



STATE OF ILLINOIS
 JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
 Craig Findley, Chairman

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION—July 13 & 14, 2020

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1301 Concordia Court, Springfield, Illinois, on July 13 and 14, 2020, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following offenders:

C01583	WILBERT LIPSCOMB*	C61896	LARRY HAMILTON*
C01871	LEON BOLTON	C93447	WILLIE ROBINSON*
C81531	JERRY DUNIGAN*	L11109	PAUL BRYANT*
C68736	DANIEL VANSKIKE	C81522	EVERETT BOWEN*
C66348	ROY KING	C86185	JOSEPH CUNNINGHAM

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Findley.

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Janet Crane.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mr. Daniel Brink	X	
Ms. Edith Crigler	X	
Ms. Lisa Daniels	X	
Mr. Donald Wayne Dunn	X	
Mr. Pete Fisher	X	
Ms. Vonetta Harris	X	
Mr. Oreal James	X	
Ms. Virginia Martinez	X	
Mrs. Aurthur Mae Perkins	X	
Mr. Joseph Ruggiero	X	
Mr. Donald Shelton	X	
Mr. Ken Tupy	X	
Ms. Eleanor Kaye Wilson	X	
Chairman Craig Findley	X	

14 Members Present

The Recording Secretary presented the March 12, 2020, Open Session Minutes for approval.

Motion to approve Open Session Minutes from **March 12, 2020**. (EC—AMP). Leave.



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Chairman Findley indicated that the Board would first address a pending motion filed by Ms. Martinez regarding the case of Danny Lillard C71613, followed by the docketed cases.

Motion to enter Closed Session to discuss confidential and privileged victims' statements in all scheduled cases for July 13, to receive legal counsel regarding matters of potential and pending litigation, and to deliberate regarding a pending motion in the case of Danny Lillard. (KT—DS). Leave.

Motion to return to Open Session. (EC—DS). Leave.

Ms. Martinez spoke to the previous *en banc* hearing regarding the case of Danny Lillard C71613. Ms. Martinez indicated that she believed that St Leonard's House's partner agencies would be equipped to give Mr. Lillard the support he needs; accordingly, she would no longer oppose his release and had filed a motion to reconsider his case.

Motion to reconsider the case of Danny Lillard. (VM—EC). Motion prevails by a vote of 8—6. Members voting in favor of the motion were Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Harris, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, and Ms. Wilson. Mr. Brink, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, and Chairman Findley dissented. Accordingly, Mr. Lillard's case will be docketed for a rehearing at the next available *en banc* hearing, subject to the need to conduct a new interview, which shall be set as soon as practicable, and to provide timely notice and opportunity to respond to the associated parties and registered victims.

The Board heard and voted upon the cases of Wilbert Lipscomb, Leon Bolton, Jerry Dunigan, Daniel Vanskike, and Roy King as detailed in the individual case minutes.

Motion to recess overnight. (CF—KT). Leave.

Chairman Findley called the Board back from recess at 9:00 a.m. on July 14, 2020.

The Board heard and voted upon the cases of Larry Hamilton, Willie Robinson, Paul Bryant, Everett Bowen, and Joseph Cunningham as detailed in the individual case minutes.

Meeting was adjourned (DWD—LD). Leave.



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—July 13, 2020

Inmate Name: **WILBERT LIPSCOMB**

IDOC Number: **C01583**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1301 Concordia Court, Springfield, Illinois, on July 13, 2020, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Wilbert Lipscomb C01583.

Members present were Mr. Brink, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Wilbert Lipscomb C01583 is currently in A-grade, medium security and considered low escape risk at Dixon Correctional Facility, where he has been since June 3, 2015. Mr. Lipscomb was born on July 9, 1950, and is currently 70 years of age. Mr. Lipscomb was sentenced to 100–150 years for Murder, 10–20 years for Attempt Murder, and 10–20 years for Armed Robbery, to run concurrently. Mr. Lipscomb is currently being considered for parole release following a 3-year set by the Board at his last parole consideration hearing.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On August 10, 1970, Mr. Lipscomb and his brother, Carl Lipscomb, entered K&W Hardware store, located at 159 North Cicero Avenue in Chicago, at approximately 3:00 PM. After entering and leaving the store two times, both brothers entered the store again. Mr. Richard White (the store clerk) saw Mr. Lipscomb and his brother come in and out of the store and Mr. White also saw another man outside of the store.

Mr. White then decided to lock the front door of the store. He then returned to the merchandise counter. Mr. Jerome Wells (the store owner) was standing in an aisle, next to Mr. Lipscomb. As Mr. White walked towards Mr. Wells and Mr. Lipscomb, Mr. Lipscomb turned and shot Mr. White, while within approximately 2–3 feet of proximity to Mr. White. Mr. Lipscomb's brother, who was also armed, stood over Mr. White, telling him not to move. Mr. Lipscomb then shot Mr. Wells several times, killing him. The brothers then took approximately \$60 from the cash register and fled the store. Mr. White was injured severely as a result of this incident and continues live with debilitating health issues resulting from his injuries to this day.



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MR. LIPSCOMB'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

Though Mr. Lipscomb maintain that he was not the shooter, he has profusely expressed sympathy for the victims and their families.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Lipscomb has received 3 minor tickets over the past 10 years, with his most recent being a minor infraction for personal property in 2015. He has not received a major infraction in 15 years.

Mr. Lipscomb's educational accomplishments include completion of a Graphics Art Photographic Program through Joliet Junior College, a Welding Certificate, a Certificate of Completion in Business Law from Carl Sandburg College, a Certificate of Achievement in Sanitary Maintenance, a Commercial Custodian Maintenance Program certificate, and a Completion of Parenting Skills Program. Mr. Lipscomb has been described as "a dependable student and worker." Mr. Lipscomb has also obtained his GED and completed multiple re-entry, life skills, violence prevention, and behavior modification programs. Mr. Lipscomb has worked consistently in the prison kitchens, the graphic arts shop, stock rooms, office settings, and several custodial assignments.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Lipscomb has been accepted to be a participant in IMAN's Green Reentry Program, a residential program which will provide him counseling, additional educational opportunities, and job training. Additionally, Mr. Lipscomb's daughter hopes to have her father join her at her home if he is released.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Shelton asked about Mr. Lipscomb's health. Mr. Lipscomb was noted to be missing his first two fingers and thumb on his right hand, due to a meat saw injury.

Mr. Shelton voiced his concern that after all this time Mr. Lipscomb can't admit to shooting the victim. Mr. Shelton asked Ms. Daniels what the "great strides" made by Mr. Lipscomb were that she mentioned in her presentation. Ms. Daniels stated the educational accomplishments and the fact that Mr. Lipscomb is a self-supporting and effective member of society. Ms. Daniels indicated that she does not see that the "why" of the crime should overshadow Mr. Lipscomb's accomplishments.



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Ms. Martinez asked what age Mr. Lipscomb was at the time of the crime. Mr. Lipscomb was noted as being 20 years old at the time of the offenses.

Ms. Wilson mentioned that the parole petition for Mr. Lipscomb does say that he is remorseful.

Ms. Crigler brought up Mr. Lipscomb's childhood trauma. She stated that he was subjected to lots of trauma as a child before he was ever admitted to IDOC and had only an 8th grade education.

Mr. Brink stated that Mr. Lipscomb has been in IDOC for 50 years. Mr. Brink asked if Mr. Lipscomb had ever had a diagnosis of depression; no record of a diagnosis was indicated.

Mr. Tupy asked about the three-year sets, noting that the previous Board Members did not believe Mr. Lipscomb would receive any votes for parole.

Mr. Brink asked about disciplinary tickets. Ms. Daniels stated that Mr. Lipscomb has received three minor tickets in 10 years.

Ms. Kara Kurland, Mr. Lipscomb's attorney, addressed the Board with regards to any errors or omissions. She stated that Mr. Lipscomb had taught himself to use his left hand, after his right one was injured. Ms. Kurland indicated that Mr. Lipscomb hopes to open a custodial service to support himself. Ms. Kurland also noted that Mr. Lipscomb has hypertension and high cholesterol and has been diagnosed in the past with depression. Ms. Kurland also stated that the reentry program submitted provides wrap-around treatment for participants. Ms. Kurland observed that studies show very low recidivism for offenders of Mr. Lipscomb's age and length of incarceration; in addition, Mr. Lipscomb's family support lowers the risk factors even more.

Mr. Shelton asked if the program Mr. Lipscomb has been accepted for would be able to provide job training and health services. Mr. Shelton also asked about Mr. Lipscomb's ability to continue working. Ms. Kurland stated that all the mentioned services were available and that it is Mr. Lipscomb's intention to work as long as he can.

The Board took note that this was the first year that Mr. Lipscomb had presented a substantive parole plan for the Board's consideration.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Arienne Jones spoke for the People against parole. ASA Jones stated that the victims and their families continue to suffer. ASA Jones also noted that Mr. Lipscomb expressing remorse and accepting responsibility are two different things. ASA Jones stated that the People are not convinced that Mr. Lipscomb is accepting responsibility for his actions.



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DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to grant parole (LD—VM). Motion prevails by a vote of 11–3. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Brink, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Harris, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Shelton, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley. Mr. Fisher, Mr. Ruggiero, and Mr. Tupy dissented.

After a complete review of Mr. Lipscomb’s case, and after giving thoughtful discussion and consideration to all factors, the Board decided and voted to grant parole to Mr. Lipscomb, subject to conditions of parole release as set by the Board and by law. The Board hereby finds that Mr. Lipscomb is an appropriate candidate for parole release at this time.

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



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION—July 13, 2020

Inmate Name: **LEON BOLTON** IDOC Number: **C01871**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1301 Concordia Court, Springfield, Illinois, on July 13, 2020, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Leon Bolton C01871.

Members present were Mr. Brink, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Leon Bolton C01871, 67 years of age, has been serving a 90–150-year sentence for the Murder of Mrs. Bernice Vanzant on December 15, 1970. An initial conviction for the Murder was overturned and the case was retried, resulting in the conviction which stands.

This was the 34th review of his case by this Board. Mr. Bolton was interviewed at the Danville Correctional Center on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. There was no one else present in support or in protest of his prospective release.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On December 15, 1970, Mr. Bolton and three co-offenders went to the Pembroke Township home of Mrs. Vanzant. At that time, Mrs. Vanzant's husband was deployed to Vietnam and was not present; neither were Mrs. Vanzant's children present at that time.

