

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
MEETING OF February 23, 2012**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on February 23, 2012, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

C56160 JOHN TILLER
C64129 RICHARD BASKE
C10644 FRANKLIN JOHNSON
C91504 EARL JONES
L03058 RICKY MORROW
C78425 PERCY JONES
C70610 ROBERT ONEAL
C10475 RAYMOND LARSON
C86146 ERNEST CORNES
C01871 LEON BOLTON

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Monreal
Roll call was taken by the Recording Secretary: Kelly Knappmeyer

MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
Eric Althoff	X	
Angela Blackman-Donovan	X	
Edith Crigler	X	
Ed Bowers	X	
Salvador Diaz	X	
Craig Findley	X	
Jesse Madison	X	
Jennifer Parrack	X	
Mary Reynolds	X	
William Simmons	X	
Norman Sula	X	
Geraldine Tyler	X	
Adam Monreal	X	

13 Present

The Recording Secretary presented the following minutes for approval:
Open Session Minutes January 26, 2012.

Motion to amend and accept minutes as presented and make available to the public. (ADM - CF)
Motion approved 13-0.

Motion to continue Edmund Lopes to the April 2012 En Banc session (SD – ADM)
Motion approved 13-0.

Meeting was adjourned (ADM – CF). Leave.
Submitted by: Kelly R. Knappmeyer, Recording Secretary

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION February 23, 2012**

Inmate Name: **Percy Jones** IDOC Number & Institution: **C78425**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on February 23, 2012, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, E. Althoff, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, J. Madison, J. Parrack, M. Reynolds, N. Sula, W. Simmons, G. Tyler

Other(s) present: K. Knappmeyer, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Reynolds presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

Percy Jones was interviewed on January 17, 2012 by Board Member Mary Reynolds at Logan Correctional Center. Also present at the hearing were Percy Jones, James Ryan, Attorney, and Diane Hankle, sister.

Percy Jones is currently 55 years of age with a date of birth being February 12, 1957. Mr. Jones had just turned 20 at the time of the instant offenses. He has served over 34 years in DOC. He was sentenced on October 12, 1977 in Dewitt County for Murder (60-100), Aggravated Kidnapping (15-30), Theft (3-10), and Unlawful Use of a Weapon (1-3) with concurrent sentences. He was sentenced on October 27, 1977 in Champaign County for Murder (75-150) to run consecutively with the Dewitt county sentence. On February 18, 1981 he was sentenced in Cook County for Murder (14 years and one day) to run concurrent. He was admitted to DOC on October 13, 1977 and his projected maximum discharge date is March 20, 2097.

Inmate Jones had a Jury trial with co-defendant Donald Woodruff, Jr. in Champaign (Woodruff in Pontiac - same sentences in Champaign and Dewitt). Represented by Public Defender.

Mr. Jones has strong family support. He is from a family of six kids. His mom is currently 75 years old and he never knew his dad. Percy grew up in Chicago, dropped out of school his freshman year of high school, did drugs with friends and "gravitated toward robberies." Records show that he joined a gang at age 14 ("Stones"). He had problems with his step-dad who drank and fought with his mom and then beat Percy. He had "numerous breakdowns when he was 11 years old" and spent eight months in Tinley Park Mental Health Center. He ran away several times, but would be brought back home and hear his step-dad fighting with mom during the night and felt responsible since he was the oldest boy. Diane confirmed that her father beat his mom. Percy started in gangs at 14, living in the streets and robbing people. He stated that he did not do drugs except marijuana, but did drink often. He volunteered that he did rob a store at age 16 and was locked up in juvenile. He bought stolen equipment and was charged with theft as an adult in 1975. He stated that he was married and has two step-children. His first wife died of AIDS on August 7, 1991. His second marriage was on July 10, 1992. According to his attorney, Percy has Type 2 Diabetes, arthritis, and AIDS.

Mr. Jones has been at Logan Correctional Center since October 1, 2008 and previously at Stateville, Menard, Danville, Centralia, Big Muddy, Hill, Shawnee, Graham and Dixon. He has completed his G.E.D. and was certified a paralegal in January 2011. He is currently A grade and received a Letter of Commendation, January 31, 1990, for intervening "in a potentially serious physical confrontation between a Correctional Officer and an inmate." There are two other instances noted in a Mental Health Evaluation November 28, 2011 by Dr. Ashley at Logan where Mr. Jones was helpful to Correctional staff. He is described by DOC staff as a team player and cooperative with his supervisor. Percy's last ticket was for having in his possession a black stocking cap that was issued 10 years earlier. According to the 2010 DOC report, he has had no IDR's for the past seven years and only two major IDR's. He has worked in custodial maintenance, paint crew, law libraries, referee, disc jockey, sports coordinator, cook, painter, volunteer law clerk, bookkeeping, and garden produce for a homeless shelter.

