

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board  
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET  
MEETING OF January 26, 2012**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on January 26, 2012, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

|                         |
|-------------------------|
| L10298 DWIGHT JOHNSON   |
| C01583 WILBERT LIPSCOMB |
| C10286 PHILLIP SOPER    |
| C01657 HENRY DEE        |
| C63921 MICHAEL BAPTIST  |
| C60101 GLENN HIPKINS    |

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

| <b>MEMBER</b>           | <b>PRESENT</b> | <b>ABSENT</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 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              |               |

**12 Present, 1 Absent**

The Recording Secretary presented the following minutes for approval:  
Open Session Minutes December 15, 2012.

Motion to amend and accept minutes as presented and make available to the public. (ADM - MR)  
Motion approved 12-0.

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

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board  
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET  
OPEN SESSION January 26, 2012**

Inmate Name: **Dwight Johnson**

IDOC Number & Institution: **L10298**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on January 26, 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, J. Madison, J. Parrack, M. Reynolds, N. Sula, W. Simmons, G. Tyler

Member C. Findley was absent.

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.

Inmate Dwight Johnson was interviewed at Danville Correctional Center on December 13, 2011 by Member Parrack. He has been convicted of Murder/Intent to Kill, for which he received a sentence of 100 – 200 years, and Armed Robbery for which he received a sentence of 100 – 200 years. His Maximum Release Date is 10/02/2078.

Mr. Dwight Johnson is a 58 year old male born on November 2, 1953 to Mae and Earnest Johnson. He was raised in the Chicago area with his 10 siblings. He falls in the middle of the birth order. The last grade Dwight completed was the 8th grade; he stated he dropped out of McClain High School in the 9th grade so he could get a job and help his mother. His last place of employment was for Alexander Movers and with a construction company in Kankakee, Illinois, prior to his arrest. He has two children, a son that is 36 years old and a daughter that is 33, she was born right before he was arrested. He also has two granddaughters from his son. He stays in contact with his son through his sister and occasional letters. Mr. Johnson currently does not suffer from any acute mental illness and does not take any psychiatric medication.

The official statement of facts is as follows. On October 18, 1977, at 9:30 am, Dwight Johnson and his co-defendant entered Williams grocery store located at 10407 S. Racine Avenue in Chicago, Illinois. While in the store, both Mr. Dwight Johnson and his co-defendant, which is believed to be his brother Fred Johnson, produced handguns and announced they were robbing the store. They made the owner of the store, Mr. Williams, the butcher, Mr. Barnes, and two other customers lie down behind the meat counter. During this time, the victim, Ms. Flo Pitchford, age 43 entered the store, picked up a newspaper and when she attempted to pay for it, she became involved in the robbery. She was ordered to lie face down behind the meat counter, with the other

victims in the store. One of the offenders forced the owner, Mr. Williams, to empty the cash register and put the money in a bag, while the other offender went through drawers behind the counter and demanded "the guns". As the two individuals were leaving, it is believed that Mr. Dwight Johnson turned back and fired one shot from six feet away that struck Flo Pitchford in the head, killing her. When she was shot, she was lying face down on the ground as she was instructed to do. In the Appellate Court opinion, it states that as the two gunmen were fleeing the store, a store employee chased after them and firing a shot in their direction. Dwight Johnson was arrested a year later on October 27, 1978, while visiting his brother, Fred Johnson, at Cook County Jail. Two Chicago police officers were at the jail waiting to talk to Fred regarding this case, when Dwight showed up to visit him. They had received information that Fred Johnson and his brother, Ike had robbed the Williams grocery store. Dwight went by the nickname "Ike" and per the officers Dwight looked like the composite sketches given by the witnesses. Once Dwight was in custody they compared his fingerprint to the one they had recovered on a Nehi pop bottle that was placed on the counter during the robbery. The fingerprint from the Nehi pop bottle matched Dwight Johnson. Witnesses in the store had stated that the individual that set the Nehi pop bottle on the counter was the shooter. Dwight initially denied being in the store, then later told the police he was in the store with his brother during the robbery, but his brother was the shooter. During Dwight's trial it was presented that he was the shooter in the case.

The Inmate's version of the facts is as follows. Mr. Johnson stated that on the morning of the crime he was at his brother, Fred Johnson's house at 55th and Garfield in Chicago. His brother told him about something he planned to do and wanted Dwight to come and watch his back, because he did not trust the guy that was going to be with him. Dwight asked him what he was planning to do, but his brother would not give him any details and just asked him to come and watch his back. Once they left Fred's house they picked up two more guys that Dwight did not know. According to Dwight they were just riding around for a bit and eventually stopped at William's Grocery Store. Mr. Johnson states that his brother and another guy from the vehicle went into the store and he stayed in the car. After a period of time he heard some shots and his brother and this other guy came back to the car and they drove away. Dwight asked his brother what happened and his brother told him everything was cool. Dwight knew that something had happened, but did not know that someone had got hurt. Mr. Johnson denies that he was ever in the store and believes that the fingerprint matches his brother and not him. I asked him why they would not match it to his brother and he stated that they did not care they just wanted a conviction. His brother was never convicted on this case and it is unclear if he was ever charged with anything regarding this crime. Dwight believes that he was offered a plea deal of something like 14 years, but did not take the deal, because he was innocent and thought he would beat the case.

Motion to enter executive session (JP – MR).

Motion approved 12-0.

Motion to enter open session (ADM – EC).

Case procedural history is as follows. Mr. Johnson elected to have a jury trial and was found guilty. On January 6, 1981, Judge Philip J. Carey sentenced Dwight Johnson to 100 to 200 years for the murder of Flo Pitchford and a sentence of 100 to 200 years for the armed robbery. The sentences are to run concurrent. At the time of sentencing, Dwight Johnson chose to be sentenced under the old sentencing guidelines. Per the State Attorney's report, if Dwight Johnson would have chosen to be sentenced under the sentencing guidelines at the time, he could have been sentenced to life without parole. On October 25, 1982, the Appellate Court affirmed the conviction.

