EN BANC MINUTE SHEET OPEN SESSION- July 31, 2025

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on July 31, 2025, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following individuals in custody:

L01404	Pitts, Eddie (Indeterminate)
N82071	Miles, Jacob* (Indeterminate)
C10214	Long, Raymond (Indeterminate)
C10360	Reno, Ronald (Indeterminate)

*Cook County Case

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

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Ellen Wayne.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
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	

8 Members Present

1 Member Absent

The Board heard the case of Eddie Pitts L01404, Jacob Miles N82071, Raymond Long C10214, and Ronald Reno C10360.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL for 04-24-2025 MCOATES-KTISON

Open Session: RSHOFFNER-MCOATES

Meeting was adjourned by: JGRUBBS-JBOHLAND

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET OPEN SESSION- July 31, 2025

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 31, 2025, 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, Mr. Grubbs, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones, Ms. Tison, and Mr. Tupy.

Recording Secretary: Ellen Wayne

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

This is a continuation of the hearing for Eddie Pitts #L01404 who was originally interviewed at Lawrence Correctional Center on February 18th, 2025, by Board Member, Jared Bohland. This case was presented at the April 24th, 2025, En Banc hearing but was continued at the Board's request during the hearing in order to further consider and look into a change of parole host site that had changed the week prior. Prior to continuation, the case had been presented in its entirety, including with follow-up discussion with the petitioner's witnesses, as well as opposition presentation from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Given this fact, this case was not presented in its entirety again, but rather the presentation included what had changed or occurred since the last hearing, as well as anything that fell under any statutory factor for consideration that may not have been presented in April, prior to Public Act 104-11 becoming law.

Mr. Pitts' holding offense is a 1977 conviction for Murder out of Cook County with a 150-to-300-year sentence. His Mandatory Supervised Release date is February 17th, 2117, with his Maximum Discharge date being August 17th, 2120. Mr. Pitts was 24 years old at the time of the offense and he is currently 72 years old. Mr. Pitts has been in Illinois Department of Corrections custody for 47 years.

Per the December 27, 2024, IDOC Offender Overview, he has not had any disciplinary reports since his transfer to Lawrence Correctional Center. Mr. Pitts is currently Maximum Security with no escape risk. He is also A grade and general population, although he resides in the infirmary unit.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Pitts' parole plan prior to the April 2025 hearing was to maintain a parole plan based on admittance to Balmoral Nursing Home, which is a skilled nursing home with programs for mental health and dementia. This is an IDOC approved host site with residents who were released under the Joe Coleman Act. There were concerns even six months ago about the facility not rising to the level of security needed for a patient like Mr. Pitts based on recent events like the 2022 violent assault previously presented, and concerns for the safety of both staff and other residents. Mr. Pitts states he would like to be paroled to a place where he can work his mind, create things, and make art.

Mr. Pitts has letters of support and offers of post release services from NAMI Chicago as well as the Illinois Prison Project.

Ms. Klarquist submitted a change in parole site a calendar week before the April 2025 hearing, which had not been received by any of the Board members. Given the nature of this case and the strong desire by the Board to confirm an appropriate host site, the Board offered to postpone the remainder of the hearing until July of 2025 in order for Board members to review this new host site presented.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

Cook County State's Attorney opposes granting parole in 2025 with a letter. They argue there is substantial risk that the petitioner will not conform to conditions of parole. They do not believe he has presented an adequate parole plan, nor has he shown evidence that he is rehabilitated and is no longer a threat to society. They bring up the 2022 ticket as evidence of concern. They also believe his mental health poses cause for concern including present signs of dementia. They argue for deprecation based on protests both historically and current. They also argue that given the nature of the 2022 ticket, release would have a substantially adverse effect on institutional discipline. They state that even with the strongest parole plan, the risk of another life lost is too high.

Open Executive Session: JBOHLAND-KTISON

Closed Executive Session: MCOATES-RSHOFFNER

DISCUSSION

Ms. Hilda Juarez, employee of Central Nursing Home, explains how secure the building is and that they always have staff there 24 hours a day. She stated how Mr. Pitts would be housed on the second floor of the facility.

Mr. Grubbs questioned Ms. Juarez on the exterior of the building, security access, and the overall grounds of the facility. Ms. Juarez stated no one is allowed to unlock the door and stated they are locked 24 hours a day. She then detailed how they do have a patio, but they must follow a schedule for taking patients outside and only staff is allowed to be with them. She stated they have a reception area to sign people in and out for visitation.

Ms. Shoffner asked Ms. Juarez to verify that Mr. Pitts would be on the second floor of the facility to which Ms. Juarez agreed.

Ms. Shoffner questioned Ms. Juarez regarding how many patients they have at this facility and the male to female ratio. Ms. Juarez explained they have roughly 48 patients and they currently have more females than males. Ms. Shoffner questioned about how secure the rooms are and if someone else has the ability to go into another patient's room. Ms. Juarez stated they can go into other patients' room, but they cannot leave the second floor.

Ms. Tison questioned if each floor has a cafeteria. Ms. Juarez stated each floor has their own cafeteria.

Ms. Terrones questioned Ms. Juarez, as a licensed facility, the ratio of staff verse patients. Ms. Juarez stated there are at least five Certified Nursing Assistant's per floor.

Ms. Terrones stated that though the alarm goes off if someone tries to open the floor, she questioned if the door would actually open with the alarm or if the door would stay locked while the alarm was sounded. Ms. Juarez stated the door would open and it could take them a couple of minutes for employees to respond to the alarm. She stated all employees are required to respond to the alarm at once and have all been properly trained to do so.

Ms. Terrones questioned in the last two months, how many incidents occurred of people trying to leave the facility through the staircase. Ms. Juarez stated there has only been one incident.