According to a 1998 protest letter from the Cook County State's Attorney, on September 9, 1973 at 10:45pm, the defendant shot and killed John Gill during the course of an armed robbery on the street near 739 West 57th Street in Chicago. "The defendant later made a jailhouse confession admitting to this case while incarcerated on another matter." According to Percy, in 1981 while in Menard the pastor was talking about burdens & taking responsibility. Percy wrote a letter to State's Attorney Daley and took responsibility. He said that at 15 he was living with his cousin. He was with a group of adults and they were shooting down the alley in the dark. The next day, he heard that a homeless man was dead in the alley. He said that although he did not shoot the man, he took responsibility because in God's eyes it was about his burden.

On February 11, 1977, at approximately 1am that morning, Percy and Donald Woodruff entered the Buick of Derek Smith with a shotgun. They ordered him to drive away but was distracted by his cousin. Derek grabbed the gun and a shot grazed his ankle and shot a hole in the floor. Percy and Donald stole the car and drove to Champaign. They rented a room from a friend and spent the next three days partying, including Percy's birthday. On February 14, 1977, two days after turning 20, Percy and Donald drove the car to Clinton. They admitted that their purpose was to find a car to steal. They saw a white Pontiac Firebird Trans Am in a grocery store lot and waited for the driver to come out of the store. When Tony Fairchild, an 18 year-old male, approached his car, they confronted him with the shotgun. Instead of complying, Tony pushed the button lock on his door and slammed it shut with the keys inside. That made Percy and Donald mad so they told Tony to get in the Buick and drove him three miles from town, walked him in a ditch and fired a shot in to the back of his head.

That evening, they returned to Champaign and went to a bar. The next day, they went to University Avenue Auto Sales, surprising the only employee in the small dealership. They forced Richard Ogden, a 35 year-old male, to give them keys to two Oldsmobile Cutlasses on the lot and stole cash then forced him to a small back room and shot him. As Percy was driving the first car, he realized the heater did not work and abandoned that car and returned to the Buick. He and Donald drove the vehicles to Peoria where they were arrested a few days later.

When asked what was going on in his life at the time, Percy stated that he was working at a laundry and his mom had a black eye from being in a confrontation with his step-dad. Percy and Donald wanted to rob to buy and sell drugs. "When in the middle of stuff, not thinking."

He said that his role was to drive the car and befriend the guys. Although he claims that he did not shoot anybody, he takes full responsibility for two guys being dead.

If paroled, Mr. Jones would live with his sister, Diane Hankle in Hazel Crest. Diane stated that she is 47 years old and is an investigator for DCFS, having worked for the state since 1988. She is a social worker with a MSW in 2003. She lives in her own four-bedroom home in Hazel Crest with her 17 year old daughter and six year-old son. She has two older sons and extended family who will also help. Bishop Davis at New Zion Christian Church has sent a letter of support to get Percy involved. Diane has rehabilitation services ready and continued treatment at the University of Illinois for case management and medications is ready as soon as he would be released. Diane owns a home-based coffee business that Percy would manage and expects him to do landscaping as well. She said he is also eligible for social security.

Diane said that as a social worker, she has the skills and education to help be a change agent for Percy. "From a clinical standpoint, he is not a threat; safety comes first with my family." Before 2008-2009, she used to see anger, and now sees a changed person. Percy would like to continue with his paralegal work and has prepared a business plan for a not-for-profit. He plans to volunteer and would like to do an internship with Mr. Ryan's law firm. He expects to contribute by cooking, cleaning, managing his sister's organic coffee business, doing lawn care and at Helping Hands.

There are two current letters in opposition to parole from Sharon Nixon dated Dec. 9, 2011 who is the mother of victim Tony Fairchild, and Jeffrey Ford dated Feb. 18, 2012 who was an Assistant State's Attorney in 1977. There are previous letters in the file from Champaign County State's Attorney (latest in 2007), DeWitt County State's Attorney (latest 1999), and Cook County State's Attorney (latest 1999).

In February 2011, the Board voted to deny parole with nine members voting in favor. According to the files, Mary Reynolds and Craig Findley dissented. He had a three-year set in 2008. He did not have any previous favorable votes.

Mr. Jones stated that the Tower of Refuge reentry program taught at Logan has helped him face his self. He is able now to identify that he had "distorted thinking before - I looked in the mirror and couldn't see myself; something was wrong." "Can now see the pain of family members of the victims; hurt and anger." He expressed sincere regret for his actions, stating that he was earlier portrayed as a victim but it was a "situation created myself in a zero state of mind. I was worthless." He takes full responsibility for the death of two men and the pain and anger he has caused their families. He said that he was "deeply sorry and has asked God for forgiveness."

His sister told him that she was proud of him and he cried. He said he does that often now, having built it up for decades: "When I hurt, I cry." He buys in to the change from the Tower of Refuge. He said that last year he could not have answered "Who are you now?" He talked about the answers he used to give to shield pain and he now faces the accountability, understanding that the burden is forever.

Attorney James Ryan stated that Percy has very specific parole plans and they believe he meets the criteria for parole.

Member Tyler stated that Percy should transition to a place like Tower of Refuge or St. Leonard's before he goes to the street. He has been incarcerated a long time and if he is released he will need structure.