Criminal history is as follows. Mr. Johnson does not have a juvenile criminal history. He has a limited adult criminal history with no previous convictions, until this current conviction at the age of 27 years old. He was 24 years old at the time of the crime.

October 1973: arrested for possession of a controlled substance – no conviction

February 1974: arrested for unlawful restraint, disorderly conduct, and battery – SOL

March 1974: arrested for disorderly conduct – Discharged

June 1974: arrested for aggravated battery and robbery – finding of not guilty

June 1975: arrested on an assault warrant and for no valid driver's license – no conviction

March 1976: arrested for a battery, a warrant was later issued and he was arrested on that warrant in January 1978 – SOL

Mr. Johnson has been housed at three different Illinois Correctional Facilities: Stateville from 1981 to 1997, Western from 1997 to 2004 and at Danville from 2004 to current. He received most of his tickets at Stateville and within the first few years of his incarceration. From 1981 to 1989, per a counselor's report in the file, he had accumulated 21 majors and 28 minors. He received a major in 1991 for having six pieces of metal in his cell. After this time, it appears Mr. Johnson has done pretty well, receiving three majors since 2000. These three tickets were on 4/16/2000 for insolence and disobeying a direct order (verbal reprimand), on 7/16/2000 for impairment of Surveillance (28 day commissary restriction), and on 1/24/2003 for fighting (one month C grade, one month segregation, and revoke one month good time credit). Regarding the fight, when you read the ticket, it appears that Mr. Johnson was defending himself against another inmate. Mr. Johnson last received a minor ticket on July 12, 2010, for a violation of rules and received a verbal reprimand.

Mr. Johnson has never attempted to get his GED and states that he does not want to get his GED while incarcerated and to him it would not mean anything. He did say that if he is ever paroled he plans on obtaining his GED while in the community and plans to do this for himself. However, Mr. Johnson did present a certificate for a Job Preparedness Workshop he completed on 10/23/2008. This workshop was everyday for a period of two to three weeks. Mr. Johnson also has maintained a solid work history while incarcerated and states that he works as much as possible. He currently works as a floor polisher at Danville. His past jobs have included porter, industry machine operator, the tailor shop from 85 to 97, and worked in the meat packing

department while at Western. He is currently at A grade and has been since his transfer to Danville in 2004. He states that he has never had a negative transfer.

Mr. Johnson's current parole plan is to live with his sister, Alma Johnson. She lives by herself in Chicago Ridge, Illinois. Per Mr. Johnson, Alma works as a supervisor at a nearby hospital and would be able to get him a job working maintenance at the hospital. His sister was not present at his interview and she last appeared on his behalf in 2007 or 2008. When discussing his parole plan, Mr. Johnson stated that he would be willing to comply with any conditions requested of him, including if he was requested to enter a type of transitional housing, prior to going to his sister's home.

The Board noted that the petitioner is not coming off of the three-year set and has received votes in the past, three specifically last year. There have been inconsistencies in Mr. Johnson's story throughout the years. Member Parrack noted that although there have been inconsistencies, Dwight has always maintained that he was not the shooter. His story has changed in regard to him being in the store or in the car.

The Cook County Assistant States Attorney stated that there is no record on file of this Inmate having been offered a plea deal in regard to this case.

Member Parrack offered her closing statements. In discussing this case with Mr. Johnson, I feel that he is sorry for his involvement in this case even though I feel we have different beliefs in what that involvement may have been. When asking him about his version of the facts of the case, he made a statement prior to going into detail about the case and I wanted to share it with the board.

*"I wish it hadn't happened and I am sorry that it did happen and that I know a lot of people got hurt because it did happen as far as the victim's family and my family and everyone. My heart goes out to both families, because they did not deserve for it to happen like that on both sides, they suffered, and it hurts me to know that they suffered from it".*

In conclusion, Mr. Johnson continues to deny that he is guilty of the murder of Flo Pitchford, which has been consistent over the last few years. However, I had difficulty overcoming the evidence of the fingerprint on the Nehi pop bottle and the multiple different stories regarding the crime. Last year in his interview, he stated that he was in the grocery store in the days prior to the crime and could have left his fingerprint on one of the pop bottles. In my interview with Mr. Johnson, he stated that he had never been in the store and it was his brother and another man that committed this crime. I came to the conclusion for myself when determining how to weigh the factors regarding his conviction and his innocent's claim; that a jury heard his case and convicted him of the murder of Flo Pitchford based on the evidence presented to them and Judge Carey sentenced him to what he felt was an appropriate sentence for his crime. Even though Mr. Johnson has not obtained his GED or completed a lot of programs, he has always worked and for the most part stayed out of trouble. Overall, I think he has had a good

institutional adjustment, especially in the last 20 years. He also stated that he tries to be a positive role model for the young men coming into the correctional system.

After thoroughly reviewing the file and conducting an interview with Dwight Johnson, I have weighed the factors regarding the facts surrounding his conviction, his institutional adjustment, and his current parole plans, I feel at this time to parole Mr. Johnson would deprecate the seriousness of his crimes, and promote disrespect for the law.

Motion to deny parole (JP – EA).

Motion carries 10 – 2.

Member voting in favor of the motion were Althoff, Blackman-Donovan, Bowers, Crigler, Diaz, Parrack, Simmons, Sula, Tyler and Chairman Monreal.

Members Madison and Reynolds 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 January 26, 2012**

Inmate Name: **Wilbert Lipscomb** IDOC Number & Institution: **C01583**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on January 26, 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, J. Madison, J. Parrack, M. Reynolds, N. Sula, W. Simmons, G. Tyler

Member C. Findley was absent.