Ms. Terrones inquired about the institution's procedures regarding a power of attorney. She questioned if Mr. Pitts stated he did not want to remain there, would he be allowed to leave or if the institution would detain him until the power of attorney was consulted. She also questioned whether Mr. Pitts has the ability to remove his power of attorney. Ms. Juarez then explained that would depend on his mental status if they would allow him to withdraw his power of attorney.

Ms. Globokar stated she had an interview with Mr. Pitts a couple of years ago and he explained how he wants to be able to work.

Ms. Klarquist, Mr. Pitts' attorney, stated he can participate in recreational activities at the facility. She explained they have spoken with him, and he is aware of where he could be moved too. She stated he is on the medical wing at the prison right now.

Mr. Bohland questioned the type of security the facility has on hand. Ms. Juarez stated that on weekends, an outside agency provides security for the building at night, both inside and outside. She added that aside from this, all other support is provided by staff.

Mr. Bohland questioned what the response would be if a resident gets violent.

Ms. Juarez stated the appropriate response would be to separate them and then have them transported to the hospital.

Ms. Terrones questioned if the facility is aware of his diagnosis, crimes and history. She also questioned if they have had someone else in the facility that is like Mr. Pitts. Ms. Juarez stated they are aware of Mr. Pitts' past, as they have a team that reviewed his file. Ms. Juarez stated she hasn't work there very long but she believes so.

Mr. Grubbs questioned how long Ms. Juarez has worked at the nursing home and in the last year, how many have tried to walk away. Ms. Juarez stated she has worked there for at least seven years, and

they have had two incidents where the individual only stayed for one night and left the next day. Mr. Grubbs questioned how many people in the last 12 months as patients have successfully left, to which Ms. Juarez stated zero.

Ms. Klarquist then reexplained the second floor of the facility where they can help with Mr. Pitts' dementia, and he would be evaluated immediately on intake. She explained how Mr. Pitts does not smoke so all of his needs will be taken care of. She further explained how it is not a prison, but he will still be on lock down. She stated the Board should be considering the new statute and his health into consideration.

Ms. DeJong stated they would set up the power of attorney, but they cannot set up guardianship while Mr. Pitts is still in prison. She explained how once he has guardianship established, he can say he wants to leave but it would not be allowed.

Ms. Klarquist stated Illinois Department of Corrections approved the nursing home as a parole host site.

Ms. Terrones asked for clarification on the guardianship process. Ms. De Jong stated as his attorney, they would start the paperwork, but it would not be finalized until he has a physiological evaluation. She explained how the State prefers a family member for guardianship, but they would follow through with his guardianship.

Mr. Grubbs questioned how long Mr. Pitts has been in the infirmary. Ms. Klarquist stated he's been in the infirmary for two years, since he was transferred to Lawrence Correctional Center.

Ms. DeJong stated he has good reviews from the nursing staff in the infirmary and has adjusted very well.

Ms. Terrones questioned how they would respond to someone whose symptoms are acute and not making rational decisions. Ms. Klarquist explained how the family agrees, he has nowhere else to go and IDOC cannot provide the care that he needs.

Mr. Grubbs questioned who would transport Mr. Pitts to Central Nursing Home.

Ms. Klarquist stated she has verified with Illinois Department of Corrections that they would transport him.

Ms. Courtney Quam, Assistant State's Attorney was present and strongly objects the parole. She stated they are sympathetic to his age and condition, but the facility is not adequate for him. She then brought up the 2022 ticket for harming another individual while in custody. She finished her opposition that there is no formal security at this facility.

Ms. Klarquist explained how he has had no tickets in the last two years.

Ms. Terrones questioned whether the staff is equipped to handle Mr. Pitts while he is symptomatic.

Ms. De Jong stated they spoke to staff about the concerns of the Board, she explained fights are common and dealt with. There was no supervision for the last ticket he received and that is why the fight broke out. She stated he has not shown any violent behavior when he is surrounded by care.

End of Discussion.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (JBOHLAND-JGLOBOKAR). Motion prevailed with a 6-2 vote. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Coates, Ms. Globokar, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones and Ms. Tison. Mr. Grubbs and Mr. Tupy dissented.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Eddie Pitts' 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. Pitts' parole release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of the offenses and promote a lack of respect for the law.

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

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET OPEN SESSION- July 31, 2025

Individual in Custody's Name: Jacob Myles* IDOC Number: N82071

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on July 31, 2025, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Jacob Myles N82071.

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

Recording Secretary: Ellen Wayne

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

On June 11, 2025, Mr. Jacob Myles was interviewed by Board Member, Ms. Julie Globokar via WebEx at Sheridan Correctional Center. After statements were taken on Mr. Myles' behalf, the interview began at 9:50am and ended at 12:15pm. Ms. Mira DeJong, Mr. Myles' attorney, along with Paralegal, Ms. Sophia Goebel, and three behalf witnesses, two who were cousins and one friend, were also present.

Mr. Myles is 59 years old and has been in custody since 2000, for nearly 25 years. He was 35 years old at the time he committed the offense of armed robbery. He presented with a healthy stature and a bag of books by his side, some of which he shared or referenced throughout the interview.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On August 16, 2000, Mr. Myles covered his face with a skull cap, approached victim James Gilbert, and displayed a firearm in a robbery. He patted down the victim and took a pocketknife and Kennedy half dollar from his person. When police attempted to stop his vehicle, a high-speed vehicle chase and then foot chase ensued. He was captured within ten minutes of the offense. The stolen items were recovered from his person. Mr. Myles was convicted by a jury. Prior convictions qualified him as a habitual offender, resulting in a life sentence.