Motion to enter Executive Session (CF – ADM)

Motion approved 13-0.

Motion to enter Open Session (SD – CF)

Motion approved 13-0.

Discussion:

The Board noted that the petitioner admitted to the 1973 murder that would have remained unsolved otherwise.

Member Findley noted that the Board has paroled inmates in the past who did not have perfect parole plans. Many of these inmates have been locked up for 30 plus years and everyone they knew is gone.

Member Reynolds stated that she believe Percy's parole plan is solid.

Motion to grant parole (MR – CF)

Motion approved 7-6.

Voting in favor of the motion were Members Crigler, Findley, Madison, Parrack, Reynolds, Simmons and Tyler.

Members Althoff, Blackman-Donovan, Bowers, Diaz, Sula and Chairman Monreal dissented.

Parole is granted.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm."

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION February 23, 2012**

Inmate Name: **Raymond Larson** IDOC Number & Institution: **C10475**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on February 23, 2012, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, E. Althoff, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, J. Madison, J. Parrack, M. Reynolds, N. Sula, W. Simmons, G. Tyler

Other(s) present: K. Knappmeyer, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Sula presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

On November 29, 2011 Raymond Larson, 66 years of age, was interviewed for parole consideration at the Pontiac Correctional Center. He was accompanied at the hearing by a student attorney, Katherine Moskop, who supported his parole and presented a written statement on his behalf. Factors considered for parole are, but are not limited to, the inmate's testimony, a review of the file, parole plans, institutional adjustment and the nature of the offense.

Mr. Larson is serving a sentence of 100-300 years for the brutal murder of a 16 year old boy for no apparent reason only three days after being furloughed from the Department of Corrections. Mr. Larson has an extensive criminal record dating back to 1967 including deviate sexual assault, auto theft, aggravated battery, armed robbery, and four burglaries. Since 1981, Mr. Larson has been housed in protective custody to prevent efforts by other prisoners to harm him after he thwarted the plans of several gang members to attack and take hostage prison officials. He now has found peace in the Buddhist faith and is very remorseful for his previous crimes.

His institutional adjustment has been excellent. He has had only one minor ticket in the last 10 years. He has earned a GED, two associate's degrees, a bachelor's degree and certificates in three different vocational programs, receiving awards for exceptional achievement along the way.

If paroled, Mr. Larson will have the assistance of his spiritual advisors, his attorney, and the volunteers at SAFER Foundation, who will ensure that he finds adequate housing and employment opportunities upon his release.

Motion to enter Executive Session (NS – CF)

Motion approved 13-0.

Motion to enter Open Session (NS – CF)

Motion approved 13-0.

Motion to deny (NS – EB)

Katherine Moskop, Northwestern Law Student, stated that Raymond has spent forty years in prison and has taken control of his life. He has taken responsibility and worked to better himself through education and spiritual practices.

Member Findley asked if there was evidence that the victim was sexually assaulted. Ms. Moskop stated that aside from the fact that the victim was found nude, there was no additional evidence.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Maria McCarthy described the crime, the prior convictions and history of violence. His story has changed and the Inmate Larson has blamed the victim in the past.

Motion approved 13-0.

Parole is denied.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm."

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION February 23, 2012**

Inmate Name: **John Tiller**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C56160**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on February 23, 2012, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, E. Althoff, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, J. Madison, J. Parrack, M. Reynolds, N. Sula, W. Simmons, G. Tyler

Other(s) present: K. Knappmeyer, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Blackman-Donovan presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

John Tiller was interviewed for parole consideration at the Centralia Correctional Center on January 4, 2012. The discussion focused on the instant offense, accomplishments, institutional adjustments and parole plans.

The facts of the offense are that John Lee Tiller shot and killed East St. Louis police officer, Manuel Farmer, when the officer responded to a domestic disturbance complaint. A gun battle ensued with other police officers as they arrived at the scene, while the inmate fired a rifle from an upstairs window. Tiller was ultimately taken into custody, found guilty following a jury trial, and sentenced by John J. Hoban to 100 to 200 years.

John Tiller has received a GED and was awarded an EMT certificate in 1987. Since 2010 the inmate has been the housing unit south 3 janitor and extra help.

The most recent Offender Overview Report indicates that inmate Tiller has received one major and 17 minor tickets since 2000.

Mr. Tiller would parole to his children and perform landscaping work if paroled. He is a widower with three surviving children. Parole plans are not solid.

John Tiller takes no responsibility for his actions and blames everyone else for what happened. When being transported to the police station, he told one officer that he had him in his sights twice.

Motion to deny parole in that releasing this inmate would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law (ABD – SD).

Motion approved 13-0.

Parole is denied.

Motion for a three-year set (ABD – GT).

Motion approved 10 – 3.

Members Findley, Reynolds and Sula dissented.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm."