Mr. Bolton and his co-offenders spoke with Mrs. Vanzant, before then dragging her to a bedroom at the residence, where they proceeded to sexually assault her. Mr. Bolton and his co-offenders additionally gagged and blindfolded Mrs. Vanzant. Thereafter, Mrs. Vanzant was dragged to a wooded field near her home, where she was then shot multiple times with .22 caliber and .38 caliber firearms, resulting in her death. Mr. Bolton personally fired the shots from the .38 caliber weapon. After shooting Mrs. Vanzant, the offenders then left her body in the woods, and returned to Mrs. Vanzant's residence.

Upon their return to the home, Mr. Bolton and his co-offenders stole food stamps from Mrs. Vanzant's purse. Those food stamps were later cashed at an A&P store on the following day, December 16, 1970, in St. Anne, Illinois.



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In addition to the crimes committed against Mrs. Vanzant, Mr. Bolton and his co-offenders also robbed, beat, and shot Orville Asher, a bread truck delivery driver; Mr. Asher survived. At trial, expert testimony established that the gun used to shoot Mr. Asher was one of the firearms used in the Murder of Mrs. Vanzant.

MR. BOLTON'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

Mr. Bolton takes full responsibility for his offenses and does not dispute any of the facts of the case.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

In his youth, Mr. Bolton dropped out of the 8th Grade. Since being committed to DOC, Mr. Bolton has completed his GED.

Mr. Bolton initially had gang affiliation early in his incarceration, but has not had any such issues in many years.

Mr. Bolton's behavior markedly improved in approximately 2003–2004, and he has had consistent support from his family members throughout his time in DOC.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

In prior years, the family of the Mrs. Vanzant has been consistently opposed to granting release to Mr. Bolton. However, a member of the victim's family, indicating that they were speaking as a representative of the entire family, relayed to the Board that the family no longer opposes the release of Mr. Bolton and would request that the Board consider granting Mr. Bolton's release.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Shelton stated that the change that has occurred since the last en banc hearing is that the victim's sister has forgiven Mr. Bolton and that she and her family no longer consider him to be a threat.

Mr. Ruggiero asked about Mr. Bolton not taking advantage of educational opportunities. It was noted that individuals with lengthy sentences often don't get the opportunities that those with shorter sentences do.

Mr. Bolton's wife addressed the Board. She assured the Board members that Mr. Bolton has a place to live if paroled and employment opportunities waiting for him.



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Ms. Harris asked if he would parole to live with family or go into a transitional program. Chairman Findley noted that DOC has yet to approve the parole host site and that the Board could set conditions as they see fit. A 90-day stay of release request from the Attorney General's office was also noted as being a possibility.

Mr. Shelton stated that he felt that Mr. Bolton was honest with Mr. Shelton and that Mr. Bolton had great familial support.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to grant parole (DS—LD). Motion passes by a vote of 14–0.

After a complete review of Mr. Bolton's case, and after giving thoughtful discussion and consideration to all factors, the Board decided and voted to grant parole to Mr. Bolton, subject to conditions of parole release as set by the Board and by law. The Board hereby finds that Mr. Bolton is an appropriate candidate for parole release at this time.

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



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—July 13, 2020

Inmate Name: **JERRY DUNIGAN**

IDOC Number: **C81531**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1301 Concordia Court, Springfield, Illinois, on July 13, 2020, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Jerry Dunigan C81531.

Members present were Mr. Brink, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Jerry Dunigan C81531 was sentenced to 100–300 years for Rape, 6–18 years for Attempt Murder, 5–15 years for Burglary, and 3–9 years for Aggravated Battery. At the time of his interview on February 20, 2020, Mr. Dunigan was housed at the Danville Correctional Center; Mr. Dunigan and a Member of the Board were the only individuals present at his interview.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

A review of the file, and of the Appellate Court’s review of the conviction, reveals that Mr. Dunigan entered the John Hancock building, at 875 N Michigan Avenue in Chicago, at about 11:30 a.m. and spent some time examining the lobby marquee. After being approached by the doorman, Mr. Dunigan claimed to be attempting to deliver a telegram. The doorman used the telephone to call the supposed recipient, who advised the doorman not to permit entry unless Mr. Dunigan produced the telegram. Mr. Dunigan could not produce a telegram, was not permitted to enter, and left the building under close watch of the doorman. Mr. Dunigan’s crimes were committed against victims in the next block – beginning at approximately 1 p.m. and spanning approximately four hours.

Mrs. and Mrs. Leo and Agnes Silverstein, arriving from Holy Name Cathedral to their apartment building, at 860 N. DeWitt, were accosted by Mr. Dunigan as they approached their apartment on the 19th floor. Mr. Dunigan was carrying a black leather jacket over his arm and wearing a large black hat (described as a “Zorro hat” by the doorman at the John Hancock Building). Mr. Dunigan produced a gun, put it to the back of Mr. Silverstein’s head, and said, “If you make any noise, I’m going to kill you both.” The Silversteins were made to enter the apartment at gunpoint.



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Mr. Dunigan made numerous threats during the course of several hours of occupying the apartment. In response to pleas from Mrs. Silverstein to leave them alone, Mr. Dunigan struck Mr. Silverstein over the left eye and threatened to blow his head off and “put the brains” in front of her. After setting down his gun, Mr. Dunigan tied Mr. Silverstein’s legs and restrained his hands behind his back. Mrs. Silverstein attempted to grab the gun, but Mr. Dunigan maintained control of it.

Mr. Dunigan raped Mrs. Silverstein as she lay a few feet away from Mr. Silverstein, taunting him with remarks like, “How do you feel – somebody doing this to your wife?; “Doesn’t it make you sick?” and “Doesn’t this make you want to fight?” After finishing the Rape, Mr. Dunigan forced the Silversteins to crawl to opposite sides of the room and tied Mrs. Silverstein’s legs together.

During his hours-long occupation of the apartment, Mr. Dunigan spoke with the Silversteins in what they described as a conversational tone, noting that he appeared cool and coherent. Upon learning that Mr. Silverstein was in the real estate business, Mr. Dunigan asked why white people lived-in high-rise buildings and poor black people had to live in areas like Cabrini Green. Upon learning that Mrs. Silverstein was German, Mr. Dunigan commented that the only good thing that Hitler did was to kill all the Jews. Mr. Dunigan also ate food from the kitchen, commenting on how much he enjoyed it. Mr. Dunigan, at one point, committed the additional act of forcing his penis into Mrs. Silverstein’s mouth, and he raped her again.

Mr. Dunigan produced rubber gloves, which he wore while wiping down areas in the apartment that he had touched. He also took a knife, grabbed Mr. Silverstein’s penis and “massaged” it a little, before suddenly leaving the room. Mrs. Silverstein, having managed to run to the door of the apartment, was unable to unlock the door due to the binding of her wrists, However, Mr. Silverstein was able to close the bedroom door and lock himself in, at which point he managed to break a window and call for help through the broken window. Mr. Dunigan told Mrs. Silverstein that he would kill her for this. Although she pleaded with him, Mr. Dunigan shot her behind the left ear.

At about 4:30 p.m., a Chicago traffic patrolman heard Mr. Silverstein’s cries for help and ran to the building. The Silversteins were both found naked on the floor, with Mrs. Silverstein severely injured and bleeding badly. Mr. Silverstein was able to identify Mr. Dunigan from photographs shown to him by the Chicago police and an arrest warrant was issued.

Mr. Dunigan remained at large for 5½ years. He was arrested on July 12, 1976, in Copenhagen, Denmark, having overstayed a three-month visa under a Canadian passport using the name “Lark Daniel Anderson.” Mr. Dunigan was deported and turned over to authorities in the U.S. Both victims immediately recognized Mr. Dunigan during a six-person line-up as their assailant.



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At trial, Mr. Dunigan testified in his own behalf regarding his upbringing in Chicago, including: life in the Cabrini Green housing project; his avoidance of gangs; his mother's loss of eyesight when he was 14; his growing feeling of personal jeopardy because of his race; his marriage to his wife; his joining the Black Panther Party and his work with the Panther free breakfast program; his tactical separation from his wife, believing it necessary for the safety of his family; his indictment with other Black Panthers in 1969; and his involvement in the non-violent faction of the Black Panthers, as opposed to the militant or violent faction; and the untimely death of his wife due to drug addiction.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Shelton noted additional references to trial testimony from defense witnesses, which addressed Mr. Dunigan's character at the time, with possible medical or mental health implications.

The Board noted that the victim, Mrs. Silverstein, as a result of her injuries, had 80% of her teeth replaced, permanent facial disfigurement, and life-long pain due to facial nerve damage.

Mr. Brink asked if Mr. Dunigan had committed other crimes. There were no other incidences noted.

Ms. Crigler asked about his parole plan. Mr. Dunigan was noted as having stated that he wanted to live with his daughter if granted release.

Mr. Shelton noted that Mr. Dunigan's medical condition concerning blackouts and headaches was never confirmed. Mr. Shelton also observed that Mr. Dunigan's children were taken away by their grandparents, because of the mother's drug addiction. Mr. Shelton indicated that he felt there was a lot more to Mr. Dunigan's character, but that there is no getting around the terrible crime. Mr. Shelton observed that the victims suffered terribly.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Arienne Jones spoke in opposition of parole on behalf of the People. She confirmed that Mr. Dunigan was not charged with any other crimes between the time he committed this crime and his arrest. ASA Jones also stated that Mr. Dunigan did not receive or seek treatment for any medical condition, which included a lack of treatment for any claimed blackouts.

Ms. Harris asked if Mr. Dunigan had any recollection of committing the crime and if he had a diagnosis of drug abuse. Mr. Shelton noted that Mr. Dunigan did admit to the crime, but that he has not had a diagnosis. Mr. Shelton related the findings of the SPIN Assessment, but noted that the Assessment did not address any diagnosis.



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Ms. Crigler requested a mental health exam prior to hearing Mr. Dunigan again.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (DS—KT). Motion prevails by a vote of 10—4. Members voting in favor of the motion were Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mr. James, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, and Ms. Wilson. Mr. Brink, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Martinez, and Chairman Findley dissented.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Dunigan’s case, the Board voted to deny parole. The Board feels that a release at this time would not be in the interest of public safety, as there is a substantial risk that Mr. Dunigan would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole and that parole release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of the offenses and promote a lack of respect for the law.