Mr. Myles appealed the case on various procedural grounds, with petitions and appeals dismissed or denied in 2003, 2013, and 2017. He has a 2-1401 petition for relief from judgment currently pending in Cook County Court on procedural matters.

Mr. Myles' attorney indicates that because the State's Attorney petitioned to have the case classified under the habitual offender law, the judge lacked discretion in applying the sentence of natural life.

His natural life sentence was commuted to parole eligible by Governor Pritzker in 2024.



CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Myles' first string of felony offenses occurred in 1986 as a young man. He and a co-defendant robbed several pizza delivery persons at knifepoint as a means of obtaining money. On July 10, 1986, they attempted to rob an undercover officer, resulting in a confrontation in which both Mr. Myles and his co-defendant were shot. His co-defendant was later killed in a car accident while on bond awaiting trial; Mr. Myles was convicted in four cases of armed robbery and sentenced to ten years.

Mr. Myles had a relatively successful initial incarceration, having served his time at a work camp and then Crossroads Adult Transition Center. On the day of his release, April 10, 1991, he reports having used marijuana that was laced with crack cocaine, which was the onset of his addiction to crack. He worked odd jobs during that parole term but was arrested for possession that year, and soon thereafter for his second series of armed robberies against pizza delivery persons, in which he would place a metal bar on the back of his victims' necks to make them think it was a gun. He received a one-year consecutive sentence for the possession case, a twelve-year sentence for the robberies, and a concurrent three-year sentence for unlawful use of a weapon by a felon.

He was released from his second term of incarceration on June 30, 1998. This period of supervision was initially more successful, with him maintaining his sobriety, working a series of jobs (including full time at a printing company), working out, going to church on the weekends, volunteering at a hospital, and moving in with a fiancé. He reports succumbing to peer pressure to smoke marijuana again, which led to a relapse into crack cocaine. He turned to committing robberies with an unloaded gun to support his habit. He was arrested on the day of his holding offense on August 16, 2000, and has been in custody since.

Mr. Myles' last two periods of parole were unsuccessful, both of which he attributes to his crack cocaine addiction.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Myles' childhood was characterized by significant losses. His mother was shot and killed by an ex-boyfriend in their home when Mr. Myles was only five years old. He spent most of the remaining childhood residing with his paternal grandmother, and a couple of years with his father. His stepmother passed away when Mr. Myles was fifteen, and his father passed away the following year. Both of his parents had their own struggles with addiction. Mr. Myles' grandmother was described in his clemency petition as God-fearing and loving, having provided Mr. Myles with early exposure to Christian influences.

Mr. Myles left school before completing ninth grade at the age of 16. He was initially involved in sports but described struggling with reading and writing, and he had been held back in multiple grades. When he was 18, he moved in with his aunt, who had a condition that he work, pursue schooling, or enlist in the military; he chose to work at Kmart as a bus boy in their restaurant, but was ultimately enticed to engage in his first string of armed robberies for additional money. His thinking succumbed to addiction during his first two parole terms.

Mr. Myles stated he realized the error of his ways even before his life sentence was handed down. When he was laying in the hospital subsequent to being beaten by officers, he knew he needed God in his life, realizing the robberies continued to land him in the same position. He asked God to take the desire of his addiction from him. He was placed in a Christian deck at Cook County, where he served as a facilitator. By the time he got to Stateville Correctional Center, where drugs were more easily accessible, he had lost the desire to abuse them. He has maintained his sobriety for the last 25 years.

Mr. Myles stated that at the time of his offenses, he would not have targeted regular citizens due to the risk that they could be armed and fight back. He never intended to hurt anyone and failed to recognize the psychological effects on his victims until a conversation in county jail after his arrest for this crime. He now realizes that the losses from his robberies were not necessarily covered through company insurance and that the crimes might have caused trauma to his victims. He has also learned more about crack cocaine. He used to be an athlete and was picky about the substances he chose to put into his body; he has now learned about the chemicals that can be put into crack cocaine, and that he could have killed himself through his use.

Mr. Myles has engaged with programming and work throughout his time in custody. While the Board has not received verifying documentation, he reportedly obtained his GED during his second incarceration. Since his most recent arrest in August 2000, he has earned at least 13 certificates, most of which were for Christian or Bible-based courses. Earlier this month, he completed an Anger Management course. He has also worked in dietary and as a machine operator, and at times was recorded as being an unassigned utility man. He reports that he spent four years as cell house help in the X house that was the unofficial honors dorm at Stateville Correctional Center, inspiring him to enroll in an Urban Studies class that was ultimately canceled due to Covid.

Mr. Myles self-reports having read books on self-discipline, cognitive behavior, and self-help while incarcerated, as well as several "for dummies" books. He had several of these books on-hand at his parole hearing, and shared specific information about books on investments and home improvement, reflecting his interest in learning the trades. He attempted to pursue vocational training and other forms of programming at Sheridan, but was told that priority was given to those with approaching outdates, so his natural life sentence has been prohibitive.

The Board failed to notice whether there was a SPIN assessment in his master file, but the contents that were accessed suggest low risk: There is no record of him participating in any security threat groups while incarcerated, and he is currently deemed A-grade with no escape risk, medium security, with no history of assaultive behavior within Illinois Department of Corrections. He has received three tickets during this incarceration, the last of which was in 2009.

In 2003, Mr. Myles received a ticket for failing to provide a urine sample in the allocated two-hour window for a routine drug test. He received six months each of revocation of good conduct credit, segregation, and C-grade. The record indicates that IDOC had provided him with four glasses of water to facilitate a sample, but that Mr. Myles maintained to the Adjustment Committee that he was simply unable to urinate within the designated time frame. It is noted that Mr. Myles has been subject to many routine and random drug tests during his time in IDOC, and all have been negative.

