



STATE OF ILLINOIS
JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Edith Crigler, Chair

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— September 28, 2022

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on September 28, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following individuals in custody:

N83198	NELSON, JAMES *
C90220	PHILLIPS, GEORGE *
T52128	MORRIS, MAJOR
M54916	PORTER, DESHAUNE
C01441	PEARSON, DENNIS *

The meeting was called to order by Madam Chair Crigler.

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. Edith Crigler	X	
Ms. Lisa Daniels	X	
Ms. Julie Globokar	X	
Mr. Rodger Heaton	X	
Ms. LeAnn Miller	X	
Mr. Donald Shelton	X	
Ms. Robin Shoffner	X	
Ms. Carmen Terrones	X	
Mr. Ken Tupy	X	

11 Members Present

The Board heard and voted upon the cases of James Nelson, George Phillips, Major Morris, Deshaune Porter, and Dennis Pearson as detailed in the individual case minutes.

Meeting was adjourned (LM—DS). Leave.



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OPEN SESSION—September 28, 2022

Inmate Name: **JAMES NELSON ***

IDOC Number: **N83198**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on September 28, 2022, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for James Nelson * N83198.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Coates, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Globokar, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Miller, Mr. Shelton, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones, Mr. Tupy, and Madam Chair Crigler.

Recording Secretary: Alexandria Bryan.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

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

On July 28, 2022, Mr. Nelson was interviewed *via* WebEx at Illinois River Correctional Center in Canton, Illinois. Mr. Nelson was represented by his counsel Carolyn Klarquist and Peter Sgro. His sister Gwendolyn Williams also attended the hearing. The interview started at 9 a.m. with Mr. Nelson and Ms. Williams being sworn in.

Mr. Nelson is 72 years old and is serving a life sentence with the possibility of parole for the shooting death of his stepson Nathaniel Perry on December 15, 1986. He has been incarcerated in IDOC for 35 years. Mr. Nelson took the lead in answering all questions. His demeanor was open, honest, and respectful. He communicated clearly and became emotional when discussing the events that led to the shooting death of Nathaniel Perry. He accepts full responsibility for his actions and stated that it hurts him tremendously that he caused Mr. Perry's death and further, that he realizes that he killed a brother, a son, a nephew, and a grandson.

During our interview it became apparent that there were several factors that contributed to the demise of Mr. James Nelson. Mr. Nelson has battled alcoholism since 1971 (21 years old) when he was first admitted to rehab and joined Alcoholics Anonymous. In 1984, after Mr. Nelson married and moved into the apartment occupied by his wife and her two teenaged sons (Nathaniel and Robert), Mr. Nelson's attempts to establish himself as the head of household were met with opposition and resentment by Mr. Nathaniel Perry. Mr. Perry complained to his father, who had just been released from prison and shortly thereafter, Mr. Nelson was attacked. In the fall of 1985, Mr. Nelson lost his employment as a boilermaker and started consuming alcohol. Three weeks prior to the shooting death of Mr. Perry, Mr. Nelson was separated from his wife and was living with his sister. In early December 1986, Mr. Nelson maintains that Mr. Perry and some of his friends stole his car and destroyed the vehicle beyond repair. After seeing the car,



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Mr. Nelson drank heavily, got his gun, and went to confront Mr. Nathaniel Perry. Upon seeing him, Mr. Nelson fired one shot to Mr. Perry's head and killed him.

STATEMENT OF FACT

In August 1984, James Nelson married Triva Perry, the mother of the victim in this case, Nathaniel Perry. Mr. Nelson lived with Triva and two of her kids - Nathaniel (age 16) and Robert (14) at 6215 South Wabash (the apartment). On December 15, 1986, Mr. Nelson came to the apartment looking for Nathaniel. At the time Nathaniel, Robert and three of their friends were inside the home. "The State's evidence showed that an intoxicated Nelson was angry at Nathaniel for stealing and destroying his car. Mr. Nelson threatened to kill Nathaniel and upon seeing him, he fired a single shot from his revolver striking Nate in his head – which lacerated his brain. After shooting Nate, Mr. Nelson then went to another apartment in the building, sat in a chair and placed the gun underneath the chair. He remained there until he was placed into custody by CPD officers without resistance several minutes later. At the time he was placed into custody, CPD Sgt. Kelly testified at trial that Mr. Nelson admitted to shooting Nate and professed to "have done society a favor by killing him." Sgt. Kelly also testified that that Mr. Nelson appeared to have been drinking.

At trial, Mr. Nelson testified that he accidentally shot Nate. Mr. Nelson testified that he had four shots of whiskey and some beers before going home but maintained that he was not intoxicated at the time he shot Nate. He also testified that he did not make callous statements to the police officers but said his statements were taken out of context. Following the trial, the judge found Mr. Nelson's hearsay statements to the police officers were reprehensible and showed a malignant heart. The trial judge also stated that Mr. Nelson slanted his story in order to get a lesser sentence but was not believable. The trial judge found Mr. Nelson guilty of two counts of murder and imposed natural life sentence after finding that the murder was exceptionally brutal and cruel.

Mr. Nelson filed a direct appeal, two writs of *habeus corpus* and a petition for post-conviction relief, all of which were all denied. In 2020, Mr. Nelson's sentence was commuted to natural life with the possibility for parole after he filed a *pro se* petition. On August 24, 2021, the Board unanimously denied Mr. Nelson's first request for a commutation and pardon.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Nelson has one felony conviction on his record: the 1986 murder conviction of Mr. Nathaniel Perry. In addition, he has one misdemeanor conviction for theft of services (bus ride) in 1969.



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Mr. Nelson's previous arrests are as follows: 1974- Retail Theft (dismissed); 1975- Retail theft (dismissed); 1976 – DUI (dismissed); 1979 – Battery (dismissed); 1979 – Battery (same offense, dismissed); and 1984 – Driving on Revoked License (dismissed). Mr. Nelson explained that the nature of the two battery charges arose from a single incident involving a dispute between his two sisters in which he intervened. When police officers arrived on scene he was charged. On the first court appearance, the judge stated that the charge would be dismissed, and he thought the matter was resolved. He did not appear at the next court date and a warrant for his arrest was issued. He returned to court and the charges were dismissed.

Mr. Nelson's DOC ticket history is admirable for having served more than 35 years in IDOC. He had a total of (20) incidents, with the last offense occurring in 2015. That offense resulted in a verbal reprimand. He had major tickets in 2010, 2008, and 2005: 2010 was for getting into a fist fight with his cellmate, a sex offender, who made James uncomfortable; 2008 was for the filing of a frivolous lawsuit (major); and, 2005 was a major ticket for not returning to work soon enough after a lunch break.