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



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—July 13, 2020

Inmate Name: **DANIEL VANSKIKE**

IDOC Number: **C68736**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1301 Concordia Court, Springfield, Illinois, on July 13, 2020, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Daniel Vanskike C68736.

Members present were Mr. Brink, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

A parole consideration interview was conducted with Daniel Vanskike C68736 on February 6, 2020. Mr. Vanskike entered IDOC on September 9, 1976; he has been incarcerated for nearly 44 years.

Mr. Vanskike was born on January 13, 1955. His given name at birth was Kenneth Rae Hilliard. He was born and raised in Decatur, Illinois. He was removed from his biological parents at the age of two. He was adopted by Denzel Henry and Helen Martha Vanskike at the age of five. He had a biological brother and sister that he never met.

Both adoptive parents, who are deceased, changed his name to Daniel Lee Vanskike. During his interview, Mr. Vanskike related that his adoptive father told his adoptive mother that they were getting a girl. He feels as though this affected her attitude toward him and he never enjoyed a warm mother-son relationship. He married Kathy Diane Brimm, and they divorced in 1977. His current wife is Celeste Vanskike and they have been married for approximately 23 years.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

All of the following offenses occurred between February and April 1976, when Mr. Vanskike was 20 years old. The crimes occurred in Macon County, where the Court imposed an aggregate prison term of 80–135 years

One offense occurred on April 28, 1976. The victim (to be referred to as S.W.) was an 18-year-old female; Case # 76-CF-236.



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A second offense occurred on February 13, 1976, and the victim was a 22-year-old female; Case # 76-CF-237.

S.W. had been with a male friend out for the evening of April 27, 1976. She arrived at her apartment on North Woodford at about 9:00 p.m., but she stayed up until around 1:00 a.m., when she was awakened. She saw a figure kneeling at the foot of her bed and she first thought it was a roommate of hers. But, when he began to pull down the covers and began feeling her body, she recognized that it was a man and she began to scream. Then he put a knife at her throat, and it penetrated the skin. He told her to stop screaming or he would kill her.

S.W. began to recognize that the assailant was her neighbor, Mr. Vanskike. S.W. lived in apartment #102 and Vanskike lived in apartment #110. They had met a few weeks earlier when she had locked herself out of her apartment. He had warned her that she should keep better locks on her doors and more secure windows.

Mr. Vanskike then put a rope around her neck and put a pair of pantyhose in her mouth. She could not breathe, so he removed the pantyhose, on the condition that she would be quiet. He was still threatening her, and he told her he had been watching her through the window for several weeks. Mr. Vanskike ordered her to go through the window, as he had the rope around her neck. He put her in his car and drove away.

They traveled north on Greenwich Road, at which point Mr. Vanskike then stopped and told S.W. to remove her blouse. He fondled her and she told him she was on her menstrual cycle and could not have sex with him. She promised to meet him at a sandwich shop the following Monday.

Mr. Vanskike told S.W. that he was from Texas and that he had raped other women, but that those offenses were never reported to the authorities. Mr. Vanskike additionally told S.W. that she should be glad his partner was not with him, as she would have been raped and killed. Mr. Vanskike returned S.W. to her apartment and he left. Afterwards, S.W. awakened her roommate and shared her experience; they then called the police.

S.G. was a 22-year-old female that lived at Moundford Terrace Apartments in Decatur, Illinois. She had gone to a ballgame at Warrensburg High School and later stopped by to visit with parents. When she arrived home, she removed some boxes from the car and carried them to her apartment. At the center door of the apartment, she was struck on her head by Mr. Vanskike, wielding what he described as a "monkey wrench," and she was rendered unconscious.

When S.G. became aware, Mr. Vanskike had put her in her car; he then drove to Greenwich Road. He had his hands around her throat initially, while he was driving. After Mr. Vanskike removed S.G.'s blouse, he forced her to disrobe completely, before then removing his clothing and asking S.G. if she had ever performed oral sex on a man. When she replied that she had not, he told her he would teach her how to perform oral sex and then vaginally raped her.



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Mr. Vanskike returned S.G. to her apartment and told her that he had been identified by other women before, but that he was not charged and that reporting it to the police would cause her more problems than him.

S.G.'s boyfriend later came to her apartment, at which time S.G. related what had happened. The two went directly to Decatur Memorial Hospital for treatment, where she gave her statement to the police.

MR. VANSKIKE'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

Mr. Vanskike admitted both of his offenses, as well as that he had committed similar crimes while he was in Texas and in the Army. Mr. Vanskike admitted he had raped eight women and had been prosecuted on two of those offenses. Mr. Vanskike had similar confessions to other Board Members on previous occasions.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Vanskike entered Big Muddy on April 1, 2009, as the result of an inmate-requested transfer. Mr. Vanskike has completed the sex offender program and the aftercare program. Mr. Vanskike has only received one minor and four major disciplinary tickets since his initial incarceration in 1976, with no infractions noted since transferring to Big Muddy. The last ticket he received was in 2005 at Menard for Fighting in the chow line.

Mr. Vanskike has also taken advantage of educational opportunities at Big Muddy. He completed a college Government class and a Building Trade Vocational Program. He has had multiple job assignments. Some additional accomplishments since he has been in prison include acting as a mentor, studying the Bible, becoming an ordained minister, earning an Associate's Degree in General Studies, and earning Certificates as both a paralegal and a commercial custodian. At the present time, Mr. Vanskike has no assigned job duties.

In the Rationale issued following Mr. Vanskike's 2016 parole consideration hearing, Board Member Gary Duncan observed that "Mr. Vanskike has not recently had a comprehensive mental health evaluation which, in the opinion of the Board, would adequately address the question whether his former pathological and seriously criminal disregard of the personal boundaries of multiple women has been resolved to the extent that there may be ongoing assurance of public safety if he is released."

Ms. Cheryl Couch, Social Worker and Mental Health Administrator, was asked to do an assessment of Mr. Vanskike. In her evaluation, Mr. Vanskike described his criminal history. He indicated that, when he was first incarcerated, he received numerous tickets, because a judge told him he would never get out of prison. Once he settled down, Mr. Vanskike hasn't received a disciplinary ticket since 2005. He discussed his family history and being placed for adoption. He discussed his participation in the voluntary Sex Offender program. He spent several years in the



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program and he appears to have learned the reasons for his sex offending. Mr. Vanskike identified two reasons as to why he sexually offended women; he reported that his anger toward his adoptive mother has been addressed and he has mended those fences.

Mr. Vanskike repeated that religion is a big part of his life at this point, since he has been ordained as a Christian minister. He talked about his relationship with other offenders. Mr. Vanskike was asked about the possibility of recidivating if released. He stated, "I've done 44 years. Grown up from that 21-year-old criminal." He added, "I learned so much in the Voluntary Sex Offender Program that helped me change my criminal thinking. I have learned so much in here."

Ms. Couch stated that he completed the Voluntary Sex Offender Program and that Mr. Vanskike relayed to her what he learned in that program and the changes he has made to his life. Mr. Vanskike was very honest and forthcoming in answering questions. Mr. Vanskike has made significant progress in all areas of concern. She does not believe that he would re-offend and agrees that he poses no threat to public safety.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Vanskike would like to parole to his wife's address in Louisville, Kentucky, where he would intend to continue his religious studies and work for Habitat for Humanity.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Dunn noted that he felt that Mr. Vanskike was honest and forthcoming. Mr. Dunn observed that Mr. Vanskike asked to be transferred to Big Muddy Correctional for the specific purpose of engaging in sex offender treatment.

It was additionally noted that, if parole were to be granted, the Attorney General's Office would request a 90-day stay of parole release, in order to determine whether Mr. Vanskike would qualify for Sexually Violent Person status.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to grant parole (DWD—VM). Motion prevails by a vote of 12–2. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Brink, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Harris, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Tupy dissented.

After a complete review of Mr. Vanskike's case, and after giving thoughtful discussion and consideration to all factors, the Board decided and voted to grant parole to Mr. Vanskike,



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subject to conditions of parole release as set by the Board and by law. The Board hereby finds that Mr. Vanskike is an appropriate candidate for parole release at this time.

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



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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION—July 13, 2020

Inmate Name: **ROY KING**

IDOC Number: **C66348**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1301 Concordia Court, Springfield, Illinois, on July 13, 2020, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Roy King C66348.

Members present were Mr. Brink, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Roy King C66348 was interviewed on December 4, 2019, at Hill Correctional Center by Board Member Pete Fisher. Mr. King's date of birth is March 29, 1951, and he is 69 years of age. On July 26, 1976, Mr. King was sentenced to 50–150 years for the February 15, 1976, Murder of Joyce Tarro in Macoupin County. Additionally, he was sentenced to terms of 25–75 years, 6 years and 8 months–20 years, and 3 years and 4 months–10 years for the offenses of Armed Robbery, Robbery, Burglary, and Theft. All sentences were to run concurrently. Mr. King's co-defendant, Mary Kay Hughes Conner, received an identical sentence.

On August 12, 1993, Mr. King was granted parole after serving 17 years of his sentence.

On July 31, 2001, Mr. King received a sentence of 7 years for the Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse of a 12-year-old female victim. This is Mr. King's seventh parole consideration hearing since his 2001 sentencing. According to the file, Mr. King has never had a vote in favor of granting parole other than in 1992, when he received 5 favorable votes, and 1993, when he was paroled.

Mr. King has been incarcerated for approximately 36 total years for his crimes. His projected discharge date according to his offender overview is October 21, 2043.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On February 15, 1976, Mr. King, along with his co-defendants, planned to rob local business owner Joyce Tarro, by forcibly breaking into the residence of the victim in the town of Benld and waiting for the victim to arrive home. During the subsequent Armed Robbery of Ms. Tarro at her home, she was shot multiple times and killed by Mr. King.



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It was apparently known that Ms. Tarro would bring the day's proceeds home after closing her local business in the evening. Records show that Mr. King planned and organized the Robbery which resulted in the Murder.

Mr. King was sentenced on July 26, 1976, to 50–150 years and was subsequently paroled in August of 1993.

In 1995, Mr. King began a sexual relationship with a 12-year-old female victim, who was working for Mr. King's lawn service. Mr. King was 44 at the time. The 12-year-old and her brother both worked for Mr. King. After the brother quit, the sexual advances began, with Mr. King fondling the girl's breasts while riding in his truck. In 1996, the young female's mother suggested to the local church pastor that the now 13-year-old female move in with Mr. King and his wife, due to the troubled home life of the young girl. The move was agreed and made.