In 2005, he received 13 days of segregation for disobeying a direct order when he continued to speak to an individual through a fence to the seg yard after he was told to line up for chow. In 2009, he received two months of C-grade and one month of segregation for theft and disobeying a direct order. The theft was confirmed to be a reference to an overdue library book; the disobeying a direct order was for his cell being left out of compliance. Both he and his cellmate received tickets for the incident.

STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

Mr. Myles takes responsibility for his offense and a string of prior offenses, some of which resulted in prior IDOC commitments. He shares regret, remorse for all his victims and the trauma he put them through, and the sentiment that if he could gain enough success to pay them back, he would.

By way of context, Mr. Myles shared that he first began engaging in armed robberies with his best friend as a means of obtaining fast money. They would place an order for delivery and then confront the driver at the provided address with a knife or metal object presented as a weapon. His last two strings of offenses were perpetrated without co-defendants as a means of supporting a drug addiction. Rather than placing a pizza order himself, he would sometimes rob delivery drivers that he encountered, particularly on a Friday or Saturday night when they could be expected to be busier and therefore have more money. He would typically utilize pieces of metal partially hidden up his sleeve to mimic a firearm. In his last offense, he utilized what he claimed to be an unloaded firearm. He believed that by targeting pizza delivery drivers nobody would be harmed, since the business would likely have insurance that would cover the losses, and the situation would be less likely to escalate on the assumption that delivery drivers would be less likely to be armed and may be trained to not fight back or resist a robbery.

On the night of the present offense, he waited outside the business and targeted the driver whose waistline he could see, feeling more confident that the driver would be unarmed. He trailed and robbed the individual. After leaving, he believes police either attempted to pull him over for matching the robbery victim's description, or because the car was still registered to a former address from a different part of the city, and they may have wanted to make sure it was not stolen. He attempted to get away, but police were eventually able to block him. When he laid down to be handcuffed, they beat him, breaking his ribs.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Myles has significant support for his release, as reflected in several letters included with his parole petition. Many of his family and friends have professional experience in addiction counseling and reentry, including the cousin with whom he intends to reside in Chicago. He would also benefit from the support of Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation, SAFER Foundation, and the Illinois Prison Project. He is studying for his Commercial Driver's License and intends to enroll in trucking school and possibly apply for an apprenticeship in the trades. He would also like to coach a youth basketball league to give back to his community.



OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

The Cook County State's Attorney's office was on file as not opposing a grant of clemency in a letter in 2022. For this hearing, they wrote to indicate they hold no position pertaining to his parole release. There is no other known opposition to release.

ENBANC HISTORY

This is Mr. Myles's first time for consideration in front of the Prisoner Review Board.

Closed Executive Session: JGLOBOKAR-MCOATES

Open Executive Session: JGLOBOKAR-MCOATES

DISCUSSION

Ms. De Jong, Mr. Jacob Myles' attorney, stated he is one in a small amount of people who have been commuted by the Governor. She explained how the police reports say an unloaded gun was found after the arrest and that he committed the robbery for money for crack cocaine. She stated he is very grateful that no one was injured during the robbery, and he has remorse for the car chase that happened after the robbery. He stated he received broken ribs during the altercation. She stated he has reflected a lot on himself and all the people he has harmed during his addiction. She explained he was working during the time of the crime, but he did the robberies on the side for money for drugs as he was hiding his addiction from his fiancé and family. She stated he felt he could not tell his family. She stated he has changed now, admitted he needed help and has been very upfront. She explained how he does not have secrets anymore and he wanted his family to be able to watch his institutional hearing. She began to explain the services Mr. Myles will receive once released. As an example, he has already completed an intake form with Peer counseling services, adding Recovery Maintenance Sobriety will be there to help him identify triggers that might happen. Mr. Myles stated if he feels tempted to use drugs, he will turn to God and his family. Ms. De Jong then explained being in the hospital for the broken ribs, was what prompted him to reevaluate his addiction, life and his relationship with God. He has not had any programming while at Sheridan Correctional Center, but he likes to educate himself, therefore he brought a bag of books to his interview with the Board member. He studies every day for his Commercial Driver's License, and he earned industrial maintenance while on work release. She explained how Mr. Myles currently has a 2-1401 petition that is still pending but he has never claimed innocence. Ms. DeJong asked everyone in person at the hearing to please stand if they are here in support of Mr. Myles.

Mr. Myles started off with thanking the Board and explained how he feels blessed. He discussed being remorseful and how he never took into consideration what it can do to someone else emotionally. He stated he never meant to hurt anyone although it was not physically. He then began reading a letter that he had prepared to which he apologized for the pain and suffering he has caused from his crimes. Mr. Myles explained it was not until another individual in custody told him while he was in county jail, it is not only the victim who suffers but also their family and friends. He explained how those people

thought they were going to be shot; they did not know the gun was unloaded and they were traumatized. He stated emotional damage can last a lifetime, but injury can heal over time. He apologized to his family for the pain he has caused and how his family did not see this coming because he was living well and working, he was going to the gym as well before all this happened. He said what hurt the most was his kids were coming looking for him and he was not there. Mr. Myles stated he no longer has the desire to get high, even with countless opportunities to do drugs while incarcerated. He refuses to take medication that may alter his mind, he does not want to be triggered into using drugs again. He states he tries to help others inside. He has a whole new perspective on how he looks at the world and he will do his best to love his neighbors. During his time at Stateville Correctional Center, he took many Bible study courses and took advantage of any programs that were offered along with many vocational skills.