PAROLE PLAN

On September 21, 2022, St. Leonard's Ministries accepted Mr. Nelson's application for halfway housing and re-entry services and has offered residential program with complete services should he be granted parole. In addition, he is invited to live with his sister, Gwen Williams and her husband in the West Pullman neighborhood of Chicago. Mr. Nelson also qualifies for both Social Security and Medicare.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Sgro, Mr. Nelson's attorney, stated that Mr. Nelson feels ashamed for what he has done, and that he is remorseful and regrets ruining his family. Mr. Sgro stated that Mr. Nelson wants to parole to have some time to spend with his family. He will have Social Security as his income and looks forward to working and being with his family. Mr. Sgro stated that Mr. Nelson was crying during their visit together and stated that prison is hard. He has a parole plan at St. Leonard's.

Ms. Klarquist, Mr. Nelson's attorney, stated that Mr. Nelson has been approved to parole to St. Leonard's which provides an alcohol treatment program.

Member Daniels questioned the opposition letter date.

Member Shoffner stated 2015.



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Member Daniels stated there is no current objection letter.

Member Heaton questioned if Mr. Nelson's wife was estranged. He also questioned if this was done to intentionally hurt her, and if Mr. Nelson was remorseful.

Member Shoffner stated that Mr. Nelson wept during their meeting and that she believes Mr. Nelson is remorseful.

Member Globokar questioned if there are any victims.

Member Shoffner stated that there are no indications.

Member Bohland stated that what stood out to him is that this is the first time that Mr. Nelson is taking accountability. Previous stories have changes over the years. It was stated previously that while being taken into custody that Mr. Nelson was threatening another person. Member Shoffner stated that this was not discussed during their meeting. Mr. Nelson believes that his statements were taken out of context. He also said that the only other person in the house was his brother, and the only statement from his brother was that Mr. Nelson was 3 feet away from the victim, but it was not proven.

Member Miller questioned if there was an order of protection for his ex-wife because it stated that he stalked his ex-wife.

Member Shoffner stated that there is no record of an order of protection.

Member Tupy stated that the Judge gave him life, found it brutal. He questioned if the Judge gave a list of those facts for a life sentence.

Member Shoffner stated that they were just the statements.

Member Shelton questioned if they were clear that Mr. Nelson was intoxicated when this happened.

Member Shoffner stated that it was clear that Mr. Nelson was intoxicated when this happened, and his judgement was not clear.

Member Globokar questioned if there were premeditated thoughts due to Mr. Nelson going to his sister's house and getting the gun.

Member Shoffner stated that Mr. Nelson guessed that he had intent when he went to get the gun, but his judgement was impaired due to drinking.



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Member Globokar shared a quote from Mr. Nelson about his stepson always bringing his "gang banging friends to his house," indicating Mr. Nelson may still be failing to accept the gravity of his offense by *deflecting blame onto* the victim."

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to Grant parole (RS-LD.) Motion prevails with a 7-4 vote. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Coates, Madam Chair Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Heaton, Mr. Shelton, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones. Mr. Bohland, Ms. Globokar, Ms. Miller, Mr. Tupy dissented.

After a complete review of Mr. Nelson's case, and after giving thoughtful discussion and consideration to all factors, the Board decided and voted to grant parole to Mr. Nelson, subject to conditions of parole release as set by the Board and by law. The Board hereby finds that Mr. Nelson 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—September 28, 2022

Inmate Name: **GEORGE PHILLIPS ***

IDOC Number: **C90220**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on September 28, 2022, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for George Phillips C90220.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Coates, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Globokar, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Miller, Mr. Shelton, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones, Mr. Tupy, and Madam Chair Crigler.

Recording Secretary: Alexandria Bryan.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

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

Mr. George Phillips C90220 was interviewed on July 25, 2022, via WebEx. Mr. Phillips projected release date is September 29, 2064, and his maximum release date is March 29, 2065. Mr. Phillips was born, November 11, 1952, is currently 69 years old. According to the file, Mr. Phillips' last SPIN assessment conducted in 2016 notes him classified on A-grade, Minimum Security and Low Escape Risk at Joliet Treatment Center where he has been since May 25, 2017, and under the jurisdiction of the IDOC since January 22, 1979, after having been convicted of Murder and sentenced to serve a sentence of 100 to 200 years.

In 1978, Phillips was convicted of murder after a bench trial by the Honorable Judge Machala. Phillips chose to be sentenced under the indeterminate sentencing statute. Judge Machala sentenced him to 100-200 years in the penitentiary. During sentencing Judge Machala described the crime as "viciously executed" and "willful and wanton and cruel in nature." Judge Machala further stated,

"In view of George Phillips' background, the nature and circumstances of the crime and the conduct of George Phillips, that he is a very dangerous person; that he lacks rehabilitative potential, and he should never be allowed to walk the streets of our society again."

Mr. Phillips has the emotional support of his brother, who at last communication lives in Crete, IL and a niece who lives in North Carolina.



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STATEMENT OF FACTS

On May 3, 1972, the body of Dean Terrill was found in his high-rise apartment on 2400 North Lakeview in Chicago. Mr. Terrill had been stabbed numerous times. In November of 1973, George Phillips was arrested in Brunswick, GA for a burglary. During the course of that investigation, Mr. Phillips confessed to a Brunswick detective that he murdered Mr. Dean Terrill. Mr. Phillips was also the subject of an arrest warrant for possession of burglary tools in Chicago. On May 15, 1974, Mr. Phillips was extradited to Chicago where he subsequently confessed to the murder to an Assistant State's Attorney.

In his statement to the Brunswick detectives, Mr. Phillips described how during the first week of May 1971, he borrowed a nickel-plated pearl handled .38 snub nosed revolver. He had planned to commit an armed robbery at the apartment of Dean Terrill, whom he knew was a Vice President of an oil company. Mr. Phillips had been to Terrill's apartment on two prior occasions with his cousin, Jimmy Green, who worked at the Avis Garage and parked Terrill's car. Phillips stated that he borrowed \$20 from Terrill on a previous occasion and on the day of the murder he called Terrill and told him that he would send someone over to his apartment with the money that he owed him. Phillips took the revolver, which he had borrowed from a friend, and a five-six-inch blade hunting knife. He put the hunting knife and revolver in his waistband. Phillips stated that he arrived at Terrill's apartment between 7pm and 9pm and called him through the intercom system. When Terrill answered, Phillips told him that he was Jimmy Green. Terrill buzzed him into the building and Phillips entered, walking past the doorman. Phillips' stated that when he reached Terrill's apartment, he put a ski mask on over his head. Terrill opened the door and upon observing Phillips in the ski mask pulled the mask off of Phillips' head. Phillips then took the revolver from his waistband and began striking Terrill on his head with the gun. Phillips noted that the apartment door was still partly open. Terrill tried to reach it and yelled "help" very loudly. Phillips slammed the door while striking Mr. Terrill on the back of his head with the gun.