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

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

Inmate Wilbert Lipscomb was interviewed on December 14, 2011 at Pinckneyville Correctional Center. Persons present were Inmate Lipscomb and Chairman Monreal. His projected release date is February 2, 2037 and his maximum release date is February 2, 2038.

Inmate Wilbert Lipscomb is a male African American, 61 years of age and was born July 9, 1950. Inmate Lipscomb was born in the State of Arkansas. He was a ward of the State. In 1960, inmate Lipscomb's mother returned for him and he moved to Chicago and lived on west side of the City. Inmate Lipscomb is one of seven children born to Nathaniel and Bresola Lipscomb. His parents are deceased. He does not maintain any contact with his brothers or sisters. Inmate Lipscomb is the father five children. He has never been married and never served in the military. Inmate Lipscomb denies any gang activity prior to his incarnation or during his institutionalization.

Statement of the facts is as follows. Inmate Lipscomb entered the Illinois Department of Correction on November 18, 1971. He was found guilty by a jury for the murder of Mr. Jerome Wells, attempted murder of Mr. Richard White and the armed robbery of K & W Hardware Store. Mr. White was the proprietor of the store. Inmate Lipscomb was sentenced to 100-150 years for the murder, 10-20 years for the attempt murder and 10-20 years for the armed robbery. The sentences were to run concurrent.

The facts and circumstances that lead to inmate Lipscomb's conviction were as follows: On the date of August 10, 1970, at approximately 3:00 pm, inmate Lipscomb and his brother, Carl Lipscomb entered the K&W Hardware Store located at 159 North Cicero, Chicago, Illinois. The Lipscomb brothers had entered the hardware store on two

separate occasions prior to committing the murder/armed robbery on the third occasion. On the third occasion of entering the store, the store clerk, Mr. Richard White, became suspicious and closed the front door while the offenders were still inside. At this time the store owner, Mr. Jerome Wells, exited from the rear of the store. Inmate Lipscomb approached him as he walked in one of the aisles. As Mr. White walked through the aisle and approached the offenders, inmate Lipscomb shot Mr. White from a distance of approximately three feet. After being shot Mr. White fell to the ground. At this time co-offender Carl Lipscomb stood over him while armed with a .22 caliber starter pistol. After shooting Mr. White, inmate Lipscomb turned his attention to Mr. Wells. Inmate Lipscomb was armed with two loaded handguns at this time. Inmate Lipscomb proceeded to shoot Mr. Wells nine times, discharging both weapons. Inmate Lipscomb shot Mr. Wells striking him in the head and chest, killing him. The cause of death was determined to be homicide. The Lipscomb brothers then emptied the cash register taking approximately \$60.00 USC and a check made payable to K&W Hardware. Thereafter, both offenders fled the store. Mr. White was able to check on Mr. Wells and then called the police. Mr. White was taken to the hospital and subsequently underwent surgery where his right kidney and part of his liver were removed. At the hospital, Mr. White identified inmate Lipscomb from a photo array as the person who shot him. Mr. Wells died as a result of receiving nine gunshot wounds to the area of the head and chest.

After the murder, two individuals identified the Lipscomb brothers as individuals they saw running away from the store after the murder/robbery. The Lipscomb brothers ran to their house located at 204 N. Lacrosse. Police entered the Lipscomb house and located the .22 caliber starter pistol (incapable of firing) and .38 caliber revolver that was used to kill Mr. Wells. Also recovered was the check that was taken from the K&W Hardware Store. Police officers arrested Carl Lipscomb in the alley behind his house on the same day of murder. Inmate Lipscomb was located and arrested approximately one month later. At the time of his arrest, Inmate Lipscomb was in possession of a .22 caliber revolver which matched the description and had the same class of characteristics of the second gun used in the murder.

Inmate Lipscomb and his brother were charged with murder, attempted murder and armed robbery. On November 22, 1971, Carl Lipscomb pleaded guilty to all counts. Judge Wilson, after hearing matters in mitigation and in aggravation sentenced inmate Carl Lipscomb to 25 to 75 years for murder, 10 to 20 years for attempted murder and 10 to 20 years for armed robbery. The sentences were to run concurrently. Carl Lipscomb was paroled by completing his maximum sentence and is now a resident of Madden Mental Health Institution, by civil order.

Inmate Lipscomb chose to proceed by a jury trial and was found guilty. Judge Wilson sentenced inmate Lipscomb to 100 to 150 years for murder, 10 to 20 years for attempted murder and 10 to 20 years for armed robbery.

Inmate Lipscomb's version of the offense was reviewed. Upon my initial introduction I advised inmate Lipscomb purpose of the interview and the topics we would be



discussing. When I reaching the point of the discussion regarding the facts and circumstances that led to his conviction, inmate Lipscomb informed me that he did not wish to speak or discuss this matter. Inmate Lipscomb response was..."I have accepted responsibility for my act because I have done and am doing the time." Upon advising inmate Lipscomb that I was familiar with the court record concerning his trial and conviction he stated that his attorney has advised him not to discuss the matter because he has a post-conviction petition pending that is before the court in February 2012. Inmate Lipscomb never indicated any remorse for his actions or consequences of such actions.

Case procedural history was reviewed. Judge Wilson sentenced inmate Lipscomb to 100 to 150 years for murder, 10 to 20 years for attempted murder and 10 to 20 years for armed robbery. Inmate Lipscomb appealed his conviction. In his appeal, inmate Lipscomb argued that his sentenced was excessive and an abuse of discretion. The Illinois Appellate Court affirmed the conviction and sentenced and stated in its opinion that considering the brutality of the crime there was no evidence that the trial court abused its discretion in imposing the sentence.

In 1972, while his appeal was still pending before the appellate court, inmate Lipscomb filed a petition for executive clemency before Governor Ogilvie. In his petition, inmate Lipscomb claimed actual innocence for the claim that he was convicted. Inmate Lipscomb was of the opinion that the Prisoner Review Board would be more amendable to his claim of innocence than the Illinois Appellate Court. The petition was denied.