Ms. Globokar stated they are aware of all his accomplishments and sobriety and asked him to share his parole plans if he were to be released today. Mr. Myles explained how he would like to take the test for his CDL and join a church with an outreach program. He would like to be able to share his story with others and his community and he would like to be able to stop so many youths from coming into custody.

Ms. Shoffner thanked Mr. Myles for his spirit, true remorse, and his heart felt testimony.

Ms. Taylor stated he has always felt like a brother to her. She stated family has always supported Jacob, and they will support his release. She explained how his aunt now has lung cancer and would love to see him come home. She stated they are thankful for the Governor for allowing him to become parole eligible and his ticket history shows maturity and accountability. She briefly discusses his addiction issues and how he was embarrassed to come to his family about his addiction. She stated she is prepared to personally support him and the programing he needs. She stated she has been to prison before and understands the road to recovery from addiction as she has suffered as well. She explained how she has a bachelor's in human services and resources. She is a mental health professional, and she is a certified drug and alcohol counselor who also works with reentry. She stated how she and her husband have opened up their home to him and will take care of his personal needs. She closed with saying all of the family he has lost since being incarcerated.

Ms. Quam, Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, stated they do not oppose the granting of parole for Mr. Myles.

End of Discussion.



DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to grant parole (JGLOBOKAR-RSHOFFNER). Motion prevailed by a unanimous vote.

After a complete review of Mr. Jacob Myles case, and after giving thoughtful discussion and consideration to all factors, the Board decided and voted to grant parole to Mr. Myles subject to conditions of parole release as set by the Board and by law. The Board hereby finds that Mr. Jacob Myles 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."

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET OPEN SESSION- July 31, 2025

Individual in Custody's Name: Raymond Long IDOC Number: C10214

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on July 31, 2025, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Raymond Long C10214.

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

Recording Secretary: Ellen Wayne

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Mr. Raymond Long Jr., C10214, was interviewed by Board Member, Ms. Krystal Tison via Webex from Graham Correctional Center on May 15th, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Raymond Long's attorney, Ms. Mira De Jong of the Illinois Prison Project was also present during the interview, along with Ms. Jessie Schrantz. Mr. Long was polite and communicated clearly.

Mr. Long is 82 years old; he has been at Graham Correctional Center since 2009, and official records show he has been in custody continuously since January of 1963. It is believed he is the longest-serving person in custody in the Illinois Department of Corrections. Mr. Long's Mandatory Supervised Release date is in six months, on March 20, 2026. He was 19 years old at the time of the offense.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Mr. Long went to the Burge home to rob Henry Burge. He knew Henry Burge kept cash on hand because he had sold stolen items to Henry Burge before. When he went to the victim's home, he was invited inside. When Henry Burge turned his back, Mr. Long raised the shotgun he brought with him and shot Mr. Burge in the back of the head, killing him. He dragged Mr. Burge's body into the living room, leaving a path of blood through the kitchen and dining room. When Eva Burge entered the home, he shot her in the head. He shot her a second time with a revolver that he picked up in the house. He robbed the deceased of approximately \$2,500.00 and left the house with his 16-gauge shotgun and with two other guns he picked up at the Burge home.

On January 12, 1963, the defendant confessed to the murder of both Henry and Eva Burge. He cooperated with law enforcement and led the officers to the places where he had buried the pocketbook and the guns he had taken. Guns were identified by the defendant as the ones he had thrown away, and he identified the shotgun as the one he used to kill both Henry Burge and Eva Burge. In his confession, he explained that he planned to rob Henry Burge.

Mr. Long waived his right to a jury trial. At the close of the State's evidence, the defendant withdrew his plea of not guilty and entered a plea of guilty to the murder of Henry Burge. His guilty plea

was given in consideration of avoiding the charges of the murder of Eva Burge and the burglary. The State requested the death penalty, but the Vermillion County Court decided to sentence him to the penitentiary for an indeterminate term of 90 to 150 years. An appeal was not filed.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

There are no other adult convictions before the holding offense.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Long is in general population with a cellmate who serves as his aide and assists him with getting his tray, wheelchair mobility, cleaning his cell, laundry, and making commissary purchases. Mr. Long stated that he lies down after his shower because he is tired. He can walk about 20 feet, and he can transfer himself from the wheelchair as needed. He said his memory is good and he stays to himself and enjoys Scrabble and television.

Mr. Long has a positive disciplinary record. He has five major tickets and one minor ticket from 1998 to present, including a 2013 ticket for possession of unidentified pills and a 2014 contraband ticket for medication misuse. He has had no infractions in over ten years. He reported that he has been an A grade for more than 15 years.

Mr. Long completed his General Educational Development (GED) as well as several vocational certificates while in IDOC. During his incarceration, Mr. Long gained skills in carpentry, painting, masonry, and other trades. He worked in the Illinois Department of Corrections industries at many jobs through the years, including as a carpenter, a mason, at the feed mill, and as a janitor. When on an assignment, he has a positive reporting history, and he volunteered by teaching other inmates some of his carpentry and other vocational skills. Mr. Long stated that he had outside clearance for work for more than 20 years. The 2025 Offender Overview states that he has adjusted positively to his environment.

STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

Mr. Long shared that at the time of the holding offense, he was married and living with his inlaws and their children. His father-in-law was injured and could not work. Mr. Long felt the pressure of the responsibility of providing for the family. The individuals living in the home included himself, his wife, her parents, and all his wife's siblings, which totaled eight individuals.

Mr. Long stated that he had a job cleaning chicken houses but could not take it anymore and quit his job the day of the offense. He needed money, and so he decided to rob Mr. Burge. In response to questions from Board Member Mr. Bohland, during the 2022 En Banc hearing, it was learned that Mr. Long stole things from his family and sold them to Mr. Burge, and so he knew Mr. Burge had stolen goods in his house. Mr. Long acknowledged those thefts and sales to Mr. Burge and said he assumed that Mr. Burge would not call the police.