The sexual relationship continued and advanced to intercourse. On May 18, 1997, the now 14-year-old female victim gave birth to a son. A paternity test was eventually completed, which provided proof that Mr. King was the father of the victim's son. Mr. King was sentenced on July 31, 2001 to 7 years for Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse.

MR. KING'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

During the interview with Mr. King, he was polite and comfortable. Mr. King repeatedly stated that he is very much a Christian.

Mr. King admitted to having knowledge of Ms. Tarro through his codefendant Mary Kay Hughes Conner and that Ms. Tarro would take the proceeds from the day home with her from her business, the Coliseum. He admitted to planning to rob Ms. Tarro at her home.

Mr. King stated that Ms. Tarro came home and was in possession of 3 weapons. Mr. King stated that "[Ms. Tarro] fired at Mary Kay, then turned the gun on me." Mr. King said he then fired his weapon at Ms. Tarro, which caused her death.

Mr. King said that after he was paroled in 1993, he was doing well, until his wife left him temporarily with his two young daughters, which is when he began to go downhill. He said the problems started in 1995, when he became depressed after he and his wife split up and went back and forth. He described his wife as being more like his mother. He stated he owned his own business at that time, providing lawn care and a mobile washing service. He said his wife got a night job in a factory in Salem. Mr. King again mentioned at this point in the interview that he was very active in church.

Mr. King stated his wife did not want to take care of their girls anymore, so that's why they hired the juvenile female. Mr. King said his wife brought the young girl into their home, adding that his ex-wife is the "greediest and laziest person you'll meet."



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Mr. King reported that he started the relationship with the juvenile before she moved in. He said the first time they had sexual contact was at a party. He added that her brother had worked for Mr. King and that when her brother quit, she started working for Mr. King.

Mr. King stated he didn't know how old the young girl was when he met her. Upon mention from the interviewer that that she was 12, Mr. King was quick to correct, stating that she was 13. Mr. King then added that she was "fully developed," which he also indicated by holding his hands to his chest to clarify his meaning. Mr. King stated that when the young girl had a son, it was "one of the greatest things to ever happen to me." He added that his daughters fell in love with the boy immediately.

Mr. King stated his wife had no idea he was the father until they divorced in 2000. The young girl told Mr. King's wife that she did not know the father's name and had met him at a dance club.

Mr. King stated that, in 2000, he rededicated his life to the Lord. He added that his now 3-year-old son would ask Mr. King to "pray for his Mom at church because Mom was doing drugs." Mr. King additionally reported during the interview that the young mother had brought his son to Centralia Correctional Center in 2001 to visit Mr. King. [These claims regarding interactions with his son were noted to be false during later discussion by the Board.]

Mr. King also stated that he was transferred to Pontiac Correctional Center in 2002 for a year for violating a court order or an order of protection.

Mr. King stated he hopes when he gets out that his son will want a relationship with him and turn his life to God as well. Mr. King stated he is sorry he had sex with the victim, although not sorry that it happened, because he would not have had his son.

Mr. King stated he had abandonment issues that he didn't know he had. He said his father left when Mr. King was 5, and his mother was verbally, physically, and sexually abusive when he was 7 years old.

Mr. King says he is remorseful, stating, "I'm sorry I failed. I want to make my family proud".

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. King has been at Hill Correctional Center for approximately 10 years. During that time, he has not submitted, nor has he received, a job assignment. Mr. King stated that individuals with indeterminate sentences aren't allowed to work at Hill.

His behavioral institutional adjustment has been very good, with Mr. King having only received one minor disciplinary report since arriving at Hill Correctional Center.



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Mr. King receives visits from his family (brother and sister), but has no contact with any of his children, even though it is obvious he is obsessed with the idea. Courts have prohibited any contact with any of his children; previous attempts ended with his transfer from Big Muddy to Hill.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. King states he has a house available to him through a friend, missionary, and former incarcerated person. He stated he needs work, which he will do in Salem, Illinois. Mr. King says he wants to build sheds and picnic tables with his brothers' business. He went on to state that he wants to get certified for home construction.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Fisher summarized his thoughts regarding Mr. King's case. In particular, Mr. Fisher noted that Mr. King described his relationship with a 12–13-year-old victim as if they were in love. Mr. Fisher also observed that although the sexual relationship was reported by Mr. King to be consensual, it should be remembered this self-proclaimed devout Christian was 45 and his victim was 13 years of age.

Mr. Fisher noted that Mr. King received an incredible gift of parole after serving 17 years of a 50–150-year sentence, only to follow it up with an Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse which began two years later.

Mr. Fisher stated that numerous statements made by Mr. King during his interview were confirmed to be untrue, misleading, and minimizing.

Mr. Fisher concluded by noting that he believes Mr. King continues to think he can manipulate his way through the justice system and will undoubtedly attempt to contact his victim and his children, if given the opportunity to do so.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (PF—VM). Motion prevails by a vote of 14–0.

After thorough consideration of Mr. King's case, the Board voted to deny parole. The Board feels that a release at this time would not be in the interest of public safety, as there is a substantial risk that Mr. King would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole and that parole release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of the offenses and promote a lack of respect for the law.



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Motion for a 2-year set (PF—DB). Motion prevails by a vote of 9–5. Members voting in favor of the 2-year set were Mr. Brink, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Tupy, and Chairman Findley. Ms. Crigler, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, and Ms. Wilson dissented.

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



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—July 14, 2020

Inmate Name: **LARRY HAMILTON**

IDOC Number: **C61896**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1301 Concordia Court, Springfield, Illinois, on July 14, 2020, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Larry Hamilton C61896.

Members present were Mr. Brink, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Larry Hamilton C61896, age 66, was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on March 23, 1954, to Walter and Mary Hamilton. Both parents are deceased. Mr. Hamilton's father, Walter Hamilton, died in 1983 due to dementia and his mother, Mary Hamilton, died in 2002 from complications of a stroke. Mr. Hamilton has six siblings, five brothers and one sister; two of his brothers are deceased, with one passing due to complications of cancer and the second as a victim of a Home Invasion. Mr. Hamilton has two children, who reside in Georgia and Missouri. Mr. Hamilton was married for six years, but subsequently divorced due to his conviction; the couple did not share any children together.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On January 19, 1978, while on parole for Attempted Murder and Aggravated Battery, Mr. Hamilton and his co-defendant, Willie Robinson, were traveling on Interstate 94 in a 1975 Cadillac registered to Mr. Hamilton's wife. At 2 a.m., the pair rear-ended a 1977 Chevrolet Caprice Classic driven by Mark Furman, which also held a passenger, Mr. Furman's wife, Claudia Furman. The victims pulled off the side of the road after being struck, and Mr. Furman told his wife Claudia to write down the license plates to the car. The drivers from both cars got out to inspect the damages and returned to their cars after speaking to each other, at which point they waited for the police to arrive. After about 20 minutes, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Robinson exited the yellow Cadillac that they were driving and walked towards the Furmans' green Chevrolet. Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Robinson positioned themselves on opposite sides of the vehicle. Mr. Furman exited the vehicle, joining Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Robinson, and walked to the back of the car. Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Robinson attempted to open the passenger doors on both sides of the vehicle, but Mrs. Furman told her husband that she did not want these men in their car. Mr. Furman told the men to leave the car alone, indicating that they had done enough damage already.



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As Mr. Furman walked back to his car, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Robinson drew their loaded weapons, aimed their guns at Mr. and Mrs. Furman, and fired multiple shots. Mr. Furman was shot 11 times and Mrs. Furman was shot twice. Mrs. Furman recalls her husband telling her not to look, as he lay dying, defenseless. Mr. Robinson entered the car and grabbed Mrs. Furman's purse from the car floor. Mr. Robinson then grabbed Mrs. Robinson's right arm and stated, "You're coming with us." As Mrs. Furman struggled and resisted, screaming "Why did you do this? Why didn't you just take our money?" and "Why don't you just let me die with my husband?"

At that time, Mr. Robinson stated that he had to take care of her. Mrs. Furman sustained two gunshots to the arm, as well as a fracture. She also sustained multiple head wounds from being struck in the head with the pistol Mr. Robinson used to shoot her. Seventy-five stitches were required to close the wounds. The men fled the scene. A Conrail Security officer happened to drive by, saw the victims, and immediately called for assistance. Mrs. Furman was able to give the authorities the license plate number, which led them to Mrs. Hamilton's apartment.

After the incident, Mr. Hamilton called Mrs. Hamilton and told her what happened. Mrs. Hamilton quickly called the Harvey Police Department and reported the vehicle stolen. Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Robinson were placed under arrest. Mr. Hamilton was 24 at the time of the offense. The Cadillac was recovered, but was found to have been gutted by a fire. The Cadillac had paint residue on the front end that was consistent with the car color of the Furmans' Chevrolet.

After the arrests, a search warrant was executed at the home of Mrs. Hamilton; the police recovered a .38 caliber semi-automatic pistol, along with Mr. Hamilton's wallet, which was under a pillow, and a .38 caliber Colt revolver without any grips. Traces of blood and hair were found on the butt of the Colt revolver. The other handgun was tested and found to be the weapon that fired the bullets removed from Mr. Furman's body by the medical examiner. The serial number from the Colt revolver additionally matched the serial number found on the broken pieces of the grips that were recovered inside the Furman car.

Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Robinson elected to be tried by a jury. The jury returned guilty verdicts in both cases. Mr. Hamilton was sentenced to 1250–2500 years for Murder, 75–150 years for Attempt Murder and 5–15 years for Attempt Aggravated Kidnapping, with all three sentences to run concurrently. Mr. Hamilton appealed the jury verdicts and the sentences as being excessive. He also petitioned for leave to appeal before Illinois Supreme Court, which was denied in 1982. He then petitioned the Federal Court for a writ of habeas corpus, which was dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction, as well as a motion for summary judgment, which was similarly denied.



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MR. HAMILTON'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

“I want to offer my sincere apologies to the entire Furman family for the grief that I have caused them. I know that no apology I can offer can truly substitute for the pain that I have inflicted. The guilt of my crimes resides deep within my soul and continues to reflect on my conscience daily. Even as I write this, I find it extremely difficult to express the sorrow within me for my inconceivable act, which has caused so much pain to the Furmans and to my family.

I have had a very long time to think about remorse and what it means. It starts with the phrase, ‘I am sorry,’ and it ends with the phrase, ‘I am sorry.’ We as humans often say it, but, through time, prayers, atonement, and redemption, it’s different to actually feel it.”