In 2006, inmate Lipscomb filed a post-conviction petition which was denied. He has also filed two requests before the Prisoner Review Board for a re-hearing after being denied parole. According to inmate Lipscomb, he currently had a post-conviction petition pending that is to be heard in February 2012.

Prior criminal history was reviewed.

Juvenile History: Inmate Lipscomb was convicted of burglary and sentenced to six months in the detention center. Concerning his juvenile criminal history, inmate Lipscomb stated that he did the state a favor and took the plea for the burglary conviction.

Adult History: This conviction is inmate Lipscomb's second felony institutionalization. His original dates back to 1966. 1966: theft: 58 days in jail. 1968 theft: 3 years probation. 1969: Aggravated Assault: 6 months in jail. 1970: paroled. July 1970: discharged from parole. August 1970: Murder. As to the two theft convictions, inmate Lipscomb stated that they were related but denies any involvement.

Inmate Lipscomb became eligible for parole in 1980. He has never received a favorable vote for parole. In 2003 and 2009 he received 3 years sets.

Institutional adjustment was reviewed. Inmate income has received certificates in the area of sanitation and custodial training. Educational Advancement: ABE student, GED, college business- law, parenting class, sanitation certificate, welding certificate from Joliet Jr. College. He has been housed at Stateville, Graham, Logan, Hill, Western, Danville and Pickneyville. He is currently listed as A grade, low flight risk. He has had assignments in graphic arts, photography, printing, welding, wrapping, cutting, dietary, housing unit worker, recycling, officer commissary and machine operator

From the year of his incarceration in 1972 to 1986, inmate Lipscomb acquired 45 IDRs. From the years of 1987 to 2000 inmate Lipscomb acquired 18 IDRs. From the year 2000 to 2009 inmate Lipscomb has acquired 11 IDRs. In 2009 he received one major and two minors. Inmate Lipscomb stated that he acquired a significant number of IDRs during the early years of his institutionalization because of the need to protect himself from the institutions and the gang organizations that existed. When questioned regarding the IDRs he acquired after the year 2000, inmate Lipscomb stated that the IDOC had placed him in situations where they knew he would fail, thus blaming the system. Inmate Lipscomb has lost approximately 3 years of credit but much of this time has been approved to be restored.

Inmate Lipscomb is the father of five children and maintains contact with his daughter, Angela Lipscomb. He does not maintain contact with his other children or his brothers or sisters. According to inmate Lipscomb, he has not had any f/f visits because of his incarceration and the distance of the facilities.

Inmate Lipscomb stated that he does not have definite parole plans but that if he were granted parole he would seek employment anywhere so that he could find an apartment to rent and save money. Further he stated that he would like to return to the City of Chicago.

The Board inquired as to whether or not Inmate Lipscomb takes responsibility. Chairman Monreal noted that he skated around the question and would not elaborate because he has a post conviction petition currently filed with the court.

The Cook County Assistant State's Attorney noted that in the past, Inmate Lipscomb has said that the victim shot himself. He shows a lack of remorse and they are asking for a five year set. It was also noted that he has never received any prior votes.

Motion to enter executive session (ADM – MR).

Motion approved 12-0.

Motion to enter open session (ADM – MR).

Motion approved 12-0.

In conclusion, based on the interview of Wilbert Lipscomb, a review of the facts and circumstances that lead to conviction, a review of the trial procedural history, his criminal history, his institutional adjustment and his parole plans I am of the opinion that to parole Wilbert Lipscomb would not only deprecate the seriousness of the offense but would also promote disrespect for the law.

Motion to deny (ADM – MR).

Motion carries 12-0.

Parole is denied.

Board members felt that they would not vote favorably in the next five years and noted the heinous nature of the crime.

Motion for a five-year set (ADM - MR).

Motion approved 7-5.

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

Members Crigler, Diaz, Parrack, Reynolds and Tyler dissented.

**PAROLE DENIED for a five-year set.**

"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 January 26, 2012**

Inmate Name: **Phillip Soper**      IDOC Number & Institution: **C10286**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on January 26, 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, J. Madison, J. Parrack, M. Reynolds, N. Sula, W. Simmons, G. Tyler

Member C. Findley was absent.

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

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

Inmate Soper was interviewed on November 29, 2011 at Pontiac Correctional Center. Also present at the hearing were Barbara Coy, Inmate Soper's younger sister and Tony Coy, his brother in law, as well as Board Member Diaz.

Inmate Soper was admitted to Illinois Department of Corrections on March 30, 1971 and thus has spent 40 years and seven months incarcerated. He has been at Pontiac since May 19, 1993 and is housed in protective custody, maximum security "Bubble Cell". There are nine such cells at Pontiac. He is being housed in this maximum security placement due to an active Murder Warrant from Wisconsin and the threats posed by others upon his life. According to Mr. Soper, in 2003 his cellmate apparently attempted to murder him as he slept by stabbing him in the right eye with a ball point pen causing an 80% loss of eyesight.

The offenses for which Mr. Soper has been convicted are Murder; sentence of 150-200yrs; and Murder; sentence of 150-200yrs; to be served consecutive.

Statement of the facts was reviewed. On March 29, 1971, in McHenry County, Phillip Soper pled guilty to the murders of Marlene Ahrens and Guenther Dolenske. On December 17, 1970, Marlene Ahrens (33 years of age, mother of an 11 year old daughter), was at work as a dental assistant in McHenry, Illinois, when Phillip Soper looking for a place to rob, mistakenly entered the dental office apparently frightening Mrs. Ahrens. He attempted to take her hostage but Mrs. Ahrens commenced to scream and when she wouldn't stop screaming, Phillip Soper shot and killed her. Mr. Soper in essence substantiated the facts to this Board member adding that he probably shot Ahrens three times. John Bocker, owner of the building where the dental office was

housed, and residing in an upstairs apartment heard the shots and screams, came down to investigate whereupon Soper encountered and shot him. Mr. Bocker survived. Again, Mr. Soper substantiated the shooting of the person who came to investigate the shooting.

