



STATE OF ILLINOIS
 JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Donald Shelton, Chair

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— July 27, 2023

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on July 27, 2023, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following individuals in custody:

L01404	PITTS, EDDIE *
L40191	CLAY, ROOSEVELT *
C10475	LARSON, RAYMOND *
R03087	PARKER, LEONARD

The meeting was called to order by Donald Shelton, Chair.
 Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Alexandria Bryan.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mr. Jared Bohland	X	
Mr. Matthew Coates	X	
Ms. Julie Globokar	X	
Ms. Darryldean Goff	X	
Mr. Jeffrey Grubbs	X	
Mr. Rodger Heaton	X	
Ms. LeAnn Miller	X	
Mr. Donald Shelton, Chair	X	
Ms. Robin Shoffner	X	
Ms. Carmen Terrones	X	
Ms. Krystal Tison		X
Mr. Kenneth Tupy	X	

11 Members Present

1 Members Absent

The Board heard the case of as detailed in the individual case minutes.

Open Executive Session: RS-LM Closed Executive Session: LM-MC

Meeting was adjourned by (LM-CT) Leave.



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— July 27 2023**

Individual in custody's Name: Leonard Parker IDOC Number: R03087

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on July 27, 2023, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Leonard Parker R03087.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Coates, Ms. Globokar, Ms. Goff, Mr. Grubbs, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Miller, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones, Mr. Tupy, and Mr. Shelton, Chairman.

Recording Secretary: Alexandria Bryan.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

The basis for the Board's decision, at this time, is as follows:

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The Prisoner Review Board reviewed parole eligibility of Mr. Leonard Parker, who was within two years of reaching the minimum discharge date of a 25-year term of imprisonment for first degree murder. He was charged by amended information with four counts of first-degree murder on September 12, 2000. Mr. Leonard Parker's arrest and conviction stemmed from the stabbing, by a co-defendant, of the victim Mr. Charles Downes during the course of a robbery. Mr. Leonard Parker was not the person who committed the stabbing but was charged under the theory of accountability. Mr. Leonard Parker was the youngest of the three offenders at 16 years old.

The review of this case for parole consideration was authorized under the Youthful Parole Act and included a review of the case facts, Mr. Leonard Parker's institutional adjustment, his record of accomplishments, and his parole plan.

Apparently, Mr. Leonard Parker's conviction resulted from a robbery gone awry when co-offender Mr. Michael Frailey deviated from the plan, and stabbed Mr. Charles Downes 37 times. According to the petition Mr. Leonard Parker "*witnessed the brutal attack and was ordered by Frailey to take Downes' wallet from a pair of pants on the floor and spare change from the bedroom.*"



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INDIVIDUAL IN CUSTODY'S STATEMENT

The petition describes Mr. Leonard Parker as a “reluctant accomplice” to what was supposed to have been a robbery of the victim, Mr. Charles Downes. The crime was planned by his 26-year-old half-sister, Ms. Daniella Myles. Ms. Danielle Myles is currently serving a 40-year sentence with a current projected Mandatory Supervised Release date in 2040.

Apparently, Mr. Charles Downes was the biological grandfather of Ms. Danielle Myles' children. Sometime prior to the crime, according to the petition, Mr. Charles Downes was the subject of an unsubstantiated claim by Ms. Danielle Myles that he molested one of her children.

Other co-offenders were Ms. Danielle Myles' boyfriend, 22-year-old Mr. Michael Frailey, who is serving a 55-year sentence, with projected Mandatory Supervised Release date in 2055. Again, he is the one who stabbed the victim to death. The third co-offender was Mr. Michael Frailey's 18-year-old sister, Ms. Deborah A. Sims. Ms. Deborah A. Sims is serving a 25-year sentence with a projected Mandatory Supervised Release date in 2025.

On October 26, 2000, Mr. Leonard Parker entered into a negotiated plea wherein the State would not seek a sentence greater than 50 years. On December 14, 2000, he was sentenced to a 35-year term. In 2020 following The U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Miller v. Alabama* he filed a post-conviction petition challenging his guilty plea and sentence. Although that petition was denied the trial court's decision was overturned by the Appellate Court and the case was remanded. Ultimately, he was re-sentenced to a 25yr term after pleading guilty a second time. He has been in continuous custody for 26 years and his projected Mandatory Supervised Release date is August 21, 2025.

The petition describes the circumstances of a less-than-ideal upbringing, Mr. Leonard Parker spent a lot of time at age 12 in two bars owned by his mother and an abusive stepfather, witnessing fights; actually, serving alcohol; remaining on premises until bar close, as well as witnessing fights between his parents. He began to incorporate an “acting tough” persona and started using marijuana and alcohol.

Parental neglect resulted in time spent in foster care.

The petition also refers to the one stable force in his life being his older sister, Ms. Christy Parker, although that influence was gone when she escaped the family chaos by joining the army.



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INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

A review of institutional discipline referrals finds that the worst of those were four incidents of Disobeying Direct Orders, all at the age of 19. None of the referrals were the result of violence.

Review of institutional files, and of letters of recommendation from the Illinois Department of Corrections staff inform the Board Members that Mr. Leonard Parker has functioned within the institution as a Certified Peer Educator, Peer Mentor, and that he had established a satisfactory record of employment both within the institution and within the community via an Adult Transition Center. Verified skills in plumbing, carpentry, clerkship, and general maintenance are noted.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Ms. Carolyn Klarquist stated that Mr. Leonard Parker filed a clemency petition last year unsure of whether the juvenile statute would apply to him. Mr. Leonard Parker was 16 years old when this happened, he is turning 40 this upcoming January. He is great representation as to why we approved this juvenile statute. Peoria ATC is confident that he will be released today, they allowed him to sign a lease on an apartment. Based on his conduct in prison, his kindness, and growth he should be granted parole today. He currently has two jobs and obtained his driver's license. He has put in the hard work.