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

For the last 42 years, Mr. Hamilton has resided at several institutions: Menard, Tamms (due to assault on staff and other incarcerated individuals), Pontiac, Stateville, Hill, Pontiac, Illinois River, Shawnee, Centralia, Graham, and Lawrence (since 2014). In the last 20 years, he has received 4 tickets, with none since 2017.

Mr. Hamilton earned his GED at Pontiac in 1986, as well as certificates in the following: Welding, Heavy Machine Repair, completed an accounting class, 9 courses in the World Bible School, 8 courses in American Bible Academy, Evangel Prison Ministries, Bible Correspondence, Crossroad Bible Institution, Certificate of Achievement in Skill Development, Addictive Behaviors at Tamms Mental Health, Effective Decision Making, Conflict Resolution, and Anger Management. Mr. Hamilton’s past work assignments are Heavy Machine Repair, Laundry, Welder, and File Clerk. He is currently unassigned at Lawrence, but has requested to be assigned and is awaiting a designation. His community Service projects are: Compassion Works for All and Jeff’s Kids Program, Illinois Jaycees, and fundraising efforts to support homeless senior citizens in Chicago.

Mr. Hamilton is in good physical health; he exercises daily. Mr. Hamilton has also been a practicing Buddhist for the last 18 years. He states that Buddhism helps him think before he reacts, meditation helps him to become more connected with life, and promotes better eating habits. Mr. Hamilton does not communicate with his co-defendant Mr. Robinson. Mr. Hamilton’s last visit was from his son in September of 2018.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Hamilton was approved to live at St. Leonard’s House in Chicago; he has also been approved to live out-of-state in Kansas City, Missouri, with his family. Mr. Hamilton will be given the opportunity to have gainful employment, continue volunteering in the community, and participate in suggested programs and services as recommended by the Prisoner Review Board.



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DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Motion to enter Closed Session for the purpose of discussing confidential and privileged victims' statements (CF—DS). Leave.

Motion to return to Open Session (KT—VM). Leave.

Mr. Hamilton's attorney, Emily Powers, spoke on his behalf. Ms. Powers related how the siblings were divided into foster homes. Ms. Powers additionally noted that Mr. Hamilton is remorseful and has strong adjustment skills. Ms. Powers introduced the Board to Mr. Hamilton's sister, who was present for the hearing. Ms. Powers advised that Mr. Hamilton has a strong parole plan, as an interstate compact to Kansas City has been approved and he has been accepted to St. Leonard's House in Chicago.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Arienne Jones spoke on behalf of the People. She noted this is the first time that Mr. Hamilton has accepted responsibility and expressed remorse for his crime.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to grant parole (VH—DWD). Motion prevails by a vote of 10–4. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Brink, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Harris, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley. Mr. Fisher, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, and Mr. Tupy dissented.

After a complete review of Mr. Hamilton's case, and after giving thoughtful discussion and consideration to all factors, the Board decided and voted to grant parole to Mr. Hamilton, subject to conditions of parole release as set by the Board and by law. The Board hereby finds that Mr. Hamilton is an appropriate candidate for parole release at this time.

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



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—July 14, 2020

Inmate Name: **WILLIE ROBINSON**

IDOC Number: **C93447**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1301 Concordia Court, Springfield, Illinois, on July 14, 2020, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Willie Robinson C93447.

Members present were Mr. Brink, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

On February 24, 2020, Willie Robinson C93447 was interviewed at the Menard Correctional Center. Present for the interview were six of Mr. Robinson's siblings, three brothers and three sisters. Mr. Robinson was cooperative throughout the interview. Mr. Robinson's family answered questions when asked; Willie Robinson, Jr. was interviewed via telephone.

At the time of his offenses, Mr. Robinson was 28 years of age; he has now served approximately 42 years of incarceration. Mr. Robinson was sentenced to 500–1000 years for Murder, 150–300 years for Attempt Murder, and 6 years and 8 months for Attempt Kidnapping.

Mr. Robinson is currently incarcerated at the Menard Correctional Center, where he has been since November 5, 1999. Mr. Robinson is on A-grade status and is considered a moderate escape risk. His SPIN Assessment completed in 2016 was overall moderate. He is currently unassigned. Mr. Robinson has served his time in Joliet, Stateville, and Menard (both max and medium).

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On January 19, 1978, at 2:00 a.m., Mr. Robinson, along with co-defendant Larry Hamilton, was travelling on Interstate 94 in Harvey, Illinois in a 1975 Cadillac. Mr. Hamilton was driving the Cadillac, which rear-ended a 1977 Chevrolet Caprice sedan driven by Mark Furman, age 28. Mr. Furman was driving, while his wife, Claudia, was dozing off in the passenger seat. Mrs. Furman felt the car swerve and then come to a stop on the right side of the road. Mr. Furman told Mrs. Furman to write down the license plate, and he told her the make of the vehicle, a Cadillac. Both cars pulled off the side of the road. The drivers of both cars exited to inspect the damage to their respective cars. Both drivers returned to their cars after speaking to each other.



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After both cars had been parked for approximately 20 minutes, Mr. Robinson and Mr. Hamilton exited and walked towards the Furmans' vehicle. Mr. Hamilton was on the driver's side, while Mr. Robinson went to the passenger side. Mr. Furman joined the two outside and walked to the back of the car with Mr. Hamilton, while Mr. Robinson stayed towards the middle of the car. Mr. Hamilton attempted to open the driver's side rear door of the Furman car. Mrs. Furman told her husband that she did not want the man in their car. Mr. Robinson attempted to open the passenger rear door. Mr. Furman told Mr. Robinson to leave the car alone, as there was enough damage done already.

After this short conversation, Mr. Furman re-entered his car. At this point, Mr. Hamilton was standing outside the driver's side door, while Mr. Robinson was at the passenger side of the Furmans' car, where Mrs. Furman was seated. Both Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Robinson drew their loaded weapons and aimed their guns at Mr. and Mrs. Furman. Mrs. Furman observed Mr. Hamilton on her husband's side of the car. She heard firing and saw the flashes coming from the direction of Mr. Hamilton. Mr. Furman slumped toward her and said "Claudia, don't look." Mrs. Furman then heard firing from her right side and saw flashes from the direction of Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Robinson fired shots into the passenger side of the Furman car, striking Mrs. Furman. Mr. Furman was killed; Mrs. Furman was shot, but survived. Mr. Robinson then entered the Furmans' car and grabbed Mrs. Furman's purse from the car floor. Mr. Robinson then grabbed Mrs. Furman's right arm and stated, "You're coming with us." As Mrs. Furman struggled, resisted, and pulled back, she screamed, "Why did you have to do this? Why didn't you just take our money?" Mr. Robinson continued to pull her from the car by the arm, and she continued to scream, "Why don't you just let me stay here and die with my husband?" Mr. Robinson then stated, "I have to take care of the bitch." Mr. Robinson then dropped the purse and bludgeoned Mrs. Furman's head with the butt of the pistol with such force that the grips of the weapon broke into pieces. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Hamilton both subsequently fled the scene.

A Conrail Security officer who happened to drive past saw the Furmans' damaged car and pulled over to offer assistance. The witness immediately called for help and remained with the Furmans until the authorities arrived. Once the police arrived, Mrs. Furman apprised the police of the license plate information, as well as the descriptions of the two offenders. The police conducted their investigation, and, after obtaining information on the owner of the Cadillac, they proceeded to the registered owner's home. The vehicle was registered to Marie Hamilton in Harvey, Illinois; she was the spouse of Mr. Hamilton.

In the interim, at approximately 2:50 a.m., Mrs. Hamilton received a telephone call from Mr. Hamilton. He informed her of what happened, and, in turn, Mrs. Hamilton quickly called the Harvey Police Department to report the 1975 Cadillac as stolen. At approximately 2:55 a.m., a Harvey police officer located the Cadillac, which was on fire. At approximately 3:05 a.m., Harvey police officers were at Mrs. Hamilton's address and observed both Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Robinson, both of whom matched the physical description given to the police by Mrs. Furman.



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The Cadillac was recovered; however, the interior was gutted by fire. The Cadillac had front-end damage, with traces of green paint consistent with the color of the Furmans' Chevrolet. The Chevrolet had rear-end damage, the front passenger side window was broken, blood was on the front seat, doors and rear floor area, and assorted coins were on the front seat and floor. The police recovered several pieces of a pistol grip within the Furmans' car. A part of a pistol grip was found on the right top of the dashboard, while another piece was found on the center of the front seat and a few small pieces were found on the floor of the passenger side. An autopsy of Mr. Furman's body revealed 11 bullet wounds. Mrs. Furman suffered two gunshot wounds to her right arm and a fracture to the right arm. She suffered multiple wounds to her head, which resulted from being struck on the head with a blunt object; seventy-five stitches were required to close the wounds.

Later that day, a search warrant was executed at Mrs. Hamilton's apartment. The police recovered a .38 caliber semi-automatic pistol, along with Mr. Hamilton's wallet, under a pillow in a bedroom. A .38 caliber Colt revolver without any grips was recovered between the mattress and box springs in the bedroom.

One of the handguns, the Colt, had traces of blood and hair on the butt of the gun. The other handgun was tested and found to be the weapon that fired the bullets removed from Mr. Furman's body. The serial number from the Colt revolver recovered in the Hamiltons' apartment matched the serial number found on the pieces of the grips recovered from the Furman car.

Mr. Robinson was found guilty at a jury trial. He appealed his conviction and the sentences were affirmed. No court action is pending at this time.

Mr. Robinson's co-defendant, Mr. Hamilton, was sentenced to 1250–2500 years for Murder, 75–150 years for Attempt Murder, and 5–15 years for Attempt Aggravated Kidnapping. He also appealed the conviction and sentence; however, the judgments were affirmed.

MR. ROBINSON'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

Mr. Robinson stated he agreed with some of the summary found in the Statement of Facts. He stated when they pulled over, they were in front of the Furmans' vehicle. Mr. Robinson further stated, "Really I was sitting in the car and heard loud voices, arguing, so I got out." He reported that he walked to the rear end of the Furmans' car and heard gun shots at that time. He said he didn't know who got shot, so "I see Larry stand up, so I fired two shots at the vehicle." Mr. Robinson stated that he then ran past the Furman vehicle, and, as he passed the passenger side, he slammed the door, as it was open. Mr. Robinson stated he never put a hand on Mrs. Furman and never tried to take her purse. He states he assumed her injuries came from him slamming the car door.