On December 18, 1970, Guenther Dolenske: In McHenry, Illinois, Phillip Soper robbed the Farm House Tavern of \$75. Soper ordered all patrons not to move, G. Dolenske got off of a stool and was shot him five times, killing him.

Mr. Soper shared that Dolenske was trying to “be a hero” that’s why he was shot. Soper added that Mr. Dolenske’s “wife couldn’t have felt too bad (about the loss) as she had remarried”.

After he had robbed the tavern, Mr. Soper added that he was upset at not having been able to rip the phone from the wall, as apparently this phone was used to notify the police which led to his arrest.

As to his motivation for the identified events, Mr. Soper shared that:

Though he was employed, he wanted to “get rich quick”, and believed proceeds from robberies was the quickest way.

He wanted luxury items, a house, cars, a boat.

He was attempting to “speed things up”, that things were too slow for him.

Was upset that a local restaurant had overcharged him for a hamburger, returned to rob the restaurant of \$700.00. Apparently, there were other robberies.

Overall, Mr. Soper’s description of the events does not stray far from the statement of facts.

With regard to the Wisconsin murder warrants: they relate to the murders of two residents of a psychiatric hospital where Phillip Soper was employed. During the interview he acknowledged the Wisconsin murders though he wouldn’t discuss or comment about two additional murders in Iowa.

This Board Member believes Mr. Soper was honest and forthcoming during the interview. He was clear of thought and appeared at ease sharing facts and feelings regarding the subject identified events. It was clear that he was in need of immediate gratification. When posed with the idea of “waiting”, working or saving for those things he desired, he quickly negated those suggestions, at 22 years of age he was on the fast track, apparently focused on satisfying his wants and needs. He described an immature person who thought of himself only.

When asked how he has changed, Inmate Soper provided the following examples:

He was denied permission to go to the institutions store. He accepted the denial, did not get upset as he used to do. He sees this as an important change.

No longer impulsive, “used to be bad”, no longer, is now “quiet”.

He now “cries a lot”, voiced remorse for his acts, something he never did in the past.

Now sees crime as wrong.

Is now much more tranquil, more at peace.

“Copped two juices” gave them back to “Danny”, which cleared his conscious (Example of new values).

Not on any medication now.

Per his counselor’s report, Inmate Soper has had no tickets for over three years, and “continues his excellent adjustment and job/education program involvement.”

If paroled, Inmate Soper will go to Wisconsin to address the outstanding murder warrants. If somehow he is paroled and the Wisconsin authorities do not pick him up, he would like to reside with his sister and her husband in Quincy, Ohio . Mr. and Mrs. Coy own and operate Coy’s Masonry, Inc. and would employ Mr. Soper. Mr. Coy is the pastor of the Bellefontaine Apostolic Temple. The Coy family is apparently a strong and upright fixture in their community and they are to be commended for their continued support of Phillip Soper as it appears that their consistent family and community ties to Phillip Soper have assisted him in his voiced and noticeable changes.

The psychiatric report reads like a social assessment, providing information from Phillip Soper’s early life; a life which has included over 50 years of some type of confinement. His juvenile history is marked with serious, damaging offenses. His sister shares information which describes a good amount of family pathology which included raising Phillip Soper as a female for the first five years of his life. Physical abuse and psychological abuse were also present. The psychiatric report describes him as having an anti-social sociopathic personality disturbance.

It is good to see that Mr. Soper has continued his “excellent adjustment”. That he has invested himself in education and good consistent work while in the institution, that he declares feelings of remorse and empathy for his victims. That staff sees him as constructive and notice his good work, which are all positive steps.

However, given the fact that he has admitted to four murders, has two additional murders in question, and an active warrant for two murders awaiting him in Wisconsin, one can hardly consider parole at this time. Given the extent of his mental health needs based on a lifetime of distress, and the extent of his anti-social acts with which he attempted to satisfy his needs, it is clear that to see that parole cannot be recommended at this time, and would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and provide disrespect for the law.

Discussion: The Board noted that the petitioner has also been convicted of two murders in Wisconsin. If he is ever paroled from Illinois, he will go to prison in Wisconsin. So he has been convicted of a total of four murders and there are two more in question.

Motion to deny parole (SD – EA).

Motion approved 12-0.

Member Diaz noted that he also took the protest in this case and some of the victims' family members appeared as well as two State's Attorneys. The protest was very strong and powerful. They all asked for a multiple year set.

Based on the Wisconsin warrant and the heinous nature of the offenses, Board members felt that they would not vote favorably in the next five years

Motion for a five-year set (SD-EA).

Motion approved 10-2.

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

Members Madison and Reynolds dissented.

**PAROLE DENIED for a five-year set.**

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

**EN BANC MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION January 26, 2012**

Inmate Name: **Henry Dee**                      IDOC Number & Institution: **C01657**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on January 26, 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, J. Madison, J. Parrack, M. Reynolds, N. Sula, W. Simmons, G. Tyler

Member C. Findley was absent.

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

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

Henry Dee was interviewed for parole consideration on November 28, 2011 at the Stateville correctional center. Present at the hearing was the inmate and Member Tyler. Discussed during the interview was the instant offense, his institutional adjustment, personal accomplishments and parole plans.

Inmate Dee is serving 100-200 years for murder and 20-40 years for armed robbery. In August 1971, a cab driver by the name of Arthur Snyder was accosted by inmate Henry Dee and a co-offender as he entered his apartment on the northside of Chicago. They bound and gagged the victims and ransacked the house taking cash, coins, a camera, identification and credit cards. They then proceeded to bludgeon the victims with a claw hammer. They set fire to the mattress and left the apartment escaping in Mr. Snyder's taxi.