Ms. Miller stated that she was very impressed with what he has done. Mr. Leonard Parker obtained his GED and took college classes. Ms. Miller questioned if there is contradiction in information. The Parole Plan stated that Mr. Leonard Parker would parole to his mother's home in Oden, IL or he would parole to sister's home in Carlinville, IL.

Ms. Klarquist stated that as of Monday, Peoria Parole has approved a host site, his own home so that he can stay in Peoria with his two jobs that he has already established.

Ms. Miller questioned what was going on with his wife in Texas.

Ms. Klarquist stated that Mr. Leonard Parker has divorced his wife in Texas since the petition has been filed.

Mr. Coates stated that it is great to see that Mr. Leonard Parker has been working in the community and wants to stay where he has been working.

Ms. Klarquist stated that Peoria ATC has been a great transition for Mr. Leonard Parker.

No opposition.

End of discussion.



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DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to grant parole (DS-MC). Motion prevails by a unanimous vote.

After a complete review of Mr. Leonard Parker's case, and after giving thoughtful discussion and consideration to all factors, the Board decided and voted to grant parole to Mr. Leonard Parker, subject to conditions of parole release as set by the Board and by law. The Board hereby finds that Mr. Leonard Parker 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— July 27, 2023

Individual in custody's Name: Eddie Pitts *

IDOC Number: L01404

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on July 27, 2023, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Eddie Pitts L01404.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Coates, Ms. Globokar, Ms. Goff, Mr. Grubbs, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Miller, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones, Mr. Tupy, and Mr. Shelton, Chairman.

Recording Secretary: Alexandria Bryan.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

The basis for the Board's decision, at this time, is as follows:

On February 15, 2023, Mr. Eddie Pitts was interviewed by Board Member Ms. Julie Globokar via WebEx at Dixon Correctional Center, where at the time he was residing in general population in the outpatient healthcare unit. He has since been transferred to Lawrence Correctional Center. The interview began at 9:06am and ended at 10:15am. Also present were attorney Ms. Miriam Sierig of the Office of the State Appellate Defender (working pro bono) and Mr. Eddie Pitts' nephew, Mr. Zebedee Pitts, and sister, Ms. Clare Pitts, to speak on his behalf.

Mr. Eddie Pitts was 70 years old at the time of the interview and serving a 150–300-year sentence for a murder that occurred on November 30, 1976, when he was 24 years old. Mr. Eddie Pitts was sentenced in 1980 and has served 43 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Mr. Eddie Pitts was cooperative and appeared to be in good health. He spoke energetically and gave the impression of candor in his statements.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On November 30, 1976, the victim, Mr. Jerry Keane, and his co-worker, Mr. Winston McCain, were on duty as servicemen for People's Gas Company. They responded to a call of a possible gas leak at 6620 South Harvard Avenue in Chicago, where Mr. Eddie Pitts and Mr. Edward Stewart were present. When they arrived, Mr. Edward Stewart answered the door and let them into the house and informed the servicemen that the gas odor was emanating from a bedroom. The four men walked upstairs to the bedroom, during which time Mr. Eddie Pitts was reported not to have done anything unusual. They all then proceeded to the basement to inspect the furnace. Serviceman Mr. Jerry Keane experienced difficulty removing the furnace door, so his coworker Mr. Winston McCain started to proceed upstairs to retrieve a screwdriver. As Mr. Winston McCain was going up the stairs, Mr. Jerry Keane screamed for help. Mr. Winston McCain returned downstairs and witnessed Mr. Eddie Pitts with his left arm

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around Mr. Jerry Keane's neck, hitting or 'stabbing' him in the chest with his right hand. Mr. Winston McCain then ran outside to radio for help. There were no reports of a dispute or argument of any kind preceding the attack.

When police reported to the scene, Mr. Eddie Pitts was no longer present. Police found Mr. Jerry Keane lying on the basement floor with bloodstains all over his body and no vital signs. It was determined that he had been stabbed over 23 times in his back, neck, arm, chest, upper abdomen, and thigh.

The police identified Mr. Eddie Pitts as the attacker the following day. In his interview with police, Mr. Eddie Pitts stated he had thrown away the knife used in the killing and had spent the night in a vacant building. During the interview Mr. Eddie Pitts was reported to have been speaking in normal tones and acting normally.

Mr. Eddie Pitts was charged with the murder but initially declared unfit for trial. He was declared fit in 1978 and requested an evaluation for sanity at the time of the offense. In 1979 he was deemed fit to stand trial with medication. Mr. Eddie Pitts pled not guilty by reason of insanity and chose to be tried by a jury. The jury rejected the insanity defense and found him guilty of murder. Mr. Eddie Pitts was sentenced according to the indeterminate sentencing laws that had been in effect at the time of the crime, to 150 to 300 years of imprisonment. At sentencing, the judge noted that the victim had been doing repair work for 23 years and that "he was attacked by the defendant in the basement of a home, without warning, without provocation, while he was defenseless, and in a defenseless position, and that he was stabbed 23 times in the chest, abdomen, kidneys, hands, and that the attack was indeed exceptionally brutal." The state's attorney stated at that time that if Mr. Eddie Pitts were ever to be considered for parole, he should receive a full mental health evaluation to be reviewed for civil commitment pursuant to the mental health code.