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When questioned about his different versions in past parole consideration interviews, Mr. Robinson stated "My memory changed; some things I forgot. It's been 42 years and I forgot things. I tried to keep it real with the truth. I'm sorry for what I did."

It was reported during the 2017 interview that Mr. Robinson admitted to shooting Mrs. Furman, but stated he never touched her. In 2015, Mr. Robinson admitted that he exited the vehicle and fired one shot towards the Furman vehicle, but that he denied striking Mrs. Furman in the head with his pistol. In 2014, Mr. Robinson reported that he did not get out of the car and did not fire any weapons into the Furmans' car; he admitted to being at the scene, but denied participation in the crime. In 2011, he admitted to firing one shot at the car, but stated he did not shoot anyone and did not attempt to kidnap Mrs. Furman. No additional versions of the events are reported prior to 2011.

Mr. Robinson was questioned as to the length of his sentence and having the option to be sentenced under the current sentencing guidelines, as the crime was in 1978 and he was sentenced in 1979. He stated he wanted to have the chance to appear before the parole board. He stated he was initially offered 80 years and the final offer was 60 years under the new guidelines. He stated he didn't want to serve that long.

Mr. Robinson stated "I'm not the same person I was 42 years ago," and indicated that he would like to get another chance at life. Mr. Robinson further stated "I can't go back and change things," and that "Every moment I regret all the people I hurt."

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Robinson's criminal background includes an arrest on March 18, 1976, for Unlawful Use of a Weapon, for which he was later sentenced to 1 year of conditional discharge.

On June 2, 1976, Mr. Robinson was arrested and ultimately convicted for Manufacture/Delivery of a Controlled Substance relating to the sale of heroin. For this offense, he was sentenced to 7 years of incarceration with 3 years of parole.

He additionally had a December 22, 1977, arrest for Unlawful Use of a Weapon, for which a warrant was issued. Mr. Robinson subsequently failed to appear in court and had his bond forfeited.

Mr. Robinson has an additional 1976 conviction for a federal drug violation and Unlawful Use of a Weapon. He currently has an active federal detainer relating to those offenses.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Robinson's institutional adjustment has been good since 2002; he has not received a ticket since that time. He stated, "I got a little wiser," and that he "used to just react and not think." He stated he now thinks before reacting and thinks about the outcome.



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Mr. Robinson had an extensive history of disciplinary tickets prior to 2002. He received 41 tickets in the 80s, 33 in the 90s and just two in 2000. He has not received any violent or assaultive tickets. Most of the tickets were for Failure to Comply, although he had several tickets for Possession of Cannabis. He stated that cannabis was everywhere in prison in the 80s. Per DOC records, Mr. Robinson had Good Conduct Credit restored seven times prior to 2004.

Mr. Robinson denies any current gang activity, but admits he was involved with the gang initially. He stated, "That was the only protection I had." Mr. Robinson reported he does not attend any religious services or seek any additional educational opportunities. He stated that is where all the gangs are, so he avoids any problems. He did, however, report that he completed his GED while incarcerated, though he entered DOC with a 7th-grade education. He stated he is in good physical health and has no mental health issues.

Mr. Robinson reported he spends most of his free time doing the laundry and cleaning the unit. He also indicated that he helps the guards every night with coordinating the unit's telephone privileges. He said he makes a list of everyone requesting to use the telephone and monitors the time. Mr. Robinson stated he also likes to draw and, in the past, has spent over 26 years as a tailor making pants, shirts, and hats. He further stated he has the opportunity to mentor the younger inmates about adjusting to prison life. He stated they look up to him and he tries to help when asked.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Robinson stated that, if he were granted parole, he would request to move to Leland, Mississippi, to live with his sister. Notably, all of the family members present at the interview offered to allow Mr. Robinson to reside in their homes. He stated his sister is currently employed with the American Red Cross in Leland, Mississippi, and he could volunteer at the Red Cross. He also reported he could work with another sister at her family-owned business, which is a fast-food restaurant. Mr. Robinson stated he has three sisters and two brothers living in Leland, Mississippi, which will help him adjust. He also stated he has approximately 50 nieces and nephews in the area who will support him.

EN BANC HISTORY

Mr. Robinson has been eligible for parole since July of 1987. He has only received one vote in favor of parole, which occurred in 2014. He is coming off a three-year set. This will be Mr. Robinson's 18th parole consideration hearing.



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DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Ms. Crigler asked about the changes in the accounts of the events and if he expresses remorse. Mr. Brink related Mr. Robinson's explanations regarding his forgetfulness after 42 years.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Arienne Jones spoke on behalf of the People in opposition to parole release, noting that the State had detailed their objections in their previously-filed protest letter.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to grant parole (DB—DWD). Motion prevails by a vote of 8–6. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Brink, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Harris, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, and Ms. Wilson. Mr. Fisher, Mr. James, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, and Chairman Findley dissented.

After a complete review of Mr. Robinson's case, and after giving thoughtful discussion and consideration to all factors, the Board decided and voted to grant parole to Mr. Robinson, subject to conditions of parole release as set by the Board and by law. The Board hereby finds that Mr. Robinson is an appropriate candidate for parole release at this time.

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



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—July 14, 2020

Inmate Name: **PAUL BRYANT**

IDOC Number: **L11109**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1301 Concordia Court, Springfield, Illinois, on July 14, 2020, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Paul Bryant L11109.

Members present were Mr. Brink, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Paul Bryant L11109 was interviewed by Board Member Lisa Daniels on February 13, 2020; present at the interview were Mr. Bryant, Ms. Daniels, and Joseph Dusek, a representative of the John Howard Association.

Mr. Bryant is serving a sentence of 500–1500 years for Murder, consecutive to a sentence of 6 years and 8 months–20 years for Burglary in the same case. He is also serving a concurrent sentence of 90–100 years for a second Murder and 5–15 years for a Robbery connected to that second Murder.

Additionally, Mr. Bryant was convicted of five cases of Rape, Home Invasion, Burglary, and Robbery. Two of those cases also included Deviate Sexual Assault charges. Mr. Bryant was sentenced to 20 years for each Rape and 7 years for Robbery and Burglary in those cases. Those cases are all to run concurrently. Mr. Bryant's maximum release date is May 9, 2749.

Mr. Bryant is a 70-year-old black male who is currently housed at Dixon Correctional Center, where he has been incarcerated since August 20, 2004. Mr. Bryant has remained on A-Grade status since April 7, 2017, and has a low escape risk designation.

Mr. Bryant has no health issues other than high blood pressure, which is controlled with medication. He currently works as an attendant cleaning cells, running errands, and preparing and delivering food trays for individuals housed in segregation.

Mr. Bryant was last before the Board in March 2019, at which hearing parole was denied by a vote of 6–5 and a motion for a 3-year set failed by a 5-6 vote.



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STATEMENT OF FACTS

The facts of this case as outlined by the Office of the State's Attorney of Cook County are as follows:

"79C-5186

[Murder (500-1500 years) Burglary (6 years, 8 months – 20 years)]

On November 16, 1976, at approximately 8:00 p.m., Paul Bryant went to visit his cousin's apartment at 5417 N. Kenmore Avenue. His cousin was not home at the time, so Bryant, wearing burglar gloves, went to the 5th floor of the apartment complex, listened at doors and turned knobs to see if the doors were open. Bryant arrived at 59-year-old Frances Parro's 5th floor apartment and noticed that the door was unlocked, and no one was inside. While Bryant was searching the home for valuables, Parro arrived home and asked Bryant what he was doing in her home. Parro screamed for help and Bryant knocked Parro to the floor and covered her mouth with his hand to stop her screaming. When she continued to scream, Bryant took out a pocketknife and slashed her across her throat. Bryant grabbed a towel and wiped Parro's blood off of his hands and the knife. Parro died from her injuries. When she died, Bryant cut apart her pantyhose and tore off her underwear. Bryant later told police that he decided not to rape Parro because he was afraid that the police would arrive at her apartment.

...

On August 9, 1979, Bryant was arrested for the unrelated rape of Patricia Kading in Chicago. Bryant was positively identified by Kading, and he was arrested and transported to police headquarters, where he was read his *Miranda* warnings. Bryant indicated to detectives during various interviews that he wished to talk to police regarding several crimes he had committed. During that evening, Bryant drove with officers and pointed out places where he had committed numerous crimes. On August 11, 1979, detectives again read Bryant his *Miranda* warnings and Bryant admitted to the burglary and murder of Frances Parro. Bryant confessed to detectives that he "slit her guzzlepipe" because he knew she would be able to identify him.

Bryant was charged with First Degree Murder and Burglary. On November 21, 1980, a jury found Bryant guilty of both murder and burglary. On December 17, 1980, Judge Francis Mahon sentenced Bryant to 500 to 1500 years in prison for murder and 6 years, 8 months to 20 years for burglary, time to be served consecutively.



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79C-5187

[Murder (90-100 years), Robbery (5-15 years)]

On September 29, 1977, the body of 19-year-old LaDonna Warren was found in a basement stairwell area at 5340 North Kenmore Avenue in Chicago. She was completely nude with numerous bruises about her body, with a partially burned rope wrapped around her neck, and her head and pubic hair had been burned. A nearby fence also had burnt hair particles in a fan shaped pattern. Warren's body was transported to Weiss Memorial Hospital, where she was pronounced dead on arrival. Subsequently, Dr. Choi performed an autopsy on the victim and determined the cause of death to be strangulation asphyxiation.

On August 9, 1979, while in custody for the rape of Patricia Kading, Bryant also confessed to the murder of LaDonna Warren. Bryant showed the police to the basement stairwell where he killed Warren and he pointed out the garage rooftop where he threw her jeans. In his statement, Bryant stated that on the day he murdered Warren, he decided he would burglarize an apartment at the Kenmore address, when he noticed Warren dodging in and out of cars on Kenmore Street. He believed she was a prostitute and intended to rob her. He cut a piece of rope from some rope he found on the porch, approached Warren from behind and placed his hand over her mouth. He pulled her into the gangway on Kenmore and demanded money. He ordered her to take off all of her clothes, which she did, and as she disrobed, Bryant said he found \$90 in her shoe. Bryant said he was angry that Warren lied to him and told officers he cut her panties off with his knife and had sexual intercourse with her. He stated that he then choked her with a piece of rope and cut her with his knife. He tied the rope around her neck and then to a railing. He put lighter fluid on her hair and started her on fire with a cigarette lighter. He threw her jeans on the roof across the alley. He told police that he killed her because he thought she could identify him.