The victims were discovered by the fire department answering an alarm called in. The victims were transported to the hospital and pronounced dead at Weiss Hospital. The offenders were accosted in possession of the cab and items belonging to the victims. The offender, Henry Dee, was convicted and sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections. The inmate was on parole at the time of the instant offense and has a prior history of criminality.

It was also noted that Inmate Soper escaped in 1979 and attempted to escape a second time in 1980. During his interview, Inmate Soper denied involvement and said that he has fought his charge all the way to the Supreme Court.

His overall institutional adjustment has been good and has received two IDRs in the past ten years. He acquired his GED and college credits. He had the same job in the



Department of Corrections for 30 years, which is very notable. He is also highly regarded by the DOC staff.

His parole plans are to live with his mother in Chicago. He has no employment plans due to his having to serve a federal detainer.

Member Tyler stated that she won't ask for a set longer than one year for Mr. Dee, because she feels if someone has done well, they at least have the right to be interviewed.

The Cook County Assistant State's Attorney stated that the petitioner used a weapon on the guards when he escaped in the form of a homemade pistol.

Discussion: The Board noted the Inmate Soper's co-offender was released a long time ago, and the escape charges are likely what are keeping him in.

After a complete review of his file, the Board decided that to grant parole at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law.

Motion to deny (GT – WS).

Motion carries 11-0 (Madison abstains).

Parole is denied

Some Board members felt that they would not vote favorably in the next two years.

Motion for a two-year set (ADM - NS).

Motion does NOT carry (4-7).

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

Members Crigler, Diaz, Madison, Parrack, Reynolds, Simmons and Tyler dissented.

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

**EN BANC MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION January 26, 2012**

Inmate Name: **Michael Baptist** IDOC Number & Institution: **C63921**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on January 26, 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, J. Madison, J. Parrack, M. Reynolds, N. Sula, W. Simmons, G. Tyler

Member C. Findley was absent.

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.

Michael Baptist was interviewed December 14, 2011 by Board Member Mary Reynolds at Western Correctional Center.

Inmate Baptist was born on October 19, 1955 and is currently 56 years old. He was 19 at the time of the offense. He has been convicted of two counts of murder, for which he was sentenced to 100-200 years, and attempted murder for which he was sentenced to 50-100 years, to be served consecutively. He was sentenced on November 15, 1976 and has been incarcerated since June 15, 1975. His current MSR date is March 4, 2217.

Mr. Baptist has one brother and one sister. He stays in contact with his brother and cousin through the mail and telephone, although his brother has tried to visit him in prison and is not allowed. The records state that his last personal visit was in 2001. He lost his mom and dad, but his grandmother is still alive. Mr. Baptist has one son, 36, and one daughter, 35, who he has "off and on contact with." He has two grandchildren in Peoria. He grew up in Chicago and attended high school. He went to Job Corps in Golconda and became a certified welder. At the time of the offense, he was working at a metal shop on California.

Prior Convictions: Records show that Mr. Baptist received 60 days in the House of Corrections in April 1973 for a theft and six months for attempted theft in August 1973.

Inmate Baptist has been housed at the following facilities: Western since July, 2007; previously at Hill, Menard, Stateville, Pinkneyville, and Dixon.

Education: He did not complete his Constitution test when he was in high school so he took it again and received his GED. He stated that he is one course away from a Bachelor's degree and has 100+ credits and a few certifications.

He works as a wing janitor, was in the kitchen at Western for six months, laundry porter; Chapel and law library at Hill; heating, refrigeration, and construction at Menard.

Records indicate that he has had 22 tickets over the past 36 years. The last one was July 26, 2007 for disobeying a direct order of refusing a cell assignment. "Not fond of getting in to trouble." In 2006, his Offender Overview called his adjustment to IDOC "remarkable with only two minor IDR's in the last eight years."

He orders books to read to "keep his mind growing." He works out "a little to keep bones from cracking." He also prays a lot and enjoys religion of all types.

Statement of facts was reviewed. On July 29, 1974, Elijah Baptist, Michael's brother, robbed and killed a victim by the name of Sam Blue. Leslie Scott and Leo Carter were witnesses to that murder and testified at a preliminary hearing. The trial was set for July 15, 1975.

According to the records, on June 13, 1975, Leo Carter, Henry Carter (Leo's brother), and Leslie Scott were confronted by Wayne Lindsay. In the records, it states that Mr. Lindsay was the cousin of Elijah Baptist, but according to Michael Baptist, Wayne Lindsay is his uncle.

According to the records, Lawrence Lennox asked the Carters and Scott to attend a party at Mr. Lindsay's apartment. Others present included Wayne Lindsay, Lawrence Lennox, John Perkins, and Michael Baptist. After about 45 minutes of listening to music and drinking wine, Lennox and Lindsay put guns to the victims heads and walked them downstairs and outside near a beer factory. Mr. Lindsay asked "who told on my cousin?" He then put a gun to Leo Carter's head and shot him at point blank range. When he fell to the ground, he shot him again in the back. Lennox then shot Henry Carter. Mr. Lindsay then shot Leslie Scott. Henry Carter and Leslie Scott died while Leo Carter survived and sought help. The murder weapons were recovered at the crime scene.

According to Mr. Baptist, he went up to Wayne Lindsay's apartment and there was a party going on. He stayed a while and then left. His mom lived in the same building in the basement apartment, the first floor was rented, Lindsay's was on the third floor, and his grandmother lived on the fourth floor. He claims that he was downstairs at his mother's house when he heard the shootings and his mom and his son's mother saw him there. One of his petitions to the court claimed that his witnesses were never called during trial. He stated that while he knew Leo Carter and his brother, he was not in any fights with them, had no problems and knew their family.

When I interviewed Wayne Lindsay in March, 2011, he claimed that he shot two people and Lennox shot the other.