Mr. Eddie Pitts filed an appeal on a number of procedural grounds, including the claim that the trial court erred in failing to instruct the jury of the procedure to be followed upon a verdict of not guilty by reason of insanity. The Appellate Court affirmed the conviction and sentence. *People v. Eddie Pitts*, 104 Ill. App. 3d 451, 432 N.E. 2d. 1062 (1st Dist. 1982).

INDIVIDUAL IN CUSTODY'S STATEMENT TO THE OFFENSE

Mr. Eddie Pitts expressed significant remorse regarding the crime, including sorrow for the victim's family and a wish that he could pay restitution or even give his own life to bring the victim back. Mr. Eddie Pitts stated that he didn't wake up on the day of the offense with intentions to hurt anyone, describing it as an "awful day," his worst day, in which he had been feeling bad about people abusing him, taking things from him, and treating him like he was nothing, and in the instant of the offense, "something just entered his brain, and stole his brain, he thought it was God," telling him that he had to protect himself. Mr. Eddie Pitts asked for forgiveness. His file documents that at various points he's described the crime as a result of feeling threatened, hearing a voice of God telling him to kill or be killed, believing he was on a mission, or seeing the victim as a dog about to attack him. During the interview he displayed what appeared to be sincere frustration over not wanting to have done the act, but also feeling that he was genuinely helpless to stop what had transpired in that moment.



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CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Eddie Pitts was previously arrested and charged with an Unlawful Use of a Weapon in 1975 and failed to appear, resulting in a bond forfeiture; subsequent to his arrest on a warrant he pled guilty and was sentenced to one year probation with a \$100 fine. While serving his time on probation, on April 22, 1976, he was arrested and charged with an assault that was eventually dismissed. The present offense occurred eight months after that assault. Minimal detail was available regarding the past offenses.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Overall, Mr. Eddie Pitts has demonstrated positive institutional adjustment. His master file indicates that from the late 1980s to the early 2000s, he held a number of job assignments including in maintenance, janitorial services, and leisure time services, and worked for a short time in dietary. He was active in arts and crafts and sports-related and religious activities, and had attempted to attend school, even filing a grievance to try to re-enter the GED program when he was removed due to a low-test score. Mr. Eddie Pitts reported during the interview that since his transfer to Dixon in 2011 he had focused his time on reading, working out, and working on self-improvement.

Regarding his disciplinary history, Mr. Eddie Pitts has received mostly minor tickets, with the notable exception of a major ticket for an assault on another individual in custody on April 18, 2022 that resulted in six months of segregation. Mr. Eddie Pitts maintains that the incident was warranted as self-defense, contrary to witness statements. This Board inquired as to whether there was video of the incident to allow an assessment of whether there was a basis for Mr. Eddie Pitts's self-defense claim, but none was provided. Mr. Eddie Pitts received 29 tickets in the 1980s; from 1991 - 1999, Mr. Eddie Pitts received only three tickets; since that time, he has generally received 1-3 tickets a year, mostly minor, with stretches from 2007-2010 and 2019 – 2020 with no tickets at all.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Eddie Pitts has the benefit of strong family support. Despite the length of his incarceration, Mr. Eddie Pitts has continued to receive calls and visits from numerous family members, many of whom have written of their willingness to support his transition back to society. His attorneys had secured placement at The Estates of Hyde Park, a skilled nursing facility for the aging that provides psychiatric support, but they recently rescinded their acceptance of Mr. Eddie Pitts due to a change in ownership that resulted in a change in their target "demographics." Earlier in the week of this hearing, Mr. Eddie Pitts has secured acceptance from another facility, MADO Healthcare Uptown, which is primarily awaiting his Medicaid application, immunization history, and the results of this hearing to finalize his admission. The admission coordinator who is working with Mr. Eddie Pitts indicated this is the first placement of which she is aware from IDOC into their facility; however, they specialize in residential psychiatric care, tailoring to geriatric patients who may also have medical needs. Their residents share rooms, with floors tailored to address varying needs based on residents' relative symptomology and physical independence or need for care.



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In discussing the possibility of release, Mr. Eddie Pitts communicated an interest in learning how the world operates with all the changes in technology and stated a desire to “do something useful” after release, in industry, though this would not be possible at MADO due to residents being expected to remain on campus. Mr. Eddie Pitts also stated his interest in medication or treatment to help his memory issues. His nephew, Mr. Zebedee Pitts, offered to provide housing if it were helpful, although Mr. Eddie Pitts conveyed reservations about such a placement; his sister, Ms. Clare Pitts, stated that his release from IDOC would make it easier for family to visit him, but she would like to see her brother benefit from placement in an institution that could provide him with proper support.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

The Cook County State’s Attorney has written multiple years with opposition to Mr. Eddie Pitts’ release, as have several individuals.