Mr. Phillips described how the victim then began bleeding and fell to the floor unconscious. Phillips then stabbed Mr. Terrill in the chest with the hunting knife. Phillips described how Terrill "bleed like a sick pig." Phillips admitted that he stabbed Terrill 19 or 20 times, but that he did not shoot Terrill because he was afraid that someone would hear the shot. Phillips went through Terrill's pockets and took \$21. Phillips admitted that he expected to find much more money because he thought that Terrill was rich and had thousands of dollars in his apartment. During the struggle, Phillips cut one of his fingers and needed to leave the scene quickly because his finger was bleeding.

He stated that he did not wear gloves and only touched the door handle as he exited the apartment. As he exited, Phillips twisted his hand on the doorknob to smear his fingerprints. He exited by walking down the stairs instead of the elevator to avoid the doorman. Phillips took the train home. He disposed of Terrill's money clip while on the train and threw the knife in the incinerator of his building. He stated that he read in the paper that Terrill's body was discovered two days later.



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INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Phillips has been incarcerated since January 22, 1979, and he has been at Joliet Treatment Center since May 25, 2017, with a brief transfer to Elgin Treatment Center between Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. Mr. Phillips has earned 11 certifications through therapy programs that include anger management and coping skills. Along with classes Mr. Phillips has held several positions of employment including laundry, sanitation, and porter.

According to IDOC Disciplinary Tracking, Mr. Phillips has obtained approximately 41 tickets during his years of incarceration, the most recent being in 2019 for disobeying a direct order.

PAROLE PLAN

During our interview, Mr. Phillips stated he was in communication with Crosses Assisted Living Home/Center for Mental Health. To date, there is no confirmation of his acceptance.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Member Shelton stated that there are mental health issues, but he knew exactly what he was doing when he committed the crimes. Mr. Phillips is delusional at times. In 1986 he thought he was having a relationship with an officer. Mr. Phillips has also set a fire in his cell and is dangerous.

Member Miller questioned if Mr. Phillips was still refusing treatment.

Member Daniels stated that Mr. Phillips had an isolated incident in 2021. Mr. Phillips is aware of his illnesses and need for supervision and treatment.

Madame Chair Crigler stated that Mr. Phillips said, "I need to be in a secured facility." She stated that she previously attempted to get him into Chester Treatment. Mr. Phillips is not confident that he will continue treatment without being supervised.

Member Bohland stated that he is currently in max security. In 2021 he attempted suicide. He also stated that there is a lot of stuff that gives him concern to release.



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DECISION AND RATIONALE

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

After thorough consideration of Mr. Phillips'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. Phillip 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—September 28, 2022

Inmate Name: **MAJOR MORRIS**

IDOC Number: **T52128**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on September 28, 2022, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Major Morris T52128.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Coates, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Globokar, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Miller, Mr. Shelton, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones, Mr. Tupy, and Madam Chair Crigler.

Recording Secretary: Alexandria Bryan.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

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

On August 18, 2022, Mr. Morris was interviewed via WebEx at Menard Correctional Center. Mr. Morris was sworn in and the interview began at 9:37am and ended at 10:20am.

Mr. Morris is 68 years old and has been incarcerated for 30 years. He is currently housed at Menard Correctional Center. He has been there since March 4, 2018. He is currently A grade and medium security. Mr. Morris was convicted of Murder/Intent to Kill/Injure, which he received 100-200 years and Murder/Intent to Kill/Injure and received 20 years.

Mr. Morris stated that he was sent back to Menard from Taylorville in 2018 after 2 DuPage County Investigators came to talk to him about a murder that had happened in DuPage County. The murder case was a young girl, and the specifics were very consistent with the 2 murders that Mr. Morris had committed. The body of this 3rd young girl was found within 2 miles where Mr. Morris' victims were found. He was told he would have to go back to Menard due to the investigation. He stated that he is no longer a suspect and they have found the person responsible for that murder. It has been verified that the suspect in the 3rd murder is not Mr. Morris.

Mr. Morris' health seems to be ok. Mr. Morris is married to Patricia Morris, and they recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have 2 daughters, Angela, and Victoria. He maintains communication with his wife and his daughters. He stated that he has 2 sisters and a brother, but doesn't have any communication with them.



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Mr. Morris and his wife married when he was 18 and they lived in Oswego, Illinois. He worked in a metal factory and his wife worked at the Burger Bar.

Mr. Morris joined the Army in 1980, after the murders of the 2 young girls. He spent 3 years in Germany. His family was with him during this time. He was a computer operator and supply warehouse worker for military vehicles. During his military time, he and his family lived in Virginia, Oklahoma, Germany, Georgia and back to Oklahoma. Mr. Morris received his GED prior to going into the Army. He was given an Honorable Discharge in 1989. He and his wife stayed in Oklahoma and bought into a custom drapery business. The business went bankrupt in 1991 and they moved to Dixon, Missouri where they had family.

I asked Mr. Morris if there was anything that he would like for me to tell the board and he stated, "I have never given that any thought and I can't think of anything to tell them."

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On September 27, 1973, at approximately 6:30pm, the 15-year-old victim, Roberta Jean Anderson went to a neighbor's house in Oswego to help build the Homecoming float. She left the neighbors' house some-time after 8:30pm, but never arrived home. Three days later, on September 30, 1973, the victim's body was found at a rural abandoned farm covered by an old wagon and some other debris. When an Investigator from the Will County Sheriff's office, uncovered the body, he observed that the victim's shirt had been pushed up exposing her chest and abdomen and her jeans were pushed down on her hips. A pathologist, who performed the autopsy, found 61 stab wounds to the victim's neck, trunk and arms. It is believed that a stab to the neck severed a carotid artery and she died of hemorrhagic shock and bled to death. The pathologist stated that there was a possibility there had been sexual intercourse. He stated that the wounds suggested that they occurred as she was laying down or could have been inflicted while she was seated.

On October 2, 1973, the son of the owners of the Oswego apartment building where Mr. Morris lived inspected the apartment because he had recently moved out. Behind the building, he found several trash bags, one of which had a knife protruding from it. He locked the bags in the basement of the building. When the evidence was recovered by the authorities, they found the five trash bags, a pail of liquid and a T-shirt with the word "Thursday" stitched on it, and a knife. The police also recovered some wash rags from the defendant's apartment that tested positive for human blood.

On October 4, 1973, an investigator interviewed the defendant at his new house in Missouri. The defendant told the investigator that on September 27, 1973, he was at his parents' home in Plano working on his car from 6:00pm until 10:00pm. The defendant told him that he and his wife had moved to Missouri because he had accepted a job offer there. He stated that he didn't know the victim and asked the investigator if they could talk the next day. At the



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interview, the defendant told the investigator that he needed help. When the investigator asked why, he stated that "if I killed her, I don't know it and I don't know where we were or where we went." The investigator inspected the defendant's car noting the dome light did not work and the passenger door and window handles were missing.