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION February 23, 2012**

Inmate Name: **Ricky Morrow** IDOC Number & Institution: **L03058**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on February 23, 2012, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, E. Althoff, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, J. Madison, J. Parrack, M. Reynolds, N. Sula, W. Simmons, G. Tyler

Other(s) present: K. Knappmeyer, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Simmons presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

Inmate Morrow was interviewed on December 5, 2011 by Board Member William Simmons. During the interview, his instant offense, institutional adjustment and parole plans were discussed.

Mr. Morrow is serving 40-100 years for murder, 6-18 years for armed robbery and 4-12 years for robbery.

On October 31, 1977, Ricky Morrow along with Norbert Davis and a juvenile went to 6410 Carpenter Street in Chicago, Illinois. This was the residence of Edgar Murray, who was a known drug dealer, for the purpose of robbing Mr. Murray of his money and drugs.

Inmate Morrow, along with Davis and the juvenile entered the residence at 6410 Carpenter Street all wearing Halloween masks. Inmate Morrow was carrying a shotgun under his coat. They found Mr. Murray dressed in shorts and a bathrobe and the juvenile began wrestling with Mr. Murray. Mr. Murray broke away from the juvenile and ran toward the back of the house. Inmate Morrow then shot Mr. Murray in the back with a shotgun, killing Mr. Murray.

A search of Murray's house was conducted by Morrow and Davis and they took a television and cash from the house. The juvenile went back into the house and told Morrow and Davis that he stabbed Murray.

On November 15, 1977 Davis was arrested in Indiana. Morrow was arrested October 18, 1978. Davis testified against Morrow and received a sentence of 14-20 years. Davis was released 22 years ago. The juvenile did not serve time for the crime.

Mr. Morrow's institutional adjustment has been good. He has participated in a number of education and vocational programs. His parole plans are to live with his grandmother or his sister in Chicago. He has employment opportunities in several fields.

Discussion:

Member Simmons noted that he is troubled by the fact that while out on bond, Mr. Morrow committed more armed robberies.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney McCarthy stated that Morrow used a false name in Iowa to try and avoid apprehension.

Aviva Futorian from the John Howard Association stated that Ricky Morrow has changed his life and has had no major tickets in a long time. He has many certifications and his parole plans are solid. He has been offered a job by a decorating business as a painter. They could arrange for him to transition to St. Leonard's as well.

Member Tyler noted that Parole Officers often frown on jobs for parolees like painters, etc., where they go in to peoples' homes.

Member Simmons further noted that Inmate Morrow is very remorseful, but recitivated. To parole would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law.

Motion to deny parole (WS – ABD).
Motion carries 7-6.

Voting in favor of the motion were Members Althoff, Blackman-Donovan, Bowers, Parrack, Simmons, Sula and Chairman Monreal.

Members Crigler, Diaz, Findley, Madison, Reynolds and Tyler dissented.

Parole is denied.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm."

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION February 23, 2012**

Inmate Name: **Richard Baske** IDOC Number & Institution: **C64129**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on February 23, 2012, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, E. Althoff, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, J. Madison, J. Parrack, M. Reynolds, N. Sula, W. Simmons, G. Tyler

Other(s) present: K. Knappmeyer, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Parrack presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

On January 4, 2012, at Dixon Correctional Center, Richard Baske appeared before a member of the Prisoner Review Board for parole consideration. Factors considered for parole include, but are not limited to, the nature of the crime, his testimony, a review of the file, parole plans, and institutional adjustments.

Mr. Baske is currently serving a 100 to 300 year sentence for the murder of 84 year old Loretta Hoppe on March 23, 1974. The victim had been stabbed roughly 30 times and her body had been burned as well. It was determined that someone besides the fire department had forced open the basement door and the phone line inside the home had been cut. Mr. Baske was arrested shortly after the murder of Loretta Hoppe and convicted on October 13, 1976.

Mr. Baske has a criminal history dating back to 1968 for criminal damage to property; he also had arrests and convictions for possession of cannabis and resisting arrest. He was also given a bad conduct discharge from the military after being arrested for desertion.

His institutional adjustment has been positive, earning an AA degree in computer technology, a bachelor's degree in business management, and a master's degree in psychology. He also took advantage of multiple programs and helped implement a substance abuse program at Pontiac Correctional Center. His last two disciplinary tickets were in February 2005, for trading and trafficking, and in 2004, for contraband/unauthorized property which resulted in 15 days segregation.

Mr. Baske indicates his parole plan would be to live with his sister, Carol O'Donnell and her husband, Robert O'Donnell in Merrionette Park, Illinois. He hopes to find employment working construction with his nephew's company in the Bridgeview, Illinois area. He contacted St. Leonard's to see if he could be placed there for transition, but they told him to contact him after he was released.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney McCarthy stated that Mr. Baske has been inconsistent with his stories. They don't believe he has accepted responsibility.

Member Sula noted that he took the protest and a five-year set was requested. Member Tyler stated that she has interviewed Mr. Baske in the past and would not support a five year set.

Motion to deny parole in that it would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law (JP – NS).

Motion approved 12-1. (Member Findley dissented).