EN BANC HISTORY

Mr. Eddie Pitts was first considered for parole in 1987, just seven years after his initial sentencing. He has appeared before the PRB more than 20 times. He has received at least seven three-year sets, in 1988, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2009, 2013, and 2016. A motion for a 3-year set failed in 1998. Mr. Eddie Pitts did not receive a single vote for parole until 2019, when a motion to grant parole failed by a 3-8 vote; in 2020 a motion to deny failed by a 7-7 split; in 2021 a motion to deny passed by 11-3; and in 2022 a motion to grant parole failed by a 3-5 vote.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Ms. Carolyn Klarquist, Mr. Eddie Pitts’ attorney, stated that the charge happened in 1976, and the trial was after 1980. She stated that Illinois Department of Corrections has the inability to treat Mr. Eddie Pitt’s Mental Health, and they haven’t done so for 46 years. Mr. Richard Pitts, Mr. Eddie Pitt’s older brother, also has dementia. It runs in the family, and his brother does not recognize anyone. We do not want Mr. Eddie Pitts in that circumstance while in Illinois Department of Corrections. If Mr. Eddie Pitts is allowed to go to MADO, they will provide that care for him. This is a long-standing mental illness. Mr. Eddie Pitts is number 10 of 11 children. Mr. Eddie Pitts’ sister stated that her parents knew that something was different with him. Mental illness doesn’t run in their family. She stated that she can’t guarantee placement for anyone coming out of prison. Mr. Eddie Pitts does have placement at this time. His condition will just get worse if he stays in Illinois Department of Corrections. Mr. Eddie Pitts is very self-aware, but the dementia is on the rise for him and the humane thing to do is to get him treatment.

Ms. Miriam Sierig, Mr. Eddie Pitts’ attorney, stated that this was the third time she has been at En Banc for Mr. Eddie Pitts. She stated that the Board Members need to vote for medical care. This is a clinical issue for Mr. Eddie Pitts. He is not being treated and hasn’t been treated for 20 years for his mental illness. He is now diagnosed with mild dementia. As far as we know he has had no care for his mild



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dementia. We have had him evaluated twice for nursing facilities for placement after parole. He has been a qualified for MADO Health Care in Chicago, it is a nursing facility that specializes in Mental Health needs for elderly patients. She stated that they had a psychiatric evaluation from the University of Chicago completed, Mr. Eddie Pitts as diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, and it was not taken care of while in Illinois Department of Corrections at Dixon Correctional Center. He has been punished for 46 years but not allowed treatment.

Mr. Grubbs questioned the May 2022 incident.

Ms. Klarquist stated that Mr. Eddie Pitts is very honest. He stated that another inmate threw a chair at him, and they began to fight. The correctional officer did not see the beginning of the fight. Illinois Department of Corrections then put a 70-year-old man in segregation for 6 months. After the fact, Illinois Department of Corrections has classified him as SMI, Seriously Mentally Ill. He was reprimanded for that action. He is not a combative person.

Ms. Sierig stated that not only was Mr. Eddie Pitts punished in segregation for 6 months, but he has now been transferred to Lawrence Correctional Center and is on 23-hour lock down.

Mr. Grubbs stated that the victim had brain injury and questioned if the victim recovered.

Ms. Klarquist and Ms. Sierig both stated that the victim recovered.

Ms. Globokar questioned as to what level of care has been taken at Illinois Department of Corrections.

Ms. Sierig stated that they do not know why the transfer occurred. She stated that they have also tried to get ahold of the physician in charge of Mr. Eddie Pitts, but no one has contacted her back. Mr. Eddie Pitts states that he is not getting out of his cell much. She stated that it is not ok for a mental health patient to be in a cell that long.

Ms. Klarquist stated that Lawrence Correctional Center has an insufficient amount of space for mental health patients. She stated this was in a news article. Mr. Eddie Pitts is not ok at Lawrence Correctional Center. She stated that she contacted the facility to make them aware that Mr. Eddie Pitts has mental health issues and the Lawrence Correctional Center employee stated that she could not give them information. She stated they are concerned about Mr. Eddie Pitts' mental state while he is at Lawrence Correctional Center and thinks he will deteriorate.

Ms. Globokar questioned Mr. Eddie Pitts' disciplinary tickets. She also questioned if the level of lock down is normal at Lawrence Correctional Center.

Ms. Klarquist stated that Lawrence Correctional Center is having staffing issues, as well as facility rules. She stated that they do not have the manpower to move inmates around. The staffing is down by twenty percent for Lawrence Correctional Center.

Ms. Globokar questioned if MADO Health Care has spoken to Mr. Eddie Pitts. She questioned if



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MADO Health Care has been notified of Mr. Eddie Pitts behavior and tickets.

Ms. Klarquist stated that they made the facility aware of the fight from 2022. That was the first and only fight in 46 years. It was self-defense. She stated they made them aware yesterday. The priority is his memory care and mental health care.

Ms. Sierig stated they have his entire file. They agreed to take him after reviewing that file.

Mr. Heaton questioned if Ms. Klarquist could describe to the best of her understanding the security at MADO. He questioned if Mr. Eddie Pitts is currently on psychotropic medication.

Ms. Klarquist stated that legally they cannot lock the door. But Mr. Eddie Pitts would not essentially be allowed to leave the facility without a pass. She stated that the facility is aware of how they can monitor movement of each patient. Mr. Eddie Pitts is very self-aware, and he wants the help for his memory. We are not aware of any psychiatric treatment since 2000. Psych evaluation was done, and it lasted 10 minutes. Mr. Eddie Pitts stays to himself but with dementia creeping in she does not know how it affects his schizophrenia.

Ms. Terrones questioned if anyone had access to the audits to determine their capacity and capabilities to help at MADO.

Ms. Klarquist stated no, and that it is a struggle to get an elderly patient in, but I have not received that information.

Mr. Bohland stated that there are some concerns regarding the original crime and that his diminished mental state. The ticket from 2022 put him in segregation for 6 months and the victim had brain surgery. The housing that will have him with a roommate is a concern.

Ms. Sierig stated that he is not getting any treatment for his mental health issues. But he would be going somewhere that would help with these issues, and it will be treated.

Mr. Tupy stated that Mr. Eddie Pitts could've been eligible for 60 to LIFE. There are factors that he could've been sentenced for natural life. The recent ticket he states that it is self-defense, but I did not see that. He questioned if they said the dementia and the schizophrenia combining could be worse.