Mr. Long stated that he was nervous and thought Mr. Burge reached for a gun, so he shot him. Mr. and Mrs. Burge were living separately, so he was surprised when she arrived. During questioning

from Mr. Bohland during the 2022 En Banc hearing, he admitted that she did not immediately die, and so he shot her a second time.

Mr. Long acknowledges the facts of the crime and takes full responsibility, acknowledges the damage caused, and is remorseful for his actions. Mr. Long stated he wrote a letter of remorse to the Burge family, which is included in his file. Mr. Long stated that he knows that he destroyed both their family and his own. He said that sorry is not good enough.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Long stated he will need assistance in finding a parole site. All his immediate family members have passed away, and the letters he receives are from a friend with whom he was incarcerated with. During his interview, it was indicated that Mr. Long has been accepted to Balmoral Nursing Home in Chicago. Balmoral is in a quiet residential area on the north side of Chicago. Medicaid, Medicare, and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits will be available based on his limited work history, advanced age, and low-income status.

Re-entry support and services will be provided by NAMI Chicago, Infinite Angels, SAFER Foundation, Illinois Prison Project, and possibly, the US Department of Veterans' Affairs. NAMI Chicago will visit to assist with his adjustment. Infinite Angels, a not-for-profit, will connect with the VA and will check in on Mr. Long. SAFER Foundation provides re-entry case management to assist with adjustment to the community. The Illinois Prison Project will visit, purchase a cell phone, and clothes for Mr. Long. The Illinois Prison Project's standard follow-up is three to six months. They hope to place others there in the future and have already assisted with 6 placements, they will check on Mr. Long for a longer period.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

In a letter dated February 26, 2025, the Vermillion County States Attorney opposes the petition based on the seriousness of the offense as well as the lasting effect on the Burge family. There has historically been strong opposition in letters and in person in this case. Over the years, family members appeared in person at En Banc to voice their opposition. As those family members passed, the grandchildren continued the opposition. In a February 25, 2022, letter, Randy Burge notes that the plea bargain agreement resulted in Mr. Long being only charged with the murder of his grandfather but not the murder of his grandmother. He discusses that they relive the horror of the aftermath of the murders each time they receive notice of a pending hearing.

ENBANC HISTORY

Mr. Long's first consideration for parole was in 1974. This is Mr. Long's 31st time to come before the Prisoner Review Board. He has been denied 30 times. In 2020, Mr. Long was denied with a vote of 13 to 0. In 2021, Mr. Long was denied with a vote of eight to three.

DISCUSSION

Ms. De Jong, Mr. Raymond Long's attorney, stated he has taken full responsibly since this crime, but he has also been punished for 62 years. He is the longest living and longest served individual in custody within Illinois Department of Corrections. She believes he has been punished enough and explains how he committed this crime as a teenager and was uneducated, therefore part of his brain was not fully developed. At the time of the crime, he was supporting a family of eight, although she is aware none of that excuses the crime but should be taken into consideration under the new statute. He has eight months left until he has served his maximum sentence with all of the good time earned for good conduct. She stated eight months might not seem a lot to the Board, but it is to Mr. Long with his age and health. She stated his first plan was previously a halfway house but due to his age and health, a nursing home would better suit him. She stated everyone he has ever known has since died. She explained how he has not received a single ticket in the last year and only a few over the last decade. She stated he worked for Illinois Correctional Industries for 27 years, to which he had glowing performance reviews over the last several years. She believes he has done everything he can to show he is ready for parole. She stated this is emotional not only for the victim's family but for Mr. Long as well. She stated this will be his last parole hearing, meaning he will either get out today or in eight months, but this is the Board's last time to recognize his accomplishments and remorse.

Ms. Schrantz stated Mr. Long has been accepted into Balmoral Nursing Home, and they have had six individuals previously in custody at their facility. They will make sure he has everything he needs, from clothing to receiving the services he needs. They will be there to help him with the transition from prison to a nursing home and can also connect him with the Veteran Affairs.

Mr. Burge opposes the parole of Mr. Long. He stated there is nothing gentleman about him and he shared about his personal suffering. He discusses Mr. Long's disciplinary tickets from when he was younger. He states he grew up his entire life from six years old to current without his grandparents. He still drives by the house everyday where they were murdered, and he stated the items that were stolen. He asked the Board to understand the pain they have to endure every year. He stated his dad was one of nine siblings and he asked him to continue to go to the Board to protest the release.

Ms. Tison asked Mr. Burge to explain how this affects him and his family. Mr. Burge stated it feels like his hearts been ripped out and stitched back together. He asked the Board to make Mr. Long serve the maximum sentence.

Mr. Burge, oldest of four brothers, stated that several things have been said today that offended him deeply. He stated how Mr. Long "screwed up" in the army. Mr. Burge then asked his own 19-year-old grandson to stand up, he used him as an example of what a 19-year-old man looks like. He stated his father was in his 20th year of military service when his grandparents were murdered to which he was notified by Telegram to which he then had to travel back to Illinois. They spent Thanksgiving burying his grandparents and there has never been a joyous occasion in the home since. He stated his father was looking forward to retirement after 20 years in the service but then his parents were murdered. He stated he has only missed one parole hearing due to him being in the Air Force and he begs the Board to make him wait the eight months until his Mandatory Supervised Release.

Ms. De Jong stated Mr. Long thinks about this every day and knows his actions have devasted the family, even after 62 years. She stated if released today, he will be in a nursing home, nowhere near the family.

Ms. Shoffner asked the Burge family to stand in protest of Mr. Long.