Parole is denied.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm."

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION February 23, 2012**

Inmate Name: **Franklin Johnson** IDOC Number & Institution: **C10644**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on February 23, 2012, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, E. Althoff, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, J. Madison, J. Parrack, M. Reynolds, N. Sula, W. Simmons, G. Tyler

Other(s) present: K. Knappmeyer, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Crigler presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

Inmate Franklin Johnson was attempted to be interviewed on January 4, 2012 at Dixon Correctional Center by Member Crigler, However, Mr. Johnson refused to meet with the Board Member.

Mr. Johnson has been a resident of Dixon Psychiatric United since September 9, 2008 where he is under the care of the Therapeutic Services Department. Mr. Johnson is currently designated a medium security, B-grade and low escape risk. His projected release date is February 21, 2012 and his maximum release date is August 21, 2021.

On September 9, 1968 Franklin Johnson accompanied by Andrew Lee Allen, Jr., Earl Lee Mims, and Steven Joseph Tillman were in a car near the village of Tolono in Champaign County and all engaged in the attempt to steal a car, shooting Mrs. Beatrice Smith, killing her. Her Companion, George Minard, was also shot but not fatally he escape by running into the field. Mr. Minard walked to the village of Tolono and reported the shooting.

Minard explained that he had been driving north toward Chicago and had stopped at about 3am a short distance south of the Village of Tolono at a rest area in order to get a blanket from the trunk of the car for Mrs. Smith as she and reported being cold. He said that while there a car with the four men stopped near the rest area and that two men came over to where his car was parked and started shooting. They killed Beatrice Smith and failed to shot Minard fatally and he was able to escape into a neighboring field while the men were reloading their guns.

The two then took his 1965 Pontiac Catalina automobile and left. (The report does not say which two men). Minard then walked into Tolono and reported the murder and the theft. A message went out regarding the shooting and the stolen automobile and the card was stopped at a roadblock near Ashkum, IL; where both Franklin D. Johnson and Andrew Allen, Jr. were apprehended.

The statement of facts indicates that the four subjects had taken a car from Chicago and had driven to Mound City, IL where one of the men had friends. In Mound City, they decided it would be better to have a different care when they returned to Chicago so the four the four

entered a residence in Mound City and shot and killed a woman there and seriously wounded her husband, thinking that he had been killed. The four then drove towards Chicago and decided near Tolono that they needed some money and another car. As they came pass the rest area, they observed Minard and his car and agreed that they would stop there, perhaps get some money and take the car. Two of the four men stayed in the first stolen care, while Johnson and Allen killed Mrs. Smith and wounded Minard.

The two men who remained in the car (Steven Joseph Tillman and Earl Lee Mims) drove from Tolono in the first stolen care and were apprehended in Chicago and transferred to Mound City. They were indicted in Pulaski County for their participation in the murder in Mound City. All four were indicted in Pulaski County for the murder in Mound City. Johnson and Allen were also indicted for armed robbery and attempted murder for their part in the Tolono murder.

While being held in the Champaign County jail pending trial Johnson and Allen were placed in the same cell as Earl Robinson who was convicted of murder and found guilty his sentence date was set for November 8. On November 4, Andrew Lee Allen was being returned to the Champaign County jail after a visit to a doctor's office. As he was being placed in the cell with Robinson and Johnson, one of these two grabbed the jailor and with a ballpoint pen held at his throat, compelled the jailor to allow them to go downstairs where they surprised a deputy sheriff and took a revolver from him. After they were armed, they proceeded to take guns from other deputies on duty and armed with revolvers, locked the deputies and the office secretaries in a cell block.

The three Robinson, Johnson and Allen, then compelled Sheriff Russell Chaney to get into one of the county squad cars and held a gun to his head. They were not familiar with the layout of the City of Urbana and mistakenly drove into the campus business district rather than out into the open country.

Their escape was reported to a Magistrate who informed the Urbana Police Department who along with the Champaign Police Department and State Police all were in full pursuit of the escapees.

After driving for several minutes through some of the city streets near the campus of the University of Illinois, and while attempting to negotiate a turn at a rather high speed, the car crashed into a light pole and was wrecked.

Sheriff Chaney suffered bodily injuries, receiving bruises and lacerations and several cracked ribs. The prisoners were immediately apprehended and returned to the County Jail.

As a result of this attempt escape a large number of indictments were returned charging Armed Robbery, Grand Theft, Kidnapping, etc.

Franklin Douglas Johnson plead guilty on 21, November 1968 to the charge of Aggravated kidnapping and was convicted and sentenced to a term of not less than two nor more than 20 years. On November 21, 1968 Mr. Johnson also pleaded guilty to murder and was convicted for a term of not less than 50 years nor more than 75 years.

Inmate Johnson has the following criminal history; 1/16/67 Theft; 1/15/67 Robbery; 4/16/67 Disorderly Conduct; 6/15/67 Burglary; 9/9/68 Murder; 11/22/68 Murder Aggravated Kidnapping

Institutional adjustment has and continues to be poor. In 1982 he had 185 disciplinary infractions over the years. In 2008 Mr. Johnson has maintained an overall negative adjustment by receiving a total of seven (7) major and two minor disciplinary reports.