Ms. Klarquist stated that she is not a doctor, but this is why they are asking for him to be released to be able to get the treatment he needs. Illinois Department of Corrections does not have any memory care available.

Mr. Shelton stated that he has voted both ways in this case. The last time he voted in favor of parole. The recorded opinion in the file states that his schizophrenia was in remission. There's a new dementia diagnosis, and no one knows how it affects his mental health diagnosis. Our first priority is public safety. He is not physically incapable of doing the same thing again. Under your plan, going to that facility, he will not be on lock down.



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Ms. Klarquist stated that people with schizophrenia have a higher chance of dementia. The MADO facility is secured, and Mr. Eddie Pitts will not be walking around outside. He needs a chance, and if he doesn't do well, you can revoke his parole. His nephew offered to take him, but a residential treatment center is willing to take him and treat him.

Mr. Shelton questioned what would happen if he doesn't respond to the treatment.

Ms. Klarquist stated to give him the chance. She stated that she wished his fight wasn't last year, but it was. He self manages at this time, but he would do good with assistance.

Ms. Miller stated that her concern is the May 2022 incident. Whether or not that self-defense it was heinous. The victim had to have brain surgery. He went all of this time without issues and then he snapped and attacked the victim.

Ms. Sierig stated that they know he won't have these issues because he will be being treated.

Ms. Globokar stated that there are 2 to 4 beds in each room at MADO.

Ms. Klarquist stated that Mr. Eddie Pitts has had cellmates for 46 years. The incident in 2022 was horrible. But he has had cellmates for 46 years and he has never done anything.

Mr. Grubbs questioned when did MADO become the plan for Mr. Eddie Pitt's release and has MADO been toured by them.

Ms. Sierig stated that MADO was the first one that they found with mental health and medical care. Estates of Hyde Park, University of Chicago is right down the street, and they have a psychiatric unit there if needed. MADO is more equipped, but Illinois Department of Corrections has not been toured at this time, MADO just approved Mr. Eddie Pitts on Monday of this week.

End of discussion.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (JGlobokar-JGrubbs). Motion prevails by a 10-1 vote. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Coates, Ms. Globokar, Mr. Grubbs, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Miller, Chairman Shelton, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones, and Mr. Tupy. Members dissenting were Ms. Goff.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Eddie Pitt'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. Eddie Pitts 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."



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Donald Shelton, Chair

***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— July 27, 2023**

Individual in custody's Name: Roosevelt Clay IDOC Number: L40191

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on July 27, 2023, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Roosevelt Clay L40191.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Coates, Ms. Globokar, Ms. Goff, Mr. Grubbs, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Miller, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones, Mr. Tupy, and Mr. Shelton, Chairman.

Recording Secretary: Alexandria Bryan.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

The basis for the Board's decision, at this time, is as follows:

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

The Prisoner Review Board reviewed for the twelfth time the case of 67-year-old Mr. Roosevelt Clay for parole consideration. On the scheduled date of June 8, 2023, Mr. Roosevelt Clay declined his hearing. The Board considered file records of his crime, his discipline history, his criminal history, and his parole plan in the discussion.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Roosevelt Clay was sentenced to three consecutive sentences of 60-120yrs for Murder, having played a role in a triple murder in Chicago. The victims were Dr. Lawrence Gluckman, a medical doctor, and two of Dr. Gluckman's patients, Ms. Tressie Harris, and Ms. Minnie Harris. This triple murder was the result of a conspiracy between a number of people to kidnap Dr. Gluckman and hold him for ransom. Mr. Roosevelt Clay's current mandatory supervised release date is March 10, 2038.

Mr. Roosevelt Clay was one of nine known actors believed directly involved in this crime. He was a member of the Vice Lord street gang. Co-offenders were Mr. David Clay, the petitioner's brother, a leader in the Vice Lords; Ms. Delores Townsend, who was Dr. Gluckman's office manager; Mr. Frank Love, who had been a patient of Dr. Gluckman's (1974 or early 1975), had developed a friendship with Office Manager Ms. Delores Townsend, and who had previously met the Clay brothers in the (late 1960s); and a number of co-offenders brought together by Mr. David Clay, Mr. Wille Carter, Mr. Matthew Williams, Mr. Michael Wilson, Mr. Lee Sanders, and Mr. Wilbert Smith.

The conspiracy began with a phone call from Ms. Delores Townsend to Mr. Frank Love to ask him if he knew anyone who would be willing to kidnap Dr. Gluckman and hold him for ransom. It became their intention to seek \$100,000, which Ms. Delores Townsend believed Dr. Gluckman had in cash from

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doing abortions.

Love then contacted Mr. David Clay because he knew that Mr. David Clay had previously kidnapped a drug dealer, and the two of them met to make plans. Mr. David Clay then gathered the other conspirators at his house. Our petitioner was not originally involved but insisted on participating when he walked in on the meeting and heard what was being discussed. On the day before the murders several of these men met with Ms. Delores Townsend to discuss the details of the kidnapping.

On the day of the murders our petitioner drove separately to Dr. Gluckman's clinic in a car borrowed from a friend, bringing with him the .45 caliber pistol that was to be used in the kidnapping. He and some of the others then waited for Dr. Gluckman to exit the clinic. Mr. Frank Love and Mr. David Clay, tasked with making the ransom phone calls, waited in a pool hall for word that the kidnapping had taken place.