Ms. Terrones questioned whether he could he go there in eight months if not released today and Ms. DeJong stated he could.

Ms. Globokar questioned the Board Members who had spoken with Mr. Long in recent years whether he seemed to understand the gravity of the harm that he caused, as there was record from IDOC from about ten years ago indicating he did not.

Ms. Tison stated he did express remorse during the interview.

Mr. Bohland stated he was remorseful in 2022 as well, but accountability only came out in 2022, as more details came out during the interview that he actually went and found a second gun to murder Mrs. Burge.

Ms. De Jong stated Mr. Long said he only shot her the second time because she was still alive. She does not believe his story changed but that he was just never asked questions before such as "why did you shoot her a second time?"

Mr. Burge stated pictures from the crime scene were sold to magazine to which caused more trauma for the family.

End of Discussion.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

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

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

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET OPEN SESSION- July 31, 2025

Individual in Custody's Name: Ronald Reno IDOC Number: C10360

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on July 31, 2025, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Ronald Reno C10360.

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

Recording Secretary: Ellen Wayne

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Mr. Ronald Reno was interviewed by Board Member, Ms. Krystal Tison, via WebEx from Dixon Correctional Center on June 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Reno, who is 73 years old, communicated clearly.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On October 6, 1970, Mr. Reno, then 18 years old, forced open a living room window at Marcia Vespa's home and entered the darkened interior. Mr. Reno then proceeded to the kitchen, where he found a carving knife that was 12 ½" in length. Mr. Reno then went upstairs to the bedrooms of the house armed with the knife. The victim's two children were asleep when Mr. Reno invaded Mrs. Vespa's bedroom as she lay sleeping. At knife point, Mr. Reno raped the victim, and then he plunged the carving knife into her heart and again into her side, killing her. Mr. Reno went down the stairs, stole two purses that were on the dining room table, and fled through the kitchen. Mr. Reno proceeded through neighbors' backyards before sneaking into a garage where he ransacked the purses, leaving his thumbprint on one of the articles in the purse. Mr. Reno's conviction was affirmed by the Appellate Court.

A second offence occurred in 1971, resulting in Deviant Sexual Assault, Rape, and Aggravated Battery convictions. Mr. Reno accosted the victim in her basement as she was doing laundry. Mr. Reno forced the victim to have sexual intercourse with him, compelled her to submit to an act of oral copulation and then proceeded to hit her unconscious with a baseball bat when she refused to enter the burning furnace. She remained hospitalized for seven days, sustaining a broken finger, a broken jaw, and burns on her body. She saw him on the street two weeks later, called the police, and he was apprehended. The Appellate Court confirmed his conviction.

A third incident occurred on April 27, 1971. The victim, Mrs. Cobb, was walking into a building when Mr. Reno grabbed her, demanding money. Mr. Reno took the victim's wallet containing cash. Mr. Reno was identified by photograph and arrested on May 8, 1971. He pleaded guilty to robbery.

Mr. Reno was sentenced on May 4, 1972, to 20-40 years for the Rape and five to ten years for Aggravated Battery. Mr. Reno was sentenced on July 29, 1973, for Robbery with a two-year sentence to run concurrent to the Rape and Aggravated Battery sentences. Mr. Reno was sentenced on August 2, 1973, to 100-300 years for Murder.

Mr. Reno continues to serve his sentence for Murder.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Starting in 1970, Mr. Reno had arrests for contributing to the sexual delinquency of a child, disorderly conduct, mob action, theft, and rape. Mr. Reno was on three years of probation for burglary committed after the murder and violated that probation with the other holding convictions. Additionally, he had a 2002 new felony conviction for marijuana in a penal institution.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Reno has been in the Illinois Department of Corrections since December 15, 1972. He has been at Dixon Correctional Center since August 4, 2010. He maintains contact with his sister's children through letters and had the support of his sister until her passing in March of 2022.

He says God sustained him to tell his story of what he did, and that he takes full accountability. He wants to guide young people and give them direction in life so they will not get into trouble. He explained that they need to know someone cares. He repeatedly said that prison has made him a better man, and he understands who he can be.

Mr. Reno participated minimally in programming and services during his incarceration. He stated that he completed substance abuse and foundations courses. He stated he has been in sex offender programs for days or weeks in the past when a program would come to the institution. His statements are not supported by the 2017 En Banc interview notes. Those notes state that he completed a one-hour rape culture seminar in 2015, but do not list any other sex offender services. Also, according to the 2022 Offender Overview, Mr. Reno had not taken part in any kind of programming since his last En Banc in 2017. In his interview, Mr. Reno said he attempted to earn his General Educational Development (GED) and took some college courses. He said that since his last appearance before the Prisoner Review Board, he completed the Aim Higher program, Foundation for Life and other classes.

Mr. Reno has a poor institutional adjustment and his disciplinary record while in IDOC is of concern. There are eight pages of tickets before 2000 with serious offenses, including assault, gang activity, arson, drugs, bribery, and dangerous contraband on several occasions. According to the 2017 SPIN assessment, Mr. Reno admitted to IDOC staff that in the early 80s, he shanked and piped other individuals in custody on several occasions but never got into trouble because IDOC was different back then.

Mr. Reno has five pages of tickets from 2001 to July 2022. Since his last appearance before the Board in July 2022, he received nine major tickets and seven minor tickets, including homemade smoking device, refusing to remove item from his mouth, screwdrivers, stinger, homemade cigarettes, intimidation

or threats, insolence, powder positive for Heroin/Morphine, possession of homemade alcohol on two occasions, possession of cleaning chemicals, smoking homemade joint, under influence, window covered, wires and metal screw. Mr. Reno admits to being argumentative with the officers. Mr. Reno claims that he has instigated some tickets, but that other tickets are coming from officers' mistakes and harassment. He explained that sometimes correctional officers have a bad day, or he may have a bad day, but he has learned not to put himself into a position to get into real trouble. He says he knows how to walk away now. Mr. Reno blames an officer who had an issue with him, officers holding grudges, or officers not understanding what he was trying to do at the time. As an example, he explained that if a correctional officer says he thinks you are intoxicated, you go to segregation even if you are not intoxicated. It does not have to be proven.