Mr. Johnson has two adult daughters that have visited him in the past. As of March, 2009 family contact appears to have diminished as he has not had a visit from either of his daughters since 4.15.07. Periodic contact is maintained, however it appears to be minimal.

No parole plans were presented or discussed, as the inmate refused to meet with the Board.

Mr. Johnson refused to meet with PRB member and due to his continuing exacerbated mental health condition; Mr. Johnson poses a serious and significant risk to the citizens of the State of Illinois and to himself.

The Board felt that to release this inmate would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law.

Motion to deny parole (E.C. – G.T.)
Motion approved 13-0.

Parole is denied.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm."

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION February 23, 2012**

Inmate Name: **Earl Jones**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C91504**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on February 23, 2012, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, E. Althoff, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, J. Madison, J. Parrack, M. Reynolds, N. Sula, W. Simmons, G. Tyler

Other(s) present: K. Knappmeyer, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Sula presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

On January 4, 2012, Earl Jones, Age 64, was interviewed for parole consideration at the Dixon Correctional Center. Factors considered for parole are, but are not limited to, inmate's testimony, a review of the file, parole plans and institutional adjustment. It was noted that Inmate Jones does not speak well and is often difficult to understand.

Mr. Jones is serving two concurrent 50-100 year sentences for murder. The facts of the case indicate that he used a shotgun to blow off the heads of his wife and his two-year old daughter. His wife's adultery was stated as the motive. He also stated he was both jealous and angry. He has a lengthy police record dating back to 1967 including assault with intent to kill, attempted murder, obstructing police, and theft.

Mr. Jones has had multiple mental placements and is currently taking medication for his heart and his mental health.

His institutional adjustment indicates 2 Major and 1 Minor IDR in 2010. The 2 Majors were for Contraband/Unauthorized Property, tobacco and a lighter. He is in A-Grade, Minimum Security and a Low Escape Risk.

If paroled, Mr. Jones plans to live with his son, Gershon Jones, in Chicago, IL. He indicates he would apply for Social Security upon release.

Motion to enter Executive Session (NS – CF)

Motion approved 13-0.

Motion to enter Open Session (NS – CF)

Motion approved 13-0.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney McCarthy stated that Inmate Jones' wife was six months pregnant when he murdered her. He also shot a police officer in the head, and that officer survived.

Motion to deny parole in that to release this inmate would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law (NS – GT).

Motion approved 13-0.

Parole is denied.

Board Members felt that they could not vote favorably for this inmate in the near future.

Motion for a three-year set (NS – CF).

Motion carries 7-6.

Voting in favor of the motion were Members Althoff, Blackman-Donovan, Diaz, Findley, Sula, Tyler and Chairman Monreal.

Members Bowers, Crigler, Madison, Parrack, Reynolds and Simmons dissented.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm."

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION February 23, 2012**

Inmate Name: **Robert O'Neal** IDOC Number & Institution: **C70610**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on February 23, 2012, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, E. Althoff, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, J. Madison, J. Parrack, M. Reynolds, N. Sula, W. Simmons, G. Tyler

Other(s) present: K. Knappmeyer, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Althoff presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

On December 15 2011 at the Pinckneyville correctional Center, Robert O'Neal appeared before a member of the Prisoner Review Board for parole consideration. Factors considered include, but are not limited to; his testimony, a review of the file, parole plans, and institutional adjustment.

The record indicates Mr. O'Neal is located at Pinckneyville Correctional Center in Pinckneyville IL, and has been convicted of Murder with a sentence of 60 to 180 years, and theft 3 years.

Facts indicate that on June 5, 1967, the inmate committed the offence of murder without legal justification shot the victim with a gun causing his death. Reports indicate the victim was a night watchman and maintenance worker, was tied up and beaten and later shot to death during a burglary. O'Neal had three co-defendants who were all initially charged with murder had their charges reduced to armed robbery after agreeing to testify against O'Neal.

The Lake County States Attorney adamantly objects his release.

File information revealed that if Mr. O' Neal were to be paroled he would reside with a sister or a brother.

Mr. O'Neal's institutional adjustment has been good with two tickets in the last three years, and has not been to segregation since 2007. No psychiatric concerns were noted by file review. If not paroled, he has a mandatory release date of August 26, 2082.

After viewing and considering O'Neal's file, along with statements made during his hearing on December 15 2011, the board has voted to deny his parole. The board continues to be bothered by the nature of his conduct in the instant offense and feels that a release at this time would deprecate the seriousness of his crime and would promote disrespect for the law. The board also feels that he would be a poor parole risk.

Motion to deny parole (EA – CF).

Motion approved 13-0.

Motion for a three-year set (EA – CF).

Motion approved 13-0.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm."

