loyola University, majoring in computer engineering and minoring in graphic design. He stated he would like to earn his degree, and he intends to work part-time while enrolled in college.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

The Cook County State's Attorney's Office submitted a letter in protest of the petition for youthful parole. The other victim protest information was discussed by the Board members in closed session.

ENBANC HISTORY

This is Mr. Aikens' first time in front of the Board for a parole consideration.

Closed Executive Session: RHEATON - MCOATES

Open Executive Session: TBUCKLEY - HLEMONS

DISCUSSION

Ms. Lindsey Strong, Mr. Aikens' attorney, started off explaining why he should be released now. She stated every additional year diminishes his re-entry and delays the contributions that he is ready to make to society. She stated he has never received a violent ticket for having a weapon after 13 years of incarceration. She explained how he has taken advantage of all the educational courses that he can, and he is now working on completing college courses. She stated the institution cannot accommodate what he needs. She then explained how long-term imprisonment will not allow him to be successful and will only work against him. She stated he is in his early 30 years and still has time to build a career and establish himself in society. She stated he has no work history outside of prison. Upon his release, he will go to St. Leonard's full time which will provide him structure. He then will return to stable housing with his family. She then quotes the Constitution. She stated that five more years will only postpone his success. She read a letter from his adoptive mother who was not able to be at the hearing due to taking care of her brother who has cancer.

Ms. Courtney Quam, Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, stated their office opposes granting parole in this case. She stated he was the sole person in this case and court decided that 22 years in prison is an accurate sentence for the crimes that he committed. She stated these are choices that he made and explains how he diverts the blame. She stated he chose to join the gang and participate in this, along with choosing to shoot at two police officers. She stated there are several inconsistencies on what he is actually taking accountability for. She stated he has not taken life skill courses or group therapy. She stated it is an issue that he has a drug ticket, as for when he committed the crime, he stated he was drunk and high. She stated the seriousness of the offense must be considered and stated only by luck did he not kill two officers or himself that night. She stated that he did not fire a shot into the air but shot at the officers



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directly knowing they were officers trapped in their vehicle. She believes officers are here to serve and protect and that it was a miracle no one was killed.

Ms. Strong stated numerous times she has spoken to him, he has always been remorseful and accepted responsibility for what he did. She quoted a statement that he made at his resentencing.

Mr. Aiken read a letter to the Board that he prepared. He stated to this day, he is sorry for what he did to the officers, and he has been trying to better himself as a man. He shares the courses he has taken since being in custody and how he respects the correctional officers. He discusses the tickets he has received and stated it is all a lesson learned. He shares what he will do when he is released and where he will stay. He stated that he will take every opportunity he can and would like to share his experience to lead others on the right path. He stated this is his chance to make it right and he thanked the Board for this opportunity.

Mr. Heaton stated he does not recall the five courses Mr. Aikens spoke about. Ms. Strong stated he took those courses on his table, after his interview with Mr. Heaton.

End of Discussion.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

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

After reviewing the 15 Statutory Factors and applying them to the evidence in this case, the Board decided that Mr. Jansen Aikens should be denied parole.

“The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm. The Board further notes that, pursuant to Illinois law, victim statements are confidential and privileged.”