He admits to making wine for other individuals in custody in the past and states he does not blame anyone for his behavior. He said he needed money as he did not have an institutional job, and his family was not sending money. He says he still does not have money but learned to adapt to what he has. Additionally, Mr. Reno said that he has a talent for working on televisions, tablets, and radios. He sometimes works on them to make money. He said this explains why, in the past year, he received tickets for having wires and headphones.

Mr. Reno shared that he has a belief in God. He reads Daily Bread Devotionals and the Bible daily, and prays daily, and it helps him.

Per the 2017 SPIN assessment, Mr. Reno wants to work but has trouble holding down a job. He has lost jobs due to transfers and due to being in segregation. Per the 2022 Offender Overview, Mr. Reno worked as a janitor from 2018 to 2020. Mr. Reno claims that he lost that job due to a falling out with a lieutenant. He was assigned as a housing unit janitor from June 2024 through July 2024, but the assignment was terminated due to placement in Restrictive Housing, segregation. He said he was placed in segregation because 54 unopened juices were found in his cell. He said the determination that they tested positive for alcohol was incorrect, as they were unopened containers of juice. He said he used to make alcohol, but he planned to sell the juices to another winemaker for a little money.

STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

In a 1986 letter to the Prisoner Review Board, Mr. Reno claimed his innocence. In 1988, he asserted the same in a letter to then Governor, Mr. Thompson. Mr. Reno admitted he spent years denying his involvement but later admitted his involvement after his mother died. He said he was running wild and was acting crazy and had no purpose or direction in life.

He said he could not face what he had done and did not take ownership of what he did until he found God. Now, Mr. Reno fully acknowledges his role in the crimes and takes responsibility for them. Mr. Reno stated he feels remorseful for his actions. He stated repeatedly that he knows he destroyed two families as well as his own family. Mr. Reno states that he feels responsible for his mother's death, as his actions and crimes were very upsetting to her. Mr. Reno says he wants whatever time he has left to be used for good.

Mr. Reno explained that at the time of the crimes, he was surrounded by gangs and was a member of the Black Stone Rangers. He was without any kind of structure or direction in life. He was drinking and smoking marijuana. Mr. Reno stated, "I brought it upon myself wanting to be the best gang banger." He said he was influenced by others and did not have a mind of his own.

Mr. Reno said he was unsuccessful in his attempts to communicate with the victims' family to express his remorse.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Reno does not have a confirmed parole plan. He hopes to live at New Beginnings as he believes they will accept sex offenders, and he says he believes he can get a job.

Mr. Reno stated that he needs help getting his social security benefits because he was living and working under the alias of Ronald Reno. His government name is Ronald Logan Espy. He said someone stole his identity and died in the state of Wisconsin. He believes there are organizations and people to assist him.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

The Cook County State's Attorney submitted a six-page opposition letter dated July 24, 2025, stressing the seriousness of the offenses committed while on probation, a history of serious offenses as well as ongoing institutional tickets.

There are five letters of protest from 2017and in 2025, the Board received letters in opposition from Mrs. Vespa's grandson and her granddaughter. Her granddaughter described her family's trauma and the effect the murder continues to have on her family.

ENBANC HISTORY

Closed Executive Session: JGRUBBS-KTISON

Open Executive Session: JGRUBBS-KTISON

DISCUSSION

Mr. Pearson read his letter of support of Mr. Reno's release that was submitted to the Board.

Robert Hollingshead, Assistant Attorney General, stated if Mr. Reno is paroled today, they request a 90 day stay for an evaluation under the Sexually Violent Persons Act.

Ms. Quam, Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, strongly objects to parole in person due to his extensive Illinois Department of Corrections background and he has consistently received tickets. She stated Mr. Long's reason behind the crimes was drug use but still continues to abuse substances while in

IDOC. She stated he does not have a solid reentry plan as well, and his sister and niece's home do not meet the requirements. She asked the Board to consider all the protest letters from the past years.

Mr. Reno stated he is a product of his environment, but he has changed. He stated you have to rehabilitate yourself and he has done that. He stated he is not the same person, he has learned to adapt without certain things and ways, adding he is also able to work with his hands. He states the reason he has not had any opportunities with a successful release, is because he does know anything and the programs they do have, are not for anyone like him and they put him on a wait list. He has been waiting for his GED his entire incarceration. He stated he knows he is a changed person, but God has sustained him. He is not looking to impress someone, there is no one to impress. He is just trying to live whatever life he has left in society. He says you cannot tell by an institutional record how someone has handled prison. If released, he can do electrical and wants to do good. He stated he has always had a work history. He stated he needs the opportunity and chance to show that he can be positive in society, and he has a story to tell, he wants to prove himself.

Mr. Grubbs asked him to tell his parole plan and questioned if he had somewhere he could go. Mr. Reno stated he could have one in a month's time and a Pastor stated they would put money down on an apartment for him.

End of Discussion

DECISION AND RATIONALE

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

Motion for a 3-year set (KTISON-JGRUBBS). Motion prevailed with a 7-1 vote. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Coates, Ms. Globokar, Mr. Grubbs, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones and Ms. Tison. Mr. Tupy dissented.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Ronald Reno'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. Reno'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."