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION February 23, 2012**

Inmate Name: **Ernest Cornes** IDOC Number & Institution: **C86146**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on February 23, 2012, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, E. Althoff, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, J. Madison, J. Parrack, M. Reynolds, N. Sula, W. Simmons, G. Tyler

Other(s) present: K. Knappmeyer, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Blackman-Donovan presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

Ernest Cornes was interviewed for parole consideration on January 19, 2012 at the Shawnee Correctional Center. Discussion was held during the interview including, but not limited to his institutional adjustment, the instant offenses, his accomplishments while incarcerated and his parole plans.

Offense facts reveal that in 1954, Mr. Cornes was convicted in Cook County for the offenses of rape and armed robbery. He received 10 years to Life for 2 counts of armed robbery and 75 years for three rapes, to run consecutive to the armed robbery sentence. He was paroled on these offenses in 1974. While serving his parole in Williamson County Illinois, he entered the home of a female victim, wherein he committed rape and deviate sexual assault against the victim. Upon conviction, he was sentenced to 60 years for rape, 60 years for deviate sexual assault, and 10 years for intimidation. These sentences run concurrently to each other, but consecutive to the remainder of the 1954 convictions.

Mr. Cornes refused to discuss the facts of the cases with Member Donovan. He also stated that he does not want to be paroled. He said he has filed something with the Attorney General's Office and will be 81 years old in April.

He has a very good disciplinary history and his adjustment has been good. He has not held a job since 2006. He does not have any release plans.

Member Sula noted that he took the protest for this case and that there are letters of protest on file.

Motion to deny parole in that parole would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law (ABD – WS).

Motion approved 13-0.

Motion for a five-year set, in that the Board did not feel they could vote favorably for this inmate in the future (ABD – NS).

Motion for a five-year set approved 13-0.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm."

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION February 23, 2012**

Inmate Name: **Leon Bolton** IDOC Number & Institution: **C01871**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on February 23, 2012, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, E. Althoff, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, J. Madison, J. Parrack, M. Reynolds, N. Sula, W. Simmons, G. Tyler

Other(s) present: K. Knappmeyer, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Madison presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

Inmate Leon Bolton is an African-American male, age 59, and is incarcerated in the Western Illinois Correctional Center, having been found guilty of Murder in 1971, and again in 1974, and sentenced both times to 90-150 years imprisonment. Inmate Bolton appealed the 1971 conviction, and the 3rd District Appellate Court of Illinois reversed that conviction and remanded the case for a new trial. That trial was begun in March of 1974 and the jury returned a guilty verdict on April 3, 1974. Then inmate Bolton was again sentenced to an indeterminate term of 90-150 years in the Department of Corrections

This is the 28th time that Inmate Bolton has appeared on a parole request since June of 1983 for the instant offense. The PRB records indicate that in the past, he has consistently gotten no support of his parole application. He received one three-year set in 2004. For the current request, an interview was conducted by PRB member Jesse D. Madison at the Western Illinois Correctional Center on January 25, 2012. No persons appeared in support of, or opposition to, Inmate Bolton's parole request. There are no current letters in the file in support of Bolton's parole, and no current letters of opposition. The last support letter in the file was from Priscilla Bolton, the inmate's sister. It was received October 27, 2009. The last letter of opposition in the file was from the State's Attorney of Kankakee County, and was dated November 6, 2009.

On the evening of December 15, 1970, Leon Bolton, along with Charles Marshall, Leo Collins, Tommy Watkins and a juvenile went to the rural home of Bernice Vanzant, located in Pembroke Township, Kankakee County, State of Illinois. Bolton and his friends entered the home, talked with Mrs. Vanzant, then dragged her into an adjoining bedroom and raped her. Later, Bolton and the others dragged the victim, gagged and blindfolded, across a field and into a wooden area near her home. At that point, Bolton and his cohorts shot Mrs. Vanzant six times; five times with a .38 caliber weapon, and once with a .22 caliber rifle. Two wounds were in the head, two in the back, and two in the hips. Death to the victim was almost instantaneous. Her body was left in the woods by the perpetrators who returned to her home. There they removed food stamps from her purse and cashed them the next day, December 16, 1970.

In the afternoon of the same day that the perpetrators cashed Mrs. Vanzant's food stamps, they robbed Orville Asher, a bread truck driver in the Pembroke Township area. After robbing

and beating him, a member or members of the group fired multiple shots at Mr. Asher, hitting him in the head. The bullet was removed from the victim's head and ballistic tests proved that the bullet lodged in Asher's head came from the same gun that killed Mrs. Vanzant. This evidence was introduced to establish the identity of the defendants. The body of Bernice Vanzant was discovered by members of her family on December 20, 1970 and, two days later, warrants were issued for Leon Bolton and his accomplices. Bolton was indicted for murder by a Grand Jury on January 7, 1971. The trial was completed on March 24th, and on April 28th, Bolton was sentenced to the aforementioned term. As previously mentioned, the conviction was reversed by the Appellate Court two years later and a new trial was ordered, which ended with the same results and the same sentence. On May 3, 1974, Leon Bolton was turned over to the Illinois Department of Corrections.