Bryant was charged with First Degree Murder and Robbery. On March 15, 1981, Bryant entered into a blind plea of guilty before the Honorable Judge Earl Strayhorn and was sentenced to 90 to 100 years in prison on the murder and a concurrent sentence of 5 to 15 years in prison on the robbery.

79C-5652

[Home Invasion, Rape (20 years), Robbery (7 years), Burglary (7 years)]



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On July 16, 1979 at 3:00 a.m., Bryant entered 22-year-old Ann Hemenway's apartment at 3734 North Pine Grove through an open rear window. Bryant woke Hemenway and choked her while telling her to keep quiet. He removed Hemenway's clothing and raped her. He took \$25 from Hemenway's purse and then left through the rear window. Hemenway called the police and gave a detailed description.

...

While he was in custody for the Kading rape, Hemenway identified Bryant in a police lineup.

...

79C-5651

[Home Invasion, Rape (20 years), Robbery (7 years), Burglary (7 years)]

On August 2, 1979 at 3:00 a.m., Bryant used force to enter Helen Hess' apartment at 6103 North Glenwood through the dining room window. Bryant woke Hess, choked her and demanded her money. Hess gave Bryant two \$10 travelers' checks, after which he slapped her, forced her to the floor onto a mattress and then raped her. Bryant then told Hess to open the rear door, and fled. Hess called the police after calling her boyfriend.

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79C-5648 & 79C-5650

[Home Invasion, Deviate Sexual Assault, Rape, Armed Violence, Armed Robbery (20 years), Burglary (7 years)]

On August 7, 1979 at 2:00 a.m., Bryant broke into Patricia Kading's apartment through a rear door at 3519 North Pine Grove and place a knife to her neck. Bryant took Kading's money, performed oral sex on her, and raped her at knifepoint twice. Bryant then fled.

On August 9, 1979 at 5:00 p.m., Bryant entered Kading's apartment a second time, this time through a bathroom window. When Kading got up to go to the bathroom, Bryant jumped out from behind the bathroom door and grabbed her throat. Kading was carrying a can of mace that her girlfriend had given her because of the first rape. Bryant struck Kading repeatedly and took the mace from her. He performed oral sex on her and raped her twice. Kading told police that



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Bryant kissed her before he fled, mentioned the prior rape, and told her that he would not be back again. As Bryant fled, Kading called the police, who found Bryant within two blocks of her home near Addison and Pine Grove.

Bryant was transported by police back to the crime scene. Kading identified Bryant as the man who raped her on August 7th and August 9th. Bryant was placed under arrest. Officers searched Bryant and recovered the can of mace in his pocket and a screwdriver in his sock. Kading also identified this mace as the one that was taken from her. Bryant used a pocket flashlight while in Kading's home, which was also recovered after his arrest.

On August 12, 1980, Bryant pled guilty before Judge John Crowley. He was sentenced 20 years in prison on the rape, deviate sexual assault, armed robbery, armed violence and home invasion charges and 7 years in prison on the robbery and burglary charges concurrent with case numbers 79C-5649, 79C-5651, and 79C-5652.

79C-5649

[Home Invasion, Rape, Armed Robbery (20 years), Burglary (7 years)]

On August 8, 1979 at 6:00 a.m., Bryant broke in the front door of Diane Steitz's apartment at 434 West Wellington. Bryant awoke Steitz by placing a knife to her neck and demanded money. Steitz stated she did not have any money. Bryant told her that if she fought or screamed he would kill her. Bryant then tied her hands with cloth and her feet with electrical cord. He put a pillow over her face. Steitz directed Bryant to a bookcase containing some money. Bryant returned to the bed where he had tied up Steitz and cut off her bra and underwear. He pressed the knife to her rectum, causing a puncture wound and asked, "How would you like this shoved up your ass?" He also forced the knife in Steitz's vagina before turning her on her back and raping her. Bryant then fled the scene, taking \$38.

The next day, Bryant was arrested for the rape of Patricia Kading. While he was in custody for the Kading rape, Steitz identified Bryant in a police lineup. , , ,"

(bracketed sentencing information added for clarity of reference; some portions have been omitted for purposes of brevity)

MR. BRYANT'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

Mr. Bryant has consistently maintained he is innocent of the two Murder and five Rape convictions, stating that all confessions were the result of torture and contending he plead guilty to the murder of LaDonna Warren to avoid the Death penalty.



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CRIMINAL HISTORY

October 25, 1968 – Unlawful Use of a Weapon

August 6, 1969 – Criminal Trespass to Vehicle, Unlawful Use of a Weapon

August 29, 1969 – Auto Theft – Guilty conviction – received supervision

September 27, 1969 – Auto Theft and Resisting – Received Probation

December 6, 1969 – Grand Theft reduced to Criminal Trespass to Vehicle – Received Probation

April 29, 1970 – Auto Theft reduced to Criminal Trespass to Vehicle – Received 60 days jail time

May 6, 1970 – Criminal Trespass to Vehicle – Received 60 days jail time

November 29, 1971 – Burglary – Arrested without charges

August 9, 1972 – Theft reduced to Attempted Theft – SOL

January 19, 1973 - Theft – BFW

September 27, 1973 – Criminal Trespass to Vehicle – Received Supervision

March 26, 1974 – Theft to Auto – Guilty (Note: Records also indicate the date of this disposition to be April 10, 1974.)

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Bryant has been incarcerated for forty years and his institutional adjustment has been positive. He has received 5 major disciplinary tickets and 14 minor disciplinary tickets in 40 years. Mr. Bryant has an excellent work record at both Stateville and Dixon Correctional Centers. He currently works as an attendant cleaning cells, running errands, preparing and delivering food trays to inmates housed in segregation. Previously at Stateville Mr. Bryant was head clerk in the tailor shop and clerk for a creative writing class. He was also entrusted to work on a remodeling project for the office of the Assistant Warden for Operations.

Mr. Bryant has earned both his GED and an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts and made the President's List for high academic achievement. Additionally, he has been extensively involved in religious and musical associations at both Stateville and Dixon Correctional Centers.



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In October 2014, Mr. Bryant participated in an education seminar on domestic violence and sexual assault, for which he received a certificate. Over the past year, he has inquired about other such courses or seminars at Dixon Correctional Center, however none have been offered.

Mr. Bryant has stated that most of his family currently resides in Texas and he maintains a consistent relationship with his daughter, his sister, and his two nieces, all of whom have provided letters of support. He maintains contact through mail and telephone calls.

PAROLE PLANS

According to the petition for parole submitted by Mr. Dusek, representative for Mr. Bryant, the current parole plan is clear and convincing that Mr. Bryant is very likely to conform very well to parole conditions and post-incarceration life. In 2018, IDOC approved an interstate compact for Mr. Bryant to reside with his niece, at her address in Arlington, Texas. However, since that approval, Mr. Bryant's niece has relocated; due to a village ordinance and his multiple felony convictions, interstate compact approval was subsequently denied. However, if granted parole, Mr. Bryant has been offered transitional housing with Huma-Faith at their location in Fort Worth, Texas. Huma-Faith is a non-profit, faith-based organization created "in service of housing male prison releases who have nowhere to parole to." (Acceptance letter included in parole petition). Mr. Bryant's niece has submitted a letter of support confirming that she and her daughter will support Mr. Bryant in any way possible.

In 2018, Mr. Bryant earned a Certified Master Shingle Applicator certificate from Certain Teed and Shingle Quality Specialist from the same company. In 2012, he earned a Certificate in Construction Occupations from Lake Land College. Mr. Bryant holds an offer of employment from a design and construction firm with offices near both Dallas and Houston, TX.

Mr. Bryant has no health issues other than high blood pressure, which is controlled with medication and, at 70 years of age, represents that he is fit for light construction work.

Mr. Bryant has no history of mental health issues, substance abuse or gang affiliation.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Bryant's representative, Joseph Dusek of the John Howard Association, spoke on Mr. Bryant's behalf. Mr. Dusek assured the Board that Mr. Bryant's family would have attended if they had been able to.

Mr. Shelton asked about the Innocence Project taking up the issues of Mr. Bryant's claims of innocence on the Murder charges.



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Mr. Ruggiero stated that the judge who heard the case intended for Mr. Bryant to serve a life sentence. Mr. Ruggiero then noted that the claim presented that there was zero evidence for conviction is untrue. Mr. Ruggiero noted that Mr. Bryant's attorney entered a guilty plea for him, and that there was mace belonging to the victim and checks made out to the victim found in Mr. Bryant's home. Mr. Ruggiero also discussed the recent claim from Mr. Bryant, who stated there were two others with him. Mr. Ruggiero noted that one victim was told that Mr. Bryant would stick a knife in their rectum, which he then, in fact, did; another victim had her throat slashed because she was screaming and Mr. Bryant reported that he "slit her guzzle-pipe." Mr. Ruggiero noted that yet another victim was set on fire and had their clothes thrown on a nearby roof. Mr. Ruggiero stated that he believes Mr. Bryant is a serial rapist.

Ms. Harris asked that the charges be read again and asked if there was a mental health diagnosis.

Ms. Martinez stated that these crimes were already a cold case and evidence was already in custody. She feels Mr. Bryant is innocent of Murder.

Ms. Crigler noted the horrendous nature of the five rapes and also noted that previous crimes were not violent crimes.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Arienne Jones spoke for the People in protest of parole. She listed the crimes for which Mr. Bryant was found guilty, noting that Mr. Bryant's claims of innocence as to the charges were repeatedly raised in post-conviction proceedings and repeatedly found to be unsupported. ASA Jones listed more than 20 crimes, arguing that none of them can be understated in severity.

Ms. Harris asked if there were fingerprints at the crime scene. Mr. Ruggiero said there were no fingerprints and the stolen items found in Bryant's home.

Mr. James noted that one rape victim identified Bryant.

Chairman Findley asked about the existence of any disciplinary tickets for violent behavior, especially sexual misconduct. Ms. Daniels said Mr. Bryant has only had five major tickets and 14 minor tickets during his entire incarceration. Mr. Dusek also spoke to the ticket question, saying he did not find record of any violent or sexual conduct.

The Board noted that if parole is granted, the Attorney General's Office would likely request a 90-day stay of parole release, in order to determine whether Mr. Bryant would qualify for Sexually Violent Person status.