When Dr Gluckman finally exited the clinic, he was accompanied by victims Ms. Tressie Harris and Ms. Minnie Harris, patients who he was about to transport from his office to a north side clinic. Our petitioner gave his pistol to Mr. Wilbert Smith. Mr. Wilbert Smith, along with Mr. Willie Carter approached the victims with gun drawn while our petitioner waited nearby in the car he had driven.

The offenders ordered the doctor to get into the trunk of his car, disregarding his pleas with them that he had a bad heart, and he didn't think he could take it. Mr. Wilbert Smith struck him on the head with the pistol, knocking him out cold, before he and Mr. Roosevelt Clay loaded Dr. Gluckman into the trunk of his own car. The Harris sisters were forced into the back seat before the doctor's car was then driven away in a caravan of three cars, ending up at the residence of Ms. Annie Coleman, the petitioner's aunt.

At the direction of Mr. Roosevelt Clay, the car was backed into the garage, where they discovered that Dr. Gluckman had died inside the trunk. He was later determined to have died from a heart attack and/or suffocation.

Shortly afterward, co-offender Mr. Michael Wilson notified Mr. Frank Love and Mr. David Clay that the kidnapping had occurred, that the doctor had put up a struggle, and that the group had also kidnapped two women who had been with the doctor during the abduction. Mr. Michael Wilson, Mr. Frank Love and Mr. David Clay then arrived at the residence where the victims and the conspirators were.

Three ransom demand phone calls were placed to Mrs. Gluckman. During each call, demand for \$100,000 was made and a request by Mrs. Gluckman to speak to her husband was denied. At one point a caller even threatened to go after the Gluckmans' son Michael if the ransom was not paid. But, having made these three calls and not secured payment arrangements, Mr. Frank Love, Mr. David Clay, and Mr. Michael Wilson gave up on trying to collect ransom money. Office Manager Ms. Delores Townsend and Mr. Frank Love, the two who started the whole affair, were driven home.

A decision was made to kill Ms. Tressie Harris and Ms. Minnie Harris. Mr. Willie Carter was to be the shooter. Mr. Roosevelt Clay, got into the front seat with Mr. Willie Carter. Mr. Willie Carter asked the girls which of them wanted to die first, becoming aggravated when they tried to talk him out of it, then



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shooting them each in the head.

Mr. Matthew Williams, one of the conspirators, drove Dr. Gluckman's car to a location in an alley and abandoned it with the bodies of the victims inside. Chicago police officers responding later to a call about the car discovered the crime scene and the bodies of the girls in the back seat and body of Dr. Gluckman in the trunk.

Ms. Delores Townsend, was interviewed at her home, resulting in her arrest within days of the crime, as well as the arrests of Mr. Frank Love and Mr. Lee Sanders. Mr. Frank Love gave a detailed court-reported confession; and both Ms. Delores Townsend and Mr. Frank Love were convicted of murder shortly thereafter.

Ms. Delores Townsend and Mr. Frank Love were the only two conspirators to be prosecuted for the murders prior to 1988.

In April of 1983, 8yrs after the murders, the petitioner contacted the FBI, claiming to have certain information about a certain mob figure that the FBI would be interested in. Two agents met with him, and he began to relay his information, but also explained that he had pending charges of Armed Robbery and he hoped the FBI might be able to assist him to resolve one of the armed robberies, for which he claimed to have been "set up." Although the agents made no promises regarding the pending armed robbery cases, the petitioner agreed to the recording of subsequent interviews.

After being convicted of one of those armed robberies in May of 1983 Mr. Roosevelt Clay, who still wanted to work with the FBI, continued to cooperate with an FBI investigation unrelated to the murders for which he is now serving time.

During a subsequent FBI interview on June 13, 1983, Mr. Roosevelt Clay began to talk for the first time about the murder of Dr. Gluckman and the Harris sisters, omitting the involvement of his brother, Mr. David Clay, but reporting on the subsequent activity of some of the other actors. Since that time. Agents warned petitioner Clay that he could be prosecuted for the Illinois murders.

During an interview by the Chicago Police Department detectives Mr. Roosevelt Clay relayed details of threats that had been made to Mr. Frank Love by Vice Lords to compel Mr. Frank Love's silence about the role of Mr. Roosevelt Clay and other co-offenders in the kidnapping and murders. During a later interview with an agent of the Cook County States Attorney's Office Mr. Roosevelt Clay was even more specific about his own involvement in threats made to Mr. Frank Love.

When Mr. Roosevelt Clay was ultimately brought to trial on this matter in 1988 Mr. Frank Love, who had already been convicted and sentenced years prior, became a key witness for the State, testifying about his own role in the murders, as well as that of Mr. Roosevelt Clay.

Mr. Roosevelt Clay was indicted for the Illinois triple murder in September of 1984. Just prior to his 1988 trial he moved to suppress the incriminating statements he had previously made both to FBI agents and to the Chicago Police, and he was convicted.



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During the trial, Mr. Roosevelt Clay denied his involvement. He claimed, essentially, that having contacted the FBI while his armed robbery cases were pending, and having been told by those agents that in order for them to help him with his state cases that he would have to “give (the State) something,” he then decided to talk about the murders, but only giving information that he had either heard from various other sources or that he had made up. This testimony was contradicted by the testimony of a Chicago detective, who testified that Mr. Roosevelt Clay gave him details that he was not able to get from anyone else.

Mr. Frank Love was paroled in 1988 after serving 14 years in prison. After being convicted of the murders, serving time, testifying against Mr. Roosevelt Clay, and being paroled, he was contacted by co-offender Mr. David Clay, who wanted Mr. Frank Love to sign an affidavit saying that he (Love) had given Mr. Roosevelt Clay the information that Mr. Roosevelt Clay used in his statements to the authorities, this statement would confirm Mr. Roosevelt Clay’s trial statement that he actually wasn’t involved in the murders.