During the interview, inmate Bolton indicated that he did not disagree with most of the State's Attorney's Statement of Facts pronouncements regarding the sequence of events surrounding the crime for which he was convicted. He did express extreme remorse for what he did to both victims, and said that not a day goes by that he doesn't think about all of his youthful mistakes, and hopes that some day, he can make up for the things he did wrong. When queried him further about what could be said to the members of the PRB that would convince them to vote for his parole, he simply said, "The things that I did wrong were a result of my being young and foolish. No one made me do those things. I was just hanging out with the wrong crowd, and trying to 'fit in.' I just hope that the Board will take into consideration the fact that the person who did those things was the old me, and this person before you now is the new me. I made mistakes. We all have. But I have tried to learn from those mistakes and be a better person than I used to be."

Leon Bolton was born in Chicago, Illinois on October 30, 1952, the second of nine children born to Leonard and Laverne Bolton, an intact family. Both of his parents and four of his siblings are deceased. His four remaining siblings are Leonard, Jr. - 57; Samuel - 46; Priscilla - 42; and Cynthia - 37. Bolton attended Douglas Elementary School, and dropped out while in the 8th grade, because of being incarcerated in 1966. After being released in 1969, he worked for Manpower, Inc., a temporary worker agency, for one year until he committed the instant offense in 1970. Bolton was married in 1994 to Adrienne Jones while in Centralia Correctional Center.

Prior to the instant offense, inmate Bolton had been convicted of disorderly conduct and aggravated battery in 1966, at age 14. In 1968, he received a disciplinary transfer to Sheridan and remained there until he was released in 1969, one year before the instant offense.

Inmate Bolton committed the instant offense in 1970 when he was 18 years old. However, because of the length of the trial, and retrial, by the time he was convicted and incarcerated, Bolton was 21 years old. He was received at Joliet R & C on May 3, 1974 and then transferred to Stateville Correctional Center on May 10, 1974. His initial adjustment at Stateville was poor, and he was a constant recipient of violation reports and disciplinary actions. Toward the end of his 13 years at Stateville, Bolton evoked a complete turnaround as evidenced by the fact that he received no violations in his last three years at Stateville. He also received his GED in 1987. Bolton was transferred to Danville Correctional Center on August 12, 1987. Two weeks later, on August 26, 1987, he was transferred to Dixon Correctional Center due to identified enemies at Danville. He remained at Dixon for 19 months, and received an Associate in Applied Science in Construction Technology in December of 1988. On March 30, 1989, he was transferred to

Centralia Correctional Center. He remained at Centralia for 7+ years, and his getting married in 1994 while at Centralia probably accounts for his improved disciplinary record. However, he did receive two major and three minor IDRs while at Centralia, one of which netted him an additional conviction. Nonetheless, he was transferred to Logan Correctional Center on October 18, 1996 for the purpose of availing himself of the programs offered at Logan. He remained at Logan for 6+ years before being transferred to Graham Correctional Center on December 19, 2002, and then back to Stateville on July 30, 2004, on to Illinois River on July 27, 2005, and finally to Western Illinois on December 12, 2007, where he remains to this day.

His last ticket was Bolton has had one ticket since arriving at Western. That was in 2009 for a minor offense. Also, he has had a total of 1380 days revoked time, of which 330 have been restored. He is currently A-grade, low escape risk.

Inmate Bolton states that he has no specific parole plans. However, if granted release, he would stay in a halfway house or shelter, and seek employment in the construction industry.

Although Leon Bolton has spent over 40 years of total incarceration for the instant offense, and has appeared before this Board a total of 28 times, he has never received a vote for parole. In fact, it appears that he has never even been proposed. Bolton's institutional adjustment in the early stages of incarceration was horrific. He was a Board member for the Gangster Disciples, and achieved this status because he would fight. After being transferred from Stateville in 1987, he started to make gradual changes in his life by moving away from the gang structure and taking responsibility for his crime. He obtained his GED and his Associates Degree in construction technology. He has been steadily employed at various tasks, and his disciplinary record shows improvement between the late 1980s and up to 1996, at which time he received a new sentence for possession of contraband in a penal institution.

Inmate Bolton's institutional adjustment, especially given his prison beginnings, is excellent. He has been described as a model prisoner whose educational attainments point to an eventual release with sufficient preparedness to do well on the outside. And even the prison officials commended him for taking the initiative to improve himself during this period of incarceration. However, it is the Board's opinion at this time that his 40+ years in prison do not begin to atone for the death sentence that he and his cohorts handed Mrs. Vanzant by shooting her six times, and the subsequent shooting of Orville Asher, a truck driver who was just doing his job, and who, after being shot in the head, thankfully, survived his ordeal, and identified his assailants.

The Board felt that at the present time, to release this inmate would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law.

Motion to deny parole (JM – EA)

Motion approved 13-0.

Parole is denied.

"The Board makes a specific finding that the release of victim protest letters could subject a person to actual risk of physical harm."