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DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to grant parole (LD—EC). Motion prevails by a vote of 8–6. Members voting in favor of the motion were Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Harris, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley. Mr. Brink, Mr. Fisher, Mr. James, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, and Mr. Tupy dissented.

After a complete review of Mr. Bryant’s case, and after giving thoughtful discussion and consideration to all factors, the Board decided and voted to grant parole to Mr. Bryant, subject to conditions of parole release as set by the Board and by law. The Board hereby finds that Mr. Bryant is an appropriate candidate for parole release at this time.

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



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—July 14, 2020

Inmate Name: **EVERETT BOWEN**

IDOC Number: **C81522**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1301 Concordia Court, Springfield, Illinois, on July 14, 2020, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Everett Bowen C81522.

Members present were Mr. Brink, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

On February 20, 2020, Everett Bowen C81522 was interviewed by Board Member Pete Fisher at East Moline Correctional Center. Present at the interview were Mr. Bowen, Mr. Fisher, and two IDOC staff members.

On May 3, 1978, Mr. Bowen was sentenced to 100–150 years for the July 2, 1977, Murders of three of his children and 100–150 years for Arson. Mr. Bowen's conviction was affirmed on appeal in 1980, however his Arson sentence was later reduced to 1–20 years, to run concurrently with the Murder sentence.

Mr. Bowen is 77 years of age. His date of birth is December 29, 1942. He has been incarcerated for approximately 42 years. He has been at East Moline Correctional Center since September of 2018. Prior to that, he has been at Illinois River, Logan, Shawnee, and Pontiac Correctional Centers. He is currently A-grade status (which he has been since 2008) and classified as a low escape risk.

Mr. Bowen has a projected release date of September 28, 2051. He is coming off a 3-year set and has had consecutive 3-year sets since 2002. He has never received a vote in favor of granting parole release.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

In May of 1977, Evelyn Bowen filed for divorce from Mr. Bowen. When she advised him that she wanted a divorce, he replied that if she divorced him, he would kill her. For the next months, numerous threats were made toward Mrs. Bowen.



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On June 1, 1977, Mrs. Bowen moved some belongings to a friend's house. When Mr. Bowen returned, he wrapped a chain around Mrs. Bowen's neck, while yelling "Where's my stuff?" as he was attempting to strangle her. He released her when one of their daughters began screaming at him. Mrs. Bowen and their four children then moved in with her brother, William Booth, at 107 S. Elm in Northlake, as Mr. Bowen continued to threaten Mrs. Bowen and her sister-in-law, Marianne Booth.

On July 1, 1977, Mrs. Bowen obtained a temporary restraining order preventing Mr. Bowen from seeing the children that weekend. About 5:30 p.m. on that same day, Mr. Bowen went to the house on Elm and kicked in the door. He then went home. He talked to Ms. Becky Gillard, a family friend, that evening and told her, "If he couldn't have the kids, that she wouldn't get the little sons of bitches either; that he would just burn them up."

On July 2, 1977, after an all-night drinking spree, Mr. Bowen went to the 107 S. Elm address where Mrs. Bowen and the four children were staying. None of the Booth family were at home at that time. Mr. Bowen arrived at around 4:30 a.m. and set the main level bedroom curtains on fire. Mrs. Bowen woke up and smelled smoke. She got up and discovered the house on fire. She ran and tried to get the children out of the house, but was blocked by the stairway fire. Her 11-year-old son fell down the flight of stairs, which were on fire, but was able to escape the house with his mother. Her remaining three children, Mark, Julie, and Sherry (ages 5, 8, and 13) died in the fire. Their bodies were found in an upstairs bedroom.

MR. BOWEN'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

Mr. Bowen stated he was arrested July 4, 1977, and was taken to county jail. He said he did not attend the services for his deceased children, because the preacher said he did not want Mr. Bowen there.

Mr. Bowen was asked if his statement was that he did not set the fire. He replied, "Well not on purpose." He stated he had been drinking all day and night at two bars. He said he drank a pint of whiskey and 12-14 beers, before he then went to the house to see his kids. He said it was after midnight, and he had a lighter, which he lit inside the bedroom window so he could see inside the dark room. He stated, "I looked in the window using the lighter through the window to give light to the room. I pushed the curtain back with the back of my hand. If it caught fire it was not on purpose. There were no flames when I left."

Mr. Bowen was asked if he drove to the house. He stated that he parked his van at a bar about a block away and then walked to the house. Afterward, he walked back to the van, drove home, and went to bed.

Mr. Bowen said he later confessed due to being threatened with the death penalty. Upon being asked about kicking the door in earlier the prior evening, he stated that he did kick the door in and threw in beans and candy for his kids, since he wasn't allowed to see them.



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When asked why someone should vote for parole for him, he replied, “Mr., I’m getting too old to even worry about it. I don’t really give a damn anymore.”

When asked if there was any statement he would like to relate to the Board, he replied, “I’m good, no statement.”

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Bowen’s institutional adjustment has been very good. He said he is currently unassigned due to medical reasons. When asked why he did not make any attempt to continue his education, in light of his prior 7th-grade education level, he stated he had not done so because “It won’t stick.” He has also never received any counseling of any kind.

Mr. Bowen stated that he has done everything the judge asked him to do, which was to get a job and stick with it (which he has continuously worked in the past.) Mr. Bowen’s last disciplinary report was in 2014. He stated he has only had six disciplinary reports in 42 years.

With regards to any health concerns, Mr. Bowen reported that he has breathing problems (COPD), asthma, and is diabetic. He also wears hearing aids.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Bowen stated that if he were to be released, he would live with his older brother in Maryland. He added that his health would most likely prevent him from working any kind of job.

SUMMARY

Although inmate Bowen has a very good institutional adjustment, he has not attempted to improve himself through education or address any of his violent behavior from the past or substance abuse issues. His version of the events of the murders has changed over the years, and he still shows no signs of remorse, nor accepts any responsibility for the deaths of his 3 young children.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Fisher summarized his view of Mr. Bowen’s case, stating that although Mr. Bowen has had a very good institutional adjustment, he has not attempted to improve himself through education or address any of his violent behavior from the past or any of his substance abuse issues. Mr. Fisher noted that Mr. Bowen’s version of the events of the Murders has changed over the years, and that Mr. Bowen still shows no signs of remorse. Mr. Fisher also noted that Mr. Bowen has shown no sign of accepting responsibility for the deaths of his three young children.



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Ms. Martinez asked if Mr. Bowen's brother had sent a letter of support. Mr. Fisher stated that Mr. Bowen's brother was scheduled to attend the institutional hearing, but was ultimately unable to do so because of bad weather.

Board Members noted that they did not feel Mr. Bowen shows remorse or takes responsibility for his actions.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Arienne Jones spoke on behalf of the People, in opposition to any grant of parole release, noting the specific and detailed objections previously provided by the People in their protest letter.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (PF—JR). Motion prevails by a vote of 14–0.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Bowen's case, the Board voted to deny parole. The Board feels that a release at this time would not be in the interest of public safety, as there is a substantial risk that Mr. Bowen would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole and that parole release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of the offenses and promote a lack of respect for the law.

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



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—July 14, 2020

Inmate Name: **JOSEPH CUNNINGHAM**

IDOC Number: **C86185**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 1301 Concordia Court, Springfield, Illinois, on July 14, 2020, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Joseph Cunningham C86185.

Members present were Mr. Brink, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Joseph Cunningham C86185 knew the victim, Emma W. McKinley, a 75-year-old grandmother. Mrs. McKinley had been Mr. Cunningham's babysitter when he was growing up and had hired him for odd jobs around her home. Mr. Cunningham had borrowed money from the victim, and she had in the past allowed him to drive her car.

On December 16, 1977, Mr. Cunningham, then age 18, had been drinking with co-defendant William A. Howell, age 21, when they ran out of alcohol. Mr. Cunningham decided to ask the Mrs. McKinley for more money so that he and Mr. Cunningham could continue drinking.

Mr. Howell hid in the bushes, while Mr. Cunningham went to the victim's door and was let inside. Once inside, the victim gave Mr. Cunningham a glass of orange juice. Mr. Cunningham asked the victim for ten dollars and she refused. Mr. Cunningham grabbed the victim's sweater and tore two buttons off the sweater. Mr. Howell then entered the home, grabbed a heavy ashtray, and struck Mrs. McKinley in the head. Mr. Cunningham grabbed a knife and cut Mrs. McKinley on the arm.

When Mrs. McKinley then attempted to call for help, she was chased down and the telephone cord was cut. Mrs. McKinley was stabbed numerous times with a paring knife and a fork. Mr. Cunningham said that Mr. Howell used the fork. Mr. Cunningham then took money from her purse, stole her car keys, and left the home. He waited outside until Mr. Howell left the home about 10–15 minutes later. Subsequently, Mr. Cunningham apparently crashed the car and ended up in a hospital. The victim received 30–40 stab wounds, two skull fractures, several cracked ribs, and had been sexually assaulted.



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Mr. Cunningham ultimately pled guilty to the Murder of Mrs. McKinley and was sentenced to 35–100 years.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Cunningham is 60 years old and was born on October 1, 1959.

He has had 95 disciplinary tickets while in IDOC. His last ticket was in 2019 for having bleach in his cell, which Mr. Cunningham says he uses for cleaning. His last previous ticket was in 2007; he has no tickets for violence. Mr. Cunningham's behavior has improved; he is currently classified as minimum security and low escape risk.

He received his GED in 1984 and has participated in AA, NA, and auto body repair programs. Mr. Cunningham has no gang affiliations and is currently not working.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Cunningham has never received a vote in favor of parole. He appears remorseful and would like to get out of prison, but he has not made any concrete parole plans.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Tupy provided additional observations and context regarding Mr. Cunningham's circumstances, noting that Mr. Cunningham's brother, who lived in Missouri, had recently passed away. Additionally, Mr. Tupy observed that Mr. Cunningham's income is too low to sustain housing on release, that he has poor personal hygiene, and appears to have trouble asking others for help. Mr. Tupy also noted that Mr. Cunningham appears to have poor cognitive abilities.

Mr. Tupy concluded by noting that it was his opinion that Mr. Cunningham's lack of placement options and the nature of the crime make him a poor candidate for parole release.

Mr. Shelton noted that Mr. Cunningham is not an evil person, but that he instead is not an intelligent person and that Mr. Cunningham goes whatever direction he's pointed in. Ms. Perkins agreed with Mr. Shelton