In 1989, while his Illinois appeal was pending, Mr. Roosevelt Clay was convicted of a 1982 murder in Waukesha County, Wisconsin. He has a natural life sentence awaiting him in Wisconsin should he be granted parole in Illinois.

In 2004, Mr. Roosevelt Clay filed a post-conviction petition, alleging newly discovered evidence disclosed that Mr. Frank Love, a key witness for the prosecution, had lied about his motive for testifying at defendant's trial. The trial court granted defendant's post-conviction petition and ordered a new trial. The second trial took place in December of 2005, and Mr. Roosevelt Clay was convicted again.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

A timeline of Mr. Roosevelt Clay’s criminal conduct shows that he was a party to this triple murder occurring in Chicago in 1975 at age 19; that he was convicted of Possession of Controlled Substance, receiving a sentence of probation in 1978; that he was again convicted of Possession of Controlled Substance in 1979; that he committed a murder in Wisconsin in 1982; that he was convicted in 1983 of two Armed Robberies occurring in Chicago in 1983; that he was convicted of the instant 1975 triple murder in 1984; that while serving time on the triple murder here in Illinois he was convicted on the 1982 Wisconsin murder; that he was granted a new trial for the Chicago triple murder in 2004 before being again convicted in 2005.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

The Board’s record documents 96 discipline referrals from the age of 32 to 61, beginning in 1988 and ending in 2017, including thirty-four instances of disobeying direct orders and eighteen instances of unauthorized movement.

STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

A recent letter from Mr. Roosevelt Clay to the Prisoner Review Board dated March 16, 2022, and in
319 E. MADISON STREET, SUITE A / SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701 / (217) 782-7273 Fax: (217) 524-0012
Web Page: www.Illinois.gov/prb



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lieu of his presence at a parole eligibility hearing, professes his innocence of this crime and his ongoing efforts to seek a new trial based on “newly discovered evidence.”

PUBLIC SAFETY RISK

The SPIN assessment administered in April of 2017 indicates an “Overall High Risk” to recidivate, and the Board notes a significant disciplinary history.

PAROLE PLAN

Mr. Roosevelt Clay submitted no parole plan.

OPPOSITION TO RELEASE

The Board’s file contains multiple letters of opposition to a grant of parole from the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office. The last letter was from July, 2012.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Ms. Miller questioned if Mr. Roosevelt Clay is still confessing that he is innocent. The letter in 2022 that was from him stated he was innocent.

Mr. Shelton stated that Mr. Roosevelt Clay declined the interview. This is the 7th time he has declined his interview.

End of discussion.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (DS-LM). Motion prevails by a unanimous vote.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Roosevelt Clay’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. Roosevelt Clay 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.”



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— July 27, 2023**

Individual in custody's Name: Raymond Larson *

IDOC Number: C10475

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on July 27, 2023, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Raymond Larson C10475.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Coates, Ms. Globokar, Ms. Goff, Mr. Grubbs, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Miller, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones, Mr. Tupy, and Mr. Shelton, Chairman.

Recording Secretary: Alexandria Bryan.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

The basis for the Board's decision, at this time, is as follows:

Mr. Raymond Larson at the time of the of June 2, 2023 is 78 years of age. He was present by video conference and accompanied by his attorney Ms. Emelia Carrol, social workers and case managers Ms. Sally Weld and Ms. Emma Kunin of Cabrini Green Legal Center. Mr. Raymond Larson walked into the area and appeared of sound mind and physical able to move independently. He did not present with anxiety or emotional distress.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

On May 17, 1972 Mr. Raymond Larson murdered Mr. Francis Casolari a 16-year-old minor by gun shot. The victims' clothes were removed, and the body was covered by leaves and debris.

On May 17, 1972, Mr. Raymond Larson committed the act of deviate sexual assault of Ms. Lawnie Suchey. Mr. Raymond Larson entered the home of Ms. Lawnie Suchey and at gun point robbed her and sexually assaulted her by forcing her to perform oral copulation on him. One item was taken from the home was a rifle.

INDIVIDUAL IN CUSTODY'S STATEMENT

Mr. Raymond Larson was invited during this interview to share the facts of the case understanding he has shared his statement in the past.



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Mr. Raymond Larson stated that he had no further information to state. He stated that it was a tragic event.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Prior to the crime of murder and sexual deviate charge, the following are crimes committed prior to his murder sentence accompanied by the sentence for deviate sexual assault. In October 1968, Mr. Raymond Larson plead guilty to burglary and auto theft and received 5 years' probation. In May 1969, Mr. Raymond Larson was arrested for rape, it was reduced to battery, and he received 6 months in Illinois Department of Corrections. On January 17, 1970, he broke into an apartment, stabbed the female victim on her shoulder and breast, and fled. He knocked on a second apartment, rushed the female victim, and began choking her, she broke away and he fled. In 1971, Mr. Raymond Larson was granted furlough and that is when he committed the current charges.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Since 1981, Mr. Raymond Larson was held in protective custody after informing the institution of a plan his fellow incarcerated men had to attack and take prison officials hostage. Mr. Raymond Larson presents with an excellent adjustment record based on institutional tickets. He did not receive any tickets after 2005. When he returned to custody after the present violation, he received one on April 18, 2022, for intimidation or threats. The counselor believed Mr. Raymond Larson was threatening him. He was given a verbal reprimand. He thought he was appropriate since his life was in danger and at no time did he threaten anyone.