On November 27, 1973, the investigator interviewed the defendant again asking him to assist him since the defendant had been a lifelong resident of the Oswego area. When the investigator asked the defendant what he thought may have happened to the victim, the defendant stated that the victim had been picked up by a stranger, refused the stranger's advances and was killed. Despite being confronted with the knife and the T-shirt, the defendant continued to deny that he had killed the victim. Unable to tie Morris to the crime, the case went unsolved for many years.

In the interim, a second victim, 18-year-old, Margaret Stirn disappeared without a trace. Miss Stirn, a student and part-time clerk at the College of DuPage, left the campus on foot on September 15, 1978, after complaining that she was not feeling well. She was known to hitchhike between school and home from time to time.

Miss Stirn's remains were not recovered until May 9, 1986, more than 7 years later and within mere feet of where Miss Anderson had been found in 1973. Miss Stirn's skeleton and her intact braces were all that remained. She was identified through her dental records.

In 1992, the Anderson and Stirn homicide cases were re-opened, as well as the murder of another girl, 15-year-old, Julie A. Hanson of Naperville. Miss Hanson disappeared on July 7, 1972, prior to the Anderson and Stirn murders. She had been sexually assaulted and stabbed 36 times; and she had been found in a cornfield approximately two miles from where Miss Anderson and Miss Stirn were found.

In 1992, the original investigators sought help of the FBI. An offender profile, dated September 6, 1992, was generated based on all the data from the Hanson and Anderson murders. That profile concluded that anyone developed as a suspect in either of those cases should be seriously considered a suspect in the other.

19 years later, on December 2, 1992, the defendant was interviewed by law enforcement officials assigned to a task force investigating the homicide. Sergeant Tom Morrison and Investigator Mark Carlson interviewed the defendant telling him that they were using recent technology such as DNA to link suspects to old homicides and advising him that they had a warrant to obtain blood and hair samples. Morrison and Carlson questioned the defendant for several hours, during which time the defendant denied his involvement in the homicide.



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Investigator Carlson testified that he then walked defendant downstairs to get blood and hair samples. The defendant was taken to an evidence technician for approximately 1 minute. Carlson explained that when he returned to the room, technician was asking the defendant

various questions about the evidence. Shortly after this, the defendant became emotional and asked what would happen if he confessed. The defendant was told that they could not promise anything. A short time later, the defendant confessed. He said he was driving around and came across a girl hitchhiking. He picked her up and made sexual advances towards her and she refused. He stated that the victim began to hit him, and he reached down, picked up a knife and stabbed her. Defendant stated that he drove around looking for a place to put the body. He came across an abandoned farm, dragged the victim out of the car, and had sexual intercourse with her. He said he then redressed the victim, covered her with a metal box and other debris. He told the victim that he was sorry for what he had done. Defendant said he then went to a car wash and washed the blood out of his car using rags that he had in the back seat of his car. Defendant identified the knife, the shirt he was wearing that night, and the rags.

Following his oral confession, he gave a 33-minute videotaped statement. In the video tape, the defendant acknowledged that he had given an oral confession to the officers just before the videotape was made. Defendant first described what happened on the night of the murder and then was asked specific questions by the officers.

Mr. Morris went to trial in December 1996. He denied killing the victim. He testified that he was at his parent's home working on his car on the night of September 27, 1973. He said that the next day, he and his wife finished packing their belongings because they were moving to Missouri where he had been offered a job. He stated that they left behind some belongings because he could only afford a small trailer. The defendant stated that when he spoke with the investigator on October 4, he had been detained for 24 hours. He stated that when he was in with the evidence technician on December 2, 1992, he was told that if he confessed, he would be guaranteed 2 years in prison. The defendant stated that he confessed because he was intimidated and thought he could get a two- year sentence.

The Judge ruled that the video could not be used during closing arguments. At the jury's request, the trial court permitted the jury to view the videotaped confession. The jury returned a verdict of guilty. The court sentenced the defendant to a term of 100-200 years. An appeal was made, and the court affirmed the defendant's conviction and sentence on December 27, 1997.

In March of 1997, just three months after he was convicted of murdering, Miss Anderson, Mr. Morris was indicted in connection with the Stirn's murder. Mr. Morris elected not to go to trial and a conviction entered following a guilty plea.

A 20- year sentence was imposed for the Stirn murder. This sentence will run concurrently with the 100–200-year sentence for the Ms. Anderson murder.



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MR. MORRIS'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

I asked Mr. Morris about what happened on September 27, 1973, and he stated that he was driving around and saw a young lady (Roberta Jean Anderson) walking and he asked her to give her a ride. She got in the car, and he offered her sex. He said that she didn't want to have sex and there was a struggle and that is when he stabbed her. He then hid the body.

He also stated the same thing happened on September 15, 1978, to Margaret Stirn.

Mr. Morris stated that 19 years after the crime, they came to arrest him, his wife was unaware of any of the crimes that he had committed. He said that he had become an alcoholic. He said that he was trying to get his life back together when he was convicted.

Mr. Morris stated that he has given these crimes a lot of thought through the years, and he said he would like to ask the families for forgiveness and tell them how sorry he is for what happened. He said that it should have never happened.

CRIMINAL HISTORY:

Mr. Morris was arrested the first time at age of 21. He has had 3 convictions during his adult life for Assault, DUI and Murder.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Morris has had 1 disciplinary ticket since his incarceration. He received it on May 4, 2004, for "Giving False Information to Staff" and "Unauthorized Property". He received 1 month of B grade for this infraction.

Mr. Morris has held several jobs at the various facilities he has been. He has been a Health Care Attendant, helping the disabled inmates; trustee, galley worker; cell house worker; personal property worker; and janitor. He currently doesn't have a job and hasn't for the past 3 years.

He stated that it isn't easy in these facilities and that you must stay aware of your environment.

Mr. Morris said that he does a lot of socializing in the day room and helping others with their schooling. He is currently writing a biography and is also working on 2 other books about being locked up for 30 years.

Mr. Morris stated that he used to attend church services but didn't like the preacher due to being 2 faced so he quit going.



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While Mr. Morris was at Big Muddy River CC, he was advised to enroll into the Sex Offender Program. When I asked Mr. Morris about this he stated, "The counselor told me that my crime was so long ago the program probably wouldn't help me. They stated that it was for recent offenders who needed therapy." He stated, "the counselor stated that with my Christian attitude and me staying out of trouble and watching who I was socializing with, I didn't need it."

PAROLE PLAN

Mr. Morris plans to parole to live with his wife, Patricia in Dixon, Missouri. He has a job lined up at the Quaker Window Company. This is the company that his wife retired from. He stated that he will also start drawing his social security benefits.

EN BANC HISTORY

This is Mr. Morris' 5th time to be presented to En Banc.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Paul Stirn, the victim's brother, stated that he was 55 years old, and he was only 11 years old when this crime happened. He stated that for the past 44 years that the trauma has been continuing down the family line. He stated that it took him 2 months to write the protest letter. It is a continuous hardship for the family to relive this event. For the past 2-3 months I have cried every day. I can't let this person get out. Mr. Stirn stated that it doesn't matter how much of a good inmate that Mr. Morris is, that he is a horrible human and 5 years between each hearing is not enough for the family.