According to the records, John Perkins had a bench trial and was not convicted. Michael Baptist and Lawrence Lennox were convicted along with Mr. Lindsay at a jury trial. According to Mr. Lindsay, his public defender had a plea bargain for 14-20 years but all were required to accept it and the other guys did not want to.

According to Michael, he filed a petition in 2008 to straighten out the facts of this case because the State's Attorney's office continued to report to PRB that he had directed the shootings. Michael said it took 30 years for the records to show the inaccuracies and state that he did not command the killings. He just wanted to make it clear that the transcript did not include that involvement. In 2008, the Circuit Court of Cook County stated that "While Defendant (Richard Devine) agrees with the Plaintiff (Michael Baptist) that nothing in the transcript from the preliminary trial or trial shows that the Plaintiff verbally commanded the victims to be shot, the fact that the language of the letter states that victims were shot in the head "was done at the command of the inmate" is irrelevant." The Court goes on to state "As the court ruled in Dennis E. v. O'Malley that statement does not need to be objective nor free from inaccuracies." The petitioner wanted it clarified that he was not the shooter.

The Appellate Court upheld the convictions in December, 1978. In 1984, Michael Baptist filed a Federal petition for habeas corpus and it was denied in 1989. He filed at least four post-conviction petitions which were all dismissed.

If paroled, Mr. Baptist would like to go to St. Leonard's then earn enough money to get his own place. He believes that he has a job lined up stitching shoes at his cousin's business. He would like to complete his Bachelor's degree and get married. He has experience in and willing to work in construction, refrigeration/heating, or welding.

Mr. Baptist requests that the Board consider the facts of the case and give him a fair hearing. He stated that he was 'convicted because he has a brother.' He wants to be around positive people and strengthen his mind, but now he is in a "hole with a bunch of wolves." He tries to talk to the younger guys - "some listen, some don't." He has been working on a book with positive thoughts and would like to try to help youth.

The Cook County State's Attorney has a protest letter on file.

Motion to enter executive session (JP – ADM).

Motion approved 12-0.

Motion to enter open session (MR – ADM).

Motion approved 12-0.

Mr. Baptist was last heard before the Board in February 2009 when there was a vote of 12-0 to deny parole. He has never received a vote.

The Cook County Assistant State's Attorney stated that the petitioner has filed five post conviction motions. They have all been denied. Also, elimination of testifying witnesses should not be tolerated.

Member Reynolds concluded by stating that Mr. Baptist has been incarcerated for 36 1/2 years on accountability for two murders and one attempted murder. Although the records are challenging to follow with who said what when, it is clear that Michael Baptist did not personally shoot anyone that summer night in 1975. His brother was convicted of the 1974 murder and was paroled in 1991. Two people lost their lives and another seriously injured in a needless crime that defies our justice system in 1975. Mr. Baptist was 19 years old at that time.

Motion to Grant Parole (MR – GT).

Motion does NOT carry (5-7).

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

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

Parole is denied.

Motion to reverse vote to reflect the Board order (ADM – ABD).

Motion approved 12-0.

Parole is denied (7-5).

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

**EN BANC MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION January 26, 2012**

Inmate Name: **Glenn Hipkins** IDOC Number & Institution: **C60101**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on January 26, 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, J. Madison, J. Parrack, M. Reynolds, N. Sula, W. Simmons, G. Tyler

Member C. Findley was absent.

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.

Inmate Hipkins was interviewed at Western Illinois Correctional Center on December 14, 2011.

Persons Present were Member Jennifer Parrack, Glenn Hipkins, and family members: Gary Hipkins (brother) and Becky Hipkins (sister in-law).

Inmate Hipkins has been convicted of Murder, for which he was sentenced to 50 – 150 years. His projected release date is June 1, 2052.

Mr. Hipkins is a 54 year old male born on 12/8/1957, to Anna and Burl Hipkins. He was born in Moline, Illinois, but was raised in Seaton, Illinois, with his four siblings. Glenn started having difficulties during his teenage years, dropping out of high school in the 10th grade. When he was in school he was often in trouble for smoking on school grounds or fighting. He started using marijuana and alcohol around the age of 12, and then around the age of 15, started using heavier drugs, mostly PCP. He reports also using cocaine, heroin, and LSD. When Glenn was 18 years old, his older brother was killed in a car accident while stationed in Germany. He reports that this was rough on him and his family. Mr. Hipkins has no children and has never been married. He has never taken any medication for mental illness and currently is not involved in any mental health treatment. He reports being in good health and currently does not take any medications.

A statement of the facts was reviewed. Member Parrack noted that she did not have a statement of facts provided from the Mercer County State's Attorney Office. She spoke with Linda Schroeder (Victim Coordinator) and the Mercer County Circuit Court in an attempt to get some additional information on the case, due to the fact the file does not have a lot of facts on the case.

The Inmates version of the offense is as follows. Mr. Hipkins reports that on the day (9/1/1977) of Frank Lehew's murder, he and Michael Shaffer met up and started "partying" using whiskey, beer, marijuana, codeine pills and angel dust (PCP). At one point they went by and saw Glenn's father to borrow some money, they bought beer and gas for his car with the money he gave him. Later in the afternoon, they decided they needed more money for drugs and alcohol, so they came up with a plan to rob Frank Lehew's gas station. The plan was Michael was going to distract Frank Lahew and keep him outside, so Glenn could go in the gas station and "tap the till" is the phrase he used. This meant he would go in and open the cash register and take the money. While Glenn was in the gas station behind the cash register, Frank walked back in and confronted him. At this time, Glenn pushed him down on the ground and told him to stay down. Frank Lahew then wrapped his legs around Glenn as he was standing. Glenn stated that he kicked him twice in the head and remembers his head hitting the concrete. After he kicked him, he ran out to the car and drove to a friend's house. He continued to drink and use drugs throughout the day. He reports hearing that the victim was in the hospital two days later. A few days after this crime, Glenn Hipkins was arrested for the robbery and after his arrest Frank Lehew died from his injuries and he was then charged with murder.