PAROLE PLANS

There remains a healthy and robust community reentry plan. A team of professionals is prepared to accompany him with all their partners in the community. Their commitment is to support a holistic plan for his success.

Cabrini Green Legal states that this is a very different circumstance than when the initial En Banc was granted. Cabrini Green Legal would be that bridge to helping him obtain his goals and assisting him with resources.

Mr. Stan Belcom will accompany Mr. Raymond Larson step by step with their social work team. He will pick up Mr. Raymond Larson and take him to his host site.

Mr. Raymond Larson's housing will be provided by New Beginnings in Chicago, Illinois.

Chicago Commons will provide physical health care and recreational and community services as a part of their senior service.

Public Aid will provide any needed mental health and physical health needs.

Saffer Foundation will support the public benefits, identifying needed documents and job training.

Mr. Raymond Larson will join the Buddhist faith community at a Temple in Chicago.



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Mr. Raymond Larson has received his social security card and is pending receipt of his replacement of birth certificate.

Cabrini Green Legal will support Mr. Raymond Larson with completing an application for Social Security benefits, as well as LINK and cash benefits.

There are 8 letters of support on behalf of Mr. Raymond Larson from community members who support his re-entry.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

State's Attorney opposes the release of Mr. Raymond Larson. There are several other protest letters on file.

EN BANC HISTORY

Mr. Raymond Larson has had 30 previous En Banc hearings and was denied. In 2021, Mr. Raymond Larson was granted parole. The most recent En Banc hearing was in June 2022, and Mr. Raymond Larson was denied.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Ms. Emelia Carroll stated that she knows Mr. Raymond Larson as a gentle and calm person. He is nothing like the man that was put in prison 55 years ago. He has no intentions of breaking any laws. He does need more hand holding than others upon his release from prison. Mr. Raymond Larson screwed up in 2021 and takes responsibility. He did not screw up because he committed a crime. We have gone over his choices and what he could've changed. He needs help with personal connections. It was hard for him to know what to do when he was being approved at the last minute. My job is to help him know where to go and what to do when he gets out. He has ongoing needs, one being a catheter. On the day he was violated, the cop told him that he was being diverted. He understood that as he had gone somewhere he shouldn't have gone. He had fallen through the cracks. That is why he was revoked, and he takes responsibility for that. His understanding is that he never contacted his parole agent.

Ms. Sally Weld the Licensed Clinical Social Worker for CGLA stated that Mr. Raymond Larson received physical abuse from his father as well as witnessing domestic violence in the home. ACEs have lasting effects on children. It is further complicated when the violence is done by a dominant person in their life. These are the external factors that impacted the way his brain was developing. His brain was still developing when he made these choices, he had other factors like using drugs and alcohol during those times. Substances are used to cope with traumatic events. Kids should not have



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access to these things. Children who drink earlier in life have issues with emotions later in life.

Ms. Emma Kunin, the Licensed Social Worker for CGLA stated that they arranged transportation from Hill Correctional Center to his placement center. Mental Health services are arranged at an office near his housing. The walking and bus directions to and from these services were printed for him. Identified senior centers and Buddhist centers for him. Chicago Commons is a Senior Center that helps them learn social skills as well as learns how to use computers. He wants to work and also volunteer. His health is the most fearful factor for him. He has mentioned his memory is declining and cannot remember everything. We are committed to helping him upon his release to keep connections with social workers and he will not be on his own. He is willing to be on monitoring and he is willing to be on lock down.

Mr. Grubbs stated that a part of his petition regarding his original release, there is a line that said he transferred from one facility to another regarding a safety issue.

Ms. Emelia Carroll stated at Pontiac Correctional Center he risked his life by tipping off the correctional officer that a gang was speaking about attempting to murder the Warden. Now there is a specific gang that has an issue with him, and he was transferred when he raised concern.

Mr. Tupy stated he received a ticket in April 2022 for intimidation and threats in a letter.

Ms. Emelia Carroll stated that her understanding was that he was advocating for himself to be moved to another facility. He referenced the incident in Pontiac Correctional Center and with describing the potential risks of him staying at that facility, the interpretation of the reader was that he was the one stating he would be giving that harm. He was verbally reprimanded.

Mr. Bohland questioned if Ms. Terrones had seen the letter. He stated that he committed some very heinous crimes while on furlough. It was not just AWOL but that he left the state.

Ms. Terrones stated that she did not see the letter.

Ms. Emelia Carroll stated that there is a valid concern to look at what happened 53 years ago. The issue in 2021 and what happened 53 years ago are different. The Illinois Department of Corrections records are there to show that he unlearned those behaviors. He left the state to go check on a loved one, and he came back. 53 years makes a big difference.

Ms. Nicole Bartell, from the Attorney General's Office, stated that they are requesting a 90 day stay for an evaluation if he is granted parole today.

Mr. Shelton questioned why Mr. Raymond Larson does not have a clear mind after being released and being in prison for 53 years.

Ms. Emelia Carroll stated being in prison for 53 years has screwed up his decision making. Not in the sense that he will harm other people.

Mr. Shelton questioned how they can address this if he leaves before checking into an agent again.



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Ms. Emelia Carroll stated that they plan to have the initial contact with him and assisting him.

Ms. Terrones stated that AMS noted that there was a face-to-face contact with parole on May 19, 2021. Parole told him to stay at the location, and that is why he was violated when he left.

End of discussion.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (CT-LM). Motion prevails by a 11-0 vote. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Coates, Ms. Globokar, Mr. Grubbs, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Miller, Chairman Shelton, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones and Mr. Tupy.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Raymond Larson'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. Raymond Larson 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."