Ms. Anne Marie Stirn, Matt (victim's brother) Stirn's Wife, state that Matt Stirn is unable to speak. She stated that she has attended every En Banc, and that it is not allowing anytime in between for the family to heal. We all have daughters, and we constantly live in fear that something will happen to one of them. The family cannot handle a 3-year set. Every time the family must relive this it tears us apart. Our adult children wrote impact statements and explained what it did to their lives and how it impacted them. They never got that time with their aunt. Ms. Stirn questioned how you would like this monster living next door to you in your neighborhood with your family. Ms. Stirn stated that Mr. Morris will kill again, he is a monster.

Member Shelton stated that Mr. Morris had sex with the victim while she was dead or dying. He stated that he listened to the confession tape and that Mr. Morris stated that he stabbed her, removed her from the car, and she was still warm, so he had sex with her. Lieutenant M.



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Hayes reopened another case that stated Mr. Morris was molesting his own daughter. The family stated that they resolved this issue by allowing the daughter to have a lock on her door so that she could lock her bedroom at night. Reopening these unsolved cases have led them to believe he may have been a serial killer. Lieutenant Hayes stated that they were retracking where Mr. Morris had been living and contacting those Police Departments to investigate unsolved cases.

Member Miller stated that Mr. Morris was a very cold person when he talked about the crime and did not seem remorseful.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

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

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

After thorough consideration of Mr. Morris' 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. Morris 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—September 28, 2022

Inmate Name: **DESHAUNE PORTER**

IDOC Number: **M54916**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on September 28, 2022, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Deshaune Porter M54916.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Coates, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Globokar, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Miller, Mr. Shelton, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones, Mr. Tupy, and Madam Chair Crigler.

Recording Secretary: Alexandria Bryan.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

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

Mr. Deshaune Porter M54916 was interviewed at Taylorville Correctional Center on July 7, 2022. Present for the interview was Mr. Porter, Samantha Porter (his mother), and Vynadrian Kidd (Cousin/Aunt) and Mr. Porter. Mr. Deshaune Porter was born on July 10, 1997 in the State of Florida. His mother Samantha Porter and older siblings moved to Illinois when he was a baby. He has seven siblings, two are older and five are younger than him. He never knew his father but recalls his younger siblings' father being the only male figure in his life for a long period of time. He moved often, having to repeatedly start over after making new friends.

Mr. Porter was charged at the age of 15-years old in 2012 as an adult. He was sentenced in 2013 for Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault/Victim <9 (10 years CC) and Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault/Force Victim 9-13 (10 years CS) at 85%. He has been in custody since his arrest on August 3, 2012. He was housed in DOC Illinois Youth Center-Kewanee until he was transferred to Lawrence Correctional, a medium-security center where he remained until his current transfer. He has been housed at the Taylorville Correctional Center, a minimum-security adult male facility. His projected MSR date is 8/3/2029 with 3-years to life parole. Mr. Porter has worked as a janitorial porter on deck, in dietary and kitchen, and, also in clinical services while in juvenile incarceration. He is unmarried and has no children.

During the interview, Mr. Deshaune Porter admitted he had begun to experiment with drugs and alcohol but only the one time did he experiment with sex with younger family members. It felt wrong so he confessed to his mother and the authorities, not really understanding how he was going to be betrayed. He stated he knew what he had done was wrong, but he had no idea what



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would happen to him or the result that did happen. Initially he shut down, didn't eat, and stayed confined in his cell. However, during his incarceration, Mr. Porter had many mentors and

teachers, who inspired him with the message of learning from his mistake. He stated that initially he was shocked over his sentence but that his mentors got him to look at the positive side of his situation. Mr. Porter was on the straight A, honor roll. He received a Presidential Award from President George W. Bush for his stellar performance.

There were no direct appeals or post-conviction petitions filed in this matter challenging the conduct of the attorney, or the validity of the sentence/sat the conclusion of the case. Mr. Porter filed a Petition for Executive Clemency in January 2019. A Commutation of Sentence to Parole Eligible Receipt was issued by the State of Illinois on October 5, 2020, which is the subject of today's En Banc hearing.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Taken from the Official Statement of Facts of SA Brendan F. Kelly in a document prepared and filed with the St. Clair County Circuit Clerk on June 17, 2013. The Date of the Offense is listed as 07/11/12. The narrative of the case reads: "The Defendant, is sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections to a term of IO years, who was under the age of 17 years of age, committed an act of sexual penetration with a female minor with a date of birth of September 4, 2006, who was under 9 years of age when the act was committed, in that said Defendant placed his penis in the anus of the female minor with a date of birth of September 4, 2006." The Type of Disposition was Plea of Guilty. The co-defendant Mr. DeMarcus Kidd also is housed in the Taylorville facility.

MR. PORTER'S STATEMENT AS TO THE OFFENSE

Mr. Deshaune Porter admitted to committing the offenses. He also stated that upon committing the offense in 2012, he immediately turned himself in to his mother and aunt, who in turn, contacted the authorities. In his statement, Mr. Deshaune Porter said "it was the beginning of August (not July) 2012 at Aunt Vynadrian Kidd's house in East St. Louis, in the house in a new neighborhood, pretty bad environment. While in the house with his younger cousin and little sister and older cousin, (co-Defendant Damarcus Kidd, 17 or 18-years old at the time) whom he'd inquired a lot about sex, etc., they were all in the room playing house. It was at night; we began to cuddle with my younger sibling and my younger cousin. My older cousin and I began to mimic what we had seen ... We began to kiss and caress them, and we placed our penis in their



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anus, and mouth, then we finished. And after it all had happened, a time-period went by, and I felt wrong and guilty; and I told my mother Samantha Porter the truth about what had happened. She told my aunt and contacted the authorities."

After an investigation, interviews, and several court hearings, Mr. Porter and a co- defendant were charged with the offense/s noted. Mr. Potter pleaded guilty, and was sentenced on June 12, 2013, by Judge Robert B. Haida to two (2) terms of Criminal Sexual Assault (Class X) one term for his offense.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Deshaune Porter never had any encounter with any law enforcement before this offense.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Porter has an excellent record in IDOC. There is no record of any tickets. Mr. Porter has received zero (0) Inmate Disciplinary tickets during his custodial confinements, from August 2012, up and through the date of his interview in July 2022.

To the contrary, Mr. Deshaune Potter has excellent engagement with programming. He has taken advantage of the positive things available to him during his incarceration. He presented documentation that he received his High School Diploma (June 2013). He received Outstanding Achievement Awards for the Completion of 12 Online Enhanced Education Courses: July 2014: (1) Basic World Area Studies, Europe & Russia, (2) Basic Math 4, (3) Literature; September 2014: (4) Asian Studies; October 2014: (5) Pre-Algebra A, (6) Pre-Algebra B; November 2014: (7) Human Biology & Health, (8) Grammar, (9) English IA; January 2015: (10) Basic World History A; February 2015: (11) Basic World History B; and March 2015: (12) English 2A. In November 2016, he received a Certificate of Completion for Anger Management; in April 2018, he received a Certificate of Completion for Lifestyle Redirection; and in June 2018, he received a Certificate for Recognition for Participation in Freedom God's Way.

OPPOSITION

On May 10, 2022, Mr. James A. Gomric, The St. Clair County State's Attorney sent to the PRB a letter in "adamant" opposition against Mr. Deshaune Porter. The SAO "opposes any reduction in the originally imposed sentence as it pertains to the above defendant. The State's Attorney says in his letter stated that there were originally six charges that the State's Attorney agreed to dismiss four counts in return for a plea in front of the court on the remaining two counts. That Mr. Porter already got a break with the dismissal of four criminal sexual charges



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and should not receive a further reduction. Mr. Porter says he only committed those two offenses which is why he plead guilty to those two counts.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Deshaune Porter has the support of his relatives and many mentors. He has a home to return to in East St. Louis, Illinois with his cousin, whom he calls Aunt Vynadrian Kidd. During her interview on behalf and in support of Mr. Porter, Ms. Kidd stated, "Deshaune was never in any trouble. He is a good kid, even though I know one of the kids involved was my grandchild. But I still know Shaun is a good kid and he was influenced by someone older." "He is not a bad person, and he should get a second chance. I will support my nephew, watch out for him, and get him everything he needs to make it."

Believing Mr. Porter has changed and matured, Ms. Kidd is determined to help him keep straight. She moved back to the city to be near other adult family, including his mom who lives in Section 8 housing. She has a home with 2 bedrooms, one for Mr. Porter. She has transportation and is willing to help him get to his programs and whatever services that the PRB mandates. She and other community leaders who help young people have searched out appropriate employment opportunities for him.

Inspired by his mentors, Mr. Porter wants to teach parents and the youth in society the importance of adult privacy, about pre-mature exposure to toxic things such as pornography or sexual activities, and the negative effects it has on children in their inability to decipher right from wrong due to observation of their parents' conduct. He wants to attend mentorship programs and through his positive music give the message to influence the culture about the flaws of too much exposure to sex, drugs, and alcohol. In support of his release, Ms. Porter said he was no problem, he was an excellent child who got good grades in school. He mainly liked to play video games and basketball. She said she wished she had spent more time talking to him and had been in a place where there were not a whole bunch of people living together. Since she is in public housing now, Mr. Porter can live with his aunt.

Mr. Deshaune Porter wants to go to Lakeland College and get his Associates Degree, majoring in Science and Music. He is interested in courses in Business Communication, Math, Psychology, and Criminal Justice. He wants to work while attending school and after doing some research on CDL licenses thinks he might like to take the driving test to get his DL and then try to qualify as a Truck driver. He believes given a second chance he can make a positive difference in his own life and the lives of others. He states that he is still a young man and would like to get out of prison while he is young enough to accomplish something in his life. He points to his



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record in IDOC, his education in IDOC and that he has not gotten any tickets since he has been in prison.

His Aunt says that the two victims have not had any lasting effects from their assault. That the older victim has moved away and is in an apartment living with her boyfriend. That she has forgiven him for his actions. The younger victim is 16 and is currently dating boys her age. Ms. Kidd and Mr. Porter both state that Mr. Porter will not go anywhere where the younger victim will be, to avoid any problems.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

On May 10, 2022, Mr. James A. Gomric, The St. Clair State's Attorney sent to the PRB a letter in "adamant" opposition against Mr. Deshaune Porter. The SAO "opposes any reduction in the originally imposed sentence as it pertains to the above defendant. The State's Attorney says in his letter that there were originally six charges that the State's Attorney agreed to dismiss four counts in return for a plea in front of the court on the remaining two counts. That Mr. Porter already got a break with the dismissal of four criminal sexual charges and should not receive a further reduction. Mr. Porter says he only committed those two offenses which is why he plead guilty to those two counts.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Madame Chair Crigler stated that there are previous lengthy Board conversations about Mr. Porter's dysfunctional home as a child. She stated that Mr. Porter is a victim and that hurt people, hurt people. It's a disgusting crime, but he will be paroling soon. Madame Chair Crigler stated that there is nothing else that can happen for him while in Illinois Department of Corrections. Mr. Porter can be put on ongoing sex offender counseling and no victim contact. It's a tragedy on so many levels. I support him.

Member Heaton stated that Mr. Porter took a plea for 2 counts, and 4 counts were dismissed.

Member Tupy stated that they used the 4 counts as evidence.

Member Shelton questioned how long Mr. Porter has been in prison.

Member Tupy stated since 2012.



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Member Shelton questioned how old Mr. Porter and the victims were at the time of the crime.

Member Tupy stated that Mr. Porter was 16 years old, and the victims were 14 years old and 5 years old.

Member Terrones stated that there is right and wrong. Mr. Porter did receive intensive mental health treatment in which he showed progress. Allowing young people to have treatment helps them. Member Terrones questioned if the community can continue this treatment for Mr. Porter. She stated that he has shown improvement and that it is important to connect him to services in the community.

Member Bohland stated that Mr. Porter's version of events is different than the case. He stated that this draws concern with his rehabilitation and ownership. The younger of the two victims cannot support herself with this petition because she is still underage. She was a very young child when this happened and now her mother is supporting the release of Mr. Porter.

Madame Chair Crigler stated that Mr. Porter was a child and has been held accountable, but he was failed by the system.

Member Globokar stated that Mr. Porter refers to this as a 1-time experimentation, but it happened more than once. She stated that sex offenders and sex offenses can be/stay in the darkness. Member Globokar questioned if there was any extent to the details of offenses.

Member Tupy stated that Mr. Porter said it happened 2 times. But the older victim stated that it happened multiple times.

Member Miller stated that she was concerned for Mr. Porter to parole to the same environment.

Member Daniels stated that they might want to take it into consideration that the now 16-year-old victim is ashamed and doesn't want to speak. She also stated that she was concerned about Mr. Porter going back to the same environment, regardless of the support. Member Daniels questioned if there are other options or if the board can mandate different placement.

PRB Chief Legal Mrs. Kahalah Clay stated that the board can recommend different placement, but they cannot require housing placement.



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DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (KT-DS.) Motion prevails by 6-5 vote. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bohland, Ms. Globokar, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Miller, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy. Mr. Coates, Madam Chair Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones dissented.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Porter'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. Porter 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—September 28, 2022

Inmate Name: **DENNIS PEARSON ***

IDOC Number: **C01441**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on September 28, 2022, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Dennis Pearson C01441.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Coates, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Globokar, Mr. Heaton, Ms. Miller, Mr. Shelton, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones, Mr. Tupy, and Madam Chair Crigler.

Recording Secretary: Alexandria Bryan.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

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

Dennis Pearson #C01441 was interviewed live via Webex virtual platform from Vienna Correctional Center on August 17th, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Pearson represented himself without any legal counsel or support. Mr. Pearson was dressed in a blue medical outfit along with latex gloves. Mr. Pearson presented as someone still very bitter about the circumstances of his incarceration and is actively holding grudges against the Prisoner Review Board as well as others involved in his conviction, in particular the prosecutor at the time of sentencing. It should be noted that Mr. Pearson started the interview with immediately filing a complaint about the Prisoner Review Board and his opinion about how the previous year's interview went. I will also note that it is my personal observation and opinion that Mr. Pearson may be showing signs of diminished memory, but as my report will indicate, this could also just be a refusal to acknowledge the facts of his case and incarceration record.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On October 22nd, 1968, Mrs. Sally Heaton who was married and a mother of 3 at the time, left her place of employment at Michigan Bell Telephone Company in Kalamazoo, Michigan and went with a group of friends to a lounge in the area. Around 2:00 a.m. Mrs. Heaton was leaving the lounge when her friend asked her to drive two men, the petitioner Dennis Pearson and co-offender Nelson Weaver, west toward Mattawan. She reluctantly agreed to do so. Once near Mattawan, Mrs. Heaton was instructed to drive on a farm road at which point the



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co-offender pulled a revolver and explained that they were going to be robbing her and taking her vehicle. Mrs. Heaton gave them her purse and pleaded to be released to her family. At this point, Mr. Pearson got out of the vehicle, dragged Mrs. Heaton out of the driver's seat, forced her

into the rear seat of the vehicle, struck her numerous times in the face and body, and then raped her with force. Then the two offenders took over the vehicle keeping Mrs. Heaton hostage. The

co-offender drove the vehicle while Mr. Pearson remained in the backseat with Mrs. Heaton to prevent her from crying out or alerting anyone passing by.

They drove until Benton Harbor, Michigan where they stopped again. Mr. Pearson then raped Mrs. Heaton again followed immediately by the co-offender raping Mrs. Heaton. When she resisted, Mr. Pearson struck her in the face and body again. They then continued driving with Mr. Pearson remaining in the back seat with Mrs. Heaton holding on to her until they reached the Northwest side of Cook County.

At this point they exited the Northwest Tollway onto a deserted farm road. Stopping the vehicle again, Mr. Pearson first beat and then raped Mrs. Heaton a 3rd time and the co-offender raped Mrs. Heaton a 2nd time while Mr. Pearson stood guard. After they were done raping her, the co-offender attempted to strangle Mrs. Heaton but she successfully resisted him. He then dragged her out of the vehicle and pulled the revolver. Both offenders then told her they could not let her go because she would identify them, and they would rather shoot it out with the police in the street than return to prison. It is noted that Mr. Pearson had been on parole for his 2nd conviction in the state of Michigan for only 3 weeks at the time of this offense.

Mrs. Heaton plead for her life which was disregarded, at which point the co-offender placed a small caliber revolver to the back of her head. Mr. Pearson stated to his co-offender, "you know what you've got to do, go ahead and do it." With that, the co-offender shot Mrs. Heaton once in the back of the head, once in the throat, one through her right eye, and once in the right hand. They then covered her body with straw and manure and left her to die.

Approximately an hour later, Mrs. Heaton regained consciousness and struggled $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile back to the Tollway where she was picked up by a passing citizen. When taken to the hospital, her pulse was 70 over zero and she had lost approximately 6 pints of blood. Both offenders were arrested the following Saturday, October 26th, by FBI agents in Battle Creek, MI. Mrs. Heaton's car was found abandoned in Berwyn, IL.

During, the course of the jury trial for Mr. Pearson made death threats against Judge Phillip Romiti, Assistant State's Attorney Matthew Walsh, and his court appointed attorney Roland Cassata. Prior to the jury deliberating the case, the petitioner stood up in the courtroom and insulted the prosecutor, judge, and jury by making insulting and profane remarks.

While awaiting preliminary hearing in IL, he attempted to escape from the police court in Niles, IL. While awaiting trial in Cook County Jail, both he and his co-offender attempted to



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escape by getting out of their cells and were caught just before they were able to escape the compound.

At the conclusion of the trial, Mr. Pearson threatened to kill every witness and the prosecutor if he were ever released from the penitentiary. The State's Attorney at the time of sentencing strongly urged close scrutiny for any parole consideration due to the severity of his crimes as well as his conduct before, during, and after the trial. The State's Attorney stated the length of sentence speaks to the heinousness of the crime.

Conviction was affirmed by the Illinois Supreme Court in '72. Mr. Pearson filed a pro se petition for relief from judgement and for habeas corpus relief which were both denied. In 2011, Mr. Pearson filed a pro se petition for post-conviction relief alleging denial of effective counsel due to an alleged failure to present testimony of certain alibi witnesses. That petition was dismissed as frivolous and patently without merit. He appealed and the state appellate defender filed a motion for leave to withdraw as appellate counsel indicating that no issues of merit existed. The appellate court agreed and granted leave to withdraw affirming the trial courts dismissal. In 2015 and 2016, Mr. Pearson filed for additional post-conviction petitioners that were denied by the Circuit Court.

Mr. Pearson continues to dispute all facts of the case arguing his innocence and stating that he had an alibi that he was with another woman that night from the same bar. The co-offender, in this particular offense, died while serving his sentence in prison.

MR. PEARSON'S STATEMENT OF THE OFFENSE

Mr. Pearson does not acknowledge the facts of the crime and takes no responsibility for his actions. He adamantly maintains his innocence to the crime. Mr. Pearson likewise does not feel remorse for his actions and fails to recognize the damage he caused both in the crime and subsequent actions during trial and incarceration. Mr. Pearson maintains a strong sense of bitter contempt for those involved in his prosecution. Mr. Pearson had to be redirected throughout the interview from prolonged arguments of innocence and accusations against the prosecutor in particular.

In open statement, Mr. Pearson simply stated, "I wasn't there. How could I know anything about that?"

Follow up questions from the interviewing board member resulted in the following statements from Mr. Pearson regarding his opinions of the crime. Mr. Pearson claims that it is the burden of the Prisoner Review Board to prove his guilt and therefore we should contact the FBI to get DNA evidence from 1968, in order to conduct our own investigation. Mr. Pearson states that he is filing for Habeas Corpus again soon due to the actions of ASA Walsh at the time of the trial and conviction. Mr. Pearson presented repeatedly and at length arguments for his innocence as



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well as issues with the trial. Mr. Pearson states the real offenders of the crime wanted to go to California after committing the offenses. He aided the offenders in their hideout. He states that

he was arrested along with the offenders together while coming out of a supermarket. Mr. Pearson claims he was set up at trial by the prosecution who intentionally placed a man in a white shirt behind him during trial. Mr. Pearson argues that during the trial the victim identified him as the offender in court by referring to him as "the man in front of the person in the white shirt." Mr. Pearson believes that ASA Walsh carried out his hate for the petitioner because trial investigative interviews, Mr. Pearson used profane insults against him as well as making fun of ASA Walsh's disabled arm. When questioned about his actions and behavior during trial, Mr. Pearson states that he is not stupid enough to make death threats against officials, but that he did call them a bunch of names. Mr. Pearson is adamant that he never attempted escape from custody either. He states that these claims never occurred. He also argues that if he would have attempted escape, that he would have been successful in doing so. Most of Mr. Pearson's arguments stem from a viewpoint that all of the testimony and evidence against the petitioner were falsified intentionally by ASA Walsh.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Per the 2018 SPIN assessment, Mr. Pearson does have some notable juvenile records to consider, which are discussed in close session by the Board. Mr. Pearson had 9 arrests in Michigan prior to his holding offenses. In 1960 Mr. Pearson was convicted of Breaking and Entering with a 1-15-year sentence for which he was paroled in 1961. Mr. Pearson violated that parole in 1962. In 1964 Mr. Pearson was convicted of Breaking and Entering again, this time with a 3-5-year sentence. While incarcerated, Mr. Pearson escaped from prison in 1965. Mr. Pearson was convicted of Escaping Penal Institution and appears to have gained an extradition warrant from Missouri for involvement in a burglary during the time of escape. Mr. Pearson claims to be totally unaware that such a crime or warrant existed. Mr. Pearson was paroled in 1968. He was only on parole for 3 weeks before he violated that term by committing the holding offenses. Mr. Pearson also has a standing warrant upon release from prison from Cook County for a conviction of contempt of court which appears to be from incidents in 1999.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Pearson has not had a successful or productive institutional adjustment. In regards, to familial support, the 2022 offender overview states that Mr. Pearson's parents and siblings are all deceased. Mr. Pearson has confirmed the same. There are no mental health issues to report. Mr. Pearson stated that he was stupid, not mental.



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Mr. Pearson has not enrolled in any classes and is not on any waitlists per the 2022 offender overview. Mr. Pearson states he has no memory of taking any courses in the past. He added that he probably needed them because he is still angry, and that he has a right to be angry.

As for Mr. Pearson's disciplinary record, per the 2018 SPIN assessment, he denies any major tickets while incarcerated despite an attempted escape in Cook County. Mr. Pearson has 5 major tickets since 2000 which all occurred in 2002 for aiding/violent assault of staff for making a threat to kill the President, abetting/violent assault of staff for threatening to kill the Commander in Chief, conspiracy for violent assault of staff for sending a death threat letter to the President, intimidation/threat for implying bodily harm to a former employee. Mr. Pearson states that he wrote a Declaration of War to the Senate, Illinois Governor, the President of the United States, and others due to his felt injustice.

Mr. Pearson also has 70 tickets on old forms from the time of incarceration through 1999. These include: 1988 threats, 1992 two tickets for intimidation/threats, 1994 ticket for threats, 1995 two tickets for concealing ID and false info, 1996 concealing ID, 1997 a false ID ticket and two tickets for intimidation, and 1999 ticket for false info. Mr. Pearson states, "I never threatened anybody ever" and "I've had 1 major ticket in my whole bit." Mr. Pearson did not have any faith or moral system he wished to disclose.

Mr. Pearson earned his GED while incarcerated and states that he also has taken four-years-worth of college courses from various colleges. At this time there is no proof to support these claims.

As for institutional work history, per the 2018 SPIN assessment, Mr. Pearson has worked in the past as a clerk, in the gymnasium, in the general store, and as a math tutor. That assessment states that he can no longer work due to health issues. He stated to the board during interview that he has not worked since 2002 when he earned all the assault/threat tickets. Mr. Pearson also stated that it is hard to get a job, but once he gets one, he will give you your money's worth. Mr. Pearson has no volunteer activities to disclose.

Other notable information from assessments, include, per the 2018 SPIN assessment, Mr. Pearson denies all guilt in the holding offense. In that assessment, he claimed that he was a friend to the co-offender, and let that co-offender stay at his house along with the actual other perpetrator. He refused to give a name of the alleged unknown offender. He knew all about the crime as he let them stay with him after the crime was committed. Mr. Pearson claimed in that assessment that he isn't a violent person anymore, denies getting upset easily, but admits to avoiding situations that cause him to be angry unless he is attacked. Mr. Pearson stated that he doesn't like criminals and feels bad for the victim of his holding offense but denies that he did the crime. He claims the person who committed the crime, a person named Jimmy, died in the



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80's. Mr. Pearson stated that he didn't agree with the co-offender doing the crime but, didn't believe in telling on people back then either. He claims that the co-offender called his wife from

his house after the crime was committed which made it easy for them to attach him to the crime. 2021 En Banc interview clarifies that the alleged actual offender mentioned was a Jimmy Johnson.

PAROLE PLANS

Per both the file as well as his interview, Mr. Pearson has no parole plan. Mr. Pearson stated that his primary goal in life is to publish his book on astronomy. Per the 2018 SPIN assessment, he sent a book off to be published on astronomy at that time.

Mr. Pearson has no outside letters of support. Each year in recent history, Mr. Pearson has submitted a letter on his own behalf alleging complaints about the Prisoner Review Board's conduct or what he believes are misstatements. He uses these same letters and, often times the majority of the letter, to share his insights into the cosmos and different scientific theories that he has.

Mr. Pearson has a number of factors that could prevent or complicate release including his convictions as a sexually violent person, a standing warrant with Cook County, the lack of a viable release site or parole plan, and physical health requiring the potential for full time care.

Mr. Pearson's closing argument to the Prisoner Review Board at interview was that he wants the board to contact the FBI and to get the rape kit administered at the time of conviction, in order for us to prove his guilt. He also stated, "I want out. I will conform. I'd do real well, with a little help. I'd do real well."

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

The Cook County State's Attorney submitted a 5-page letter of opposition in 2018, and a similar letter prior.

EN BANC HISTORY

The year of first consideration for parole was in 1979. Mr. Pearson has come up for release 25 times prior to this En Banc. He received a 2-year set in 1993 as well as 3-year sets in '98, '01, '04, '07, '10, and '18. He received a 5-year set in 2013. The board has voted unanimously to deny in past years.



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DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

The members had no questions regarding the presentation and no further discussion.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (JB-LM.) Motion prevails by a unanimous vote. Mr. Heaton recused from this vote.

Motion for 3-year set (JB-DS.) Motion prevails by 9-1 vote. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Coates, Ms. Daniels, Ms. Globokar, Ms. Miller, Mr. Shelton, Ms. Shoffner, Ms. Terrones, Mr. Tupy. Madam Chair Crigler dissented. Mr. Heaton recused from this vote.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Pearson'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. Pearson 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."