After his arrest, Mr. Hipkins was housed in the Mercer County Jail and it was alleged that he attempted to escape on November 11, 1977. These charges were eventually dismissed after he was convicted on the murder of Frank Lehew. Mr. Hipkins states that he was not trying to escape and it was a fight he was involved in. He did admit to hitting the other inmate in the head with a pipe, which resulted in the inmate receiving 6 stitches.

Mr. Hipkins stated that his trial lasted roughly three weeks and he took the stand in his defense. He stated that he admitted on the stand that he committed this crime and told the family that he was sorry for what he did and it was not his intention to "cause bodily harm to Frank Lehew". Member Parrack stated that she tried to verify if he actually apologized to the family, however she was not able to obtain the court transcripts. Mr. Hipkins was 19 years old at the time of this crime and 20 years old when he was sentenced.

Motion to enter executive session (JP – GT).

Motion approved 12-0.

Motion to enter open session (JP – SD).

Motion approved 12-0.

Mr. Hipkins elected to have a jury trial and was found guilty of murder on January 19, 1978. He was sentenced to 50 to 150 years on March 17, 1978, by Judge Spanton. Mr. Hipkins was never offered a plea deal. It does not appear that Mr. Hipkins ever

appealed his conviction. His co-defendant received 6 2/3 to 20 years for his role in this case in exchange for testifying against Mr. Hipkins.

In 1975 (age 17), he was convicted of a burglary in Mercer County and sentenced to 1 to 3 years IDOC. He was paroled on April 7, 1976 and on September 1, 1977, committed this crime. His parole was revoked shortly after and he served the remainder of his parole in IDOC. The facts regarding this burglary were Mr. Hipkins and his co-defendants robbed a VFW of roughly \$350.00. It is unclear in the file, but Mr. Hipkins may have also had a previous theft case where he had probation. He served about 5 to 6 months at Joliet Correctional Center on the burglary charge, prior to his parole.

Mr. Hipkins has been housed in this order at Joliet, Menard, Danville, Pontiac, Menard (negative transfer) and Western. He is currently at an A grade. Mr. Hipkins was admitted to IDOC on 4/18/1978 and maintained A status for 20 years with roughly 9 disciplinary tickets (report on 1/21/1986, outlines some of the tickets). On 9/18/1998, he was given a major ticket for intimidation and threats, dangerous communication, and dangerous contraband. It appears he was discussing how to make a bomb over the telephone and a search of his cell recovered electronic components, wires, circuit boards, solder, and a piece of flint from a lighter. He received one year of segregation, demotion to C grade, and revocation of one year of good time credit. This also facilitated a negative transfer to Menard. Mr. Hipkins maintains he had these items because he fixed televisions and radios. He also states that he was talking with his brother on the phone and it was his brother that was discussing how you could find out how to make a bomb on the internet and it was in the context of discussing some of the problems he had been having with his son.

In 2004, he had a major ticket for damage or misuse of property. His last ticket was a major on 9/20/2007, for a homemade stinger, which he received 3 months C grade.

Mr. Hipkins received his GED while at Menard on 02/13/1981, and also received his GED while at Menard and also took some college classes that were offered. He was also involved in the Menard music program for a year. He also completed a job acquisition course. Mr. Hipkins has almost always maintained a job, with his current job being a laundry porter. As you read through his counselor reports he appears to be a very hard worker and there never appears to be any problems with him on the wing he is assigned too. His past jobs have included: cook, the warden's cook, baker, laundry porter, tool clerk, dietary, wing porter, and at one time was on the 24 hour paint detail crew. Mr. Hipkins states at one time he attempted to become involved in a drug counseling group, however he stated that every time he attended everyone just sat around and talked about other subjects.

If Mr. Hipkins is to be released, it appears that he has a substantial amount of support from his family. Mr. Hipkins would like to parole to his brother, Gary Hipkins and his sister in-law's home in Festus, Missouri (2947 Meyer Road). His brother purchased a home that has a basement apartment that Glenn could live in. Mr. Hipkins has submitted an interstate compact request prior to our parole interview and I checked with



his counselor and one has been submitted. He also has a sister that lives in Rock Island County and would be willing to have him parole to her home, however, Ms. Parrack feels this would not be the best place for Mr. Hipkins due to the close proximity of the victim's family still being in the area.

Gary Hipkins works as a computer programmer and also has a wood shop attached to the house that Glenn could work in on the side, until he could find employment. Gary is actively involved with Mission Gate Ministries Outreach, a program in the St. Louis area that assists offenders leaving the prison system and they plan to have him actively involved with this organization.

The Board noted that they are bothered by the age of the victim. The petitioner parole plans are very solid. He has a very supportive family and would be living out of Illinois. They believe he has good qualities and would do well if paroled.

Member Parrack concluded by stating that she went back and forth on what she was going to do on this case and because when she looks at the crime, she feels Mr. Hipkins preyed on a vulnerable person that at the age of 88 was still working and trying to support his family. Mr. Hipkins knew he would be an easy target and attempted to rob him and when he resisted he knocked him down and kicked him twice in the head, killing him. He also has had some serious allegations made against him; prior to his trial regarding a possible escape and also a few major tickets, even though for the most part his institutional adjustment has been good. Another factor considered was that Mr. Hipkins was on parole at the time of this crime.

With that being said, Member Parrack also felt that Mr. Hipkins has taken responsibility for his crimes and shown sincere remorse for the murder of Frank Lehew. He has a strong parole plan and could make a positive transition back into society, with assistance from his family. After weighing all the factors in this case, the Board feels that Mr. Hipkins is a good candidate for parole at this time.

Motion to grant Mr. Hipkins's parole upon the approval of an interstate compact for Mr. Hipkins to parole to his brother's home in Festus, Missouri (JP – SD).

Motion approved 12-0.

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."