



STATE OF ILLINOIS
 JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
 Donald Shelton, Chairman

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION— February 21, 2023

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on February 21, 2023, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following individuals in custody:

C68712	LETT, MICHAEL
C80186	CARRASQUILLO, RONNIE *
C61247	BRIMMER, JAMES *
C15189	MORGAN, FRANK *
C56165	LOTT, DAVID

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. Julie Globokar	X	
Mr. Jeffrey Grubbs	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	

10 Members Present

The Board heard the case of Ronnie Carrasquillo as detailed in the individual case minutes. All subsequent cases were continued to the March 2023 docket per the Chair.

Meeting was adjourned (DS—LM). Leave.



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—February 21, 2023

Inmate Name: **RONNIE CARRASQUILLO** IDOC Number: **C80186**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on February 21, 2023, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Ronnie Carrasquillo C80186.

Members present were 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:

This hearing was bifurcated and continued until the next En Banc on Thursday, March 30, 2023.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Jennifer Soble, Mr. Ronnie Carrasquillo's attorney, wanted it to be duly noted that she objected to the continuance. Jennifer Soble requested to proceed with the vote today since there was a protest hearing held and it was posted on the website.

Madame Chair referred to Chief of Legal, Mrs. Kahalah Clay.

Chief of Legal, Kahalah Clay, stated that this would be duly noted.

Jennifer Soble stated that Mr. Ronnie Carrasquillo is 64 years old and has been in Illinois Department of Corrections for 46 years, more than three-fourths of his entire life in prison. Hope and kindness radiate from Ronnie Carrasquillo. She stated that Mr. Ronnie Carrasquillo had a difficult childhood. He had a single mother, and his father deserted him. His mother died when he was 15 years old, and he was sent to his father. She stated that Mr. Ronnie Carrasquillo's father made him, and his brother live in a wooden shed until it burned down. After the shed burned down, Mr. Carrasquillo and his brother slept in the basement on cots. She stated that the gang was the only stability that Mr. Carrasquillo knew or had. Ms. Jennifer Soble stated that at 18 years old Mr. Carrasquillo's brain was irrational. She stated that the teenager that entered prison 46 years ago is not the same person he is today, he is a hand-picked individual for Kewanee Life Skills. Ms. Soble stated



STATE OF ILLINOIS
JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
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that Mr. Carrasquillo renounced his gang affiliation in 1993. She stated that since Mr. Carrasquillo has been incarcerated, he has become a peer mentor inside and outside of the prison, organized sports leagues, arranged programs, and Hispanic Heritage Month. She also stated that Mr. Carrasquillo has taken every course that he can while incarcerated, he has been a teacher's aide for 7 years. Ms. Soble stated that Mr. Carrasquillo has used the last 4 ½ decades to find his adult relationship with God. She stated that Mr. Carrasquillo fully admits to his crime, and if he was released today, he would live with his sister in Indiana, and be supported.

Thomas Breen, former prosecutor in this case, stated that he started with the State's Attorney's Office in 1972. He stated that when Ronnie Carrasquillo was convicted, he was confused and didn't know what was going on. Mr. Thomas Breen also stated that despite Ronnie Carrasquillo's father not being a good father, he seemed very concerned about his son during this process. He stated that he is a "cop lover" and he enjoys working with them. He stated that Mr. Loftus was a wonderful police officer. As he was going home early that night, he felt like he was called to duty on this call. Mr. Loftus was known to help the youth and gang members. Mr. Thomas Breen stated that Mr. Loftus died in voluntary line of duty. He stated that this was a difficult case with several witnesses that had been abused in the police station, and that allegations of police brutality were extreme. He stated that this was not an intentional killing of an officer. Mr. Thomas Breen stated that Mr. Ronnie Carrasquillo wasn't attempting to shoot someone in the crowd, he stated that he wanted to shoot and scare the crowd. He stated that what Mr. Carrasquillo did was so stupid and reckless, and that rules were different back then. Mr. Thomas Breen stated that he is astounded that Mr. Carrasquillo hasn't been paroled yet, and that he is one of those people that believe in redemption and stated that he doesn't know what else he can do to show the Board.

Ms. Terrones questioned if Ms. Shoffner can provide additional information from a letter that Jesse sent, and if she can elaborate on what he thanked her for.

Ms. Shoffner stated that the letter thanked her for trying to figure out Mr. Carrasquillo's intention that night of the shooting. She stated that it appeared as though Mr. Carrasquillo thought that Officer Loftus was a member of the Gay Lord Gang. She noted that Mr. Thomas Breen stated in his letter that Mr. Ronnie Carrasquillo was embarrassed and ashamed of killing the officer, which suggested that he did not know that he was an officer at the time that he fired the shot.

Mr. Heaton asked Mr. Thomas Breen if he recalled what he asked for. Mr. Thomas Breen stated 600 years, I believe but I can't remember.

Madam Chair Crigler stated that this was 46 years ago, and we are trying to get him to remember his intent 46 years ago.

Ms. Globokar stated that any loyalty Mr. Carrasquillo may still demonstrate in discussing his friends from adolescence doesn't strike her as an indication of current gang affiliation.

Ms. Globokar questioned if Ms. Soble could give any insight as to why Mr. Carrasquillo has changed his account to the Board.

Ms. Soble stated that Mr. Carrasquillo had both guns and then fixed David's gun. She stated



STATE OF ILLINOIS
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that he was more familiar with David's gun. She stated that Mr. Carrasquillo is nervous with the words he uses with the Board Members.

Ms. Globokar states that the killing was intentional in her opinion but finds it notable that one of the prosecuting attorneys testified that this case was never pursued as an intentional shooting of a police officer. Ms. Globokar finds the most credible scenario to be that Mr. Carrasquillo thought that he was shooting a rival gang member, and he has served more than twice the minimum sentence for homicide.

Mr. Tupy stated that in the Official Statement of Facts it states Mr. Carrasquillo went downstairs and braced himself with a car and then shot. He stated that when Mr. Carrasquillo left the scene that he bragged to his friends that he killed a "pig."

Mr. Thomas Breen stated that he does not remember. He stated that maybe at the time Mr. Carrasquillo knew it was a police officer, but he was led to believe that when Mr. Carrasquillo shot, he shot above the group and the gun came down. He stated that Mr. Carrasquillo did take aim about the crowd.

Ms. Soble stated that at the trial there was confusion about the statements from the witnesses.

Mr. Tupy stated to the Board Members that the Board Members cannot talk about this case until the vote.

Mr. Shelton stated that he will hold his statements until the next En Banc. Mr. Shelton questioned Mr. Thomas Breen if he litigated this case. Mr. Thomas Breen stated yes.

Mr. Shelton asked Mr. Thomas Breen if he had been contacted prior to previous presentations to speak about this case.

Mr. Thomas Breen stated that Michael Deutsch contacted him previously.

Mr. Shelton responded to testimony from Mr. Breen that Mr. Ronnie Carrasquillo seemed confused and didn't know what he was being tried for, with a question about whether Mr. Breen was convinced that Mr. Carrasquillo committed the criminal acts with knowledge and intent prior to litigating the case, a question that was answered in the affirmative.

Following a decision to bifurcate the hearing of Ronnie Carrasquillo's case, Ms. Soble stated that she was not sure if Mr. Thomas Breen could come back for En Banc the following month. She expressed her concern that bifurcating the hearing would violate Mr. Ronnie Carrasquillo's rights. She also stated that Mr. Ronnie Carrasquillo's release would not deprecate the severity of his crime.

Chief of Legal, Mrs. Kahalah Clay polled the Board Members for any other questions for Mr. Thomas Breen, after which, the questioning was closed.

End of discussion.



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DECISION AND RATIONALE

The Board vote was continued until next the En Banc session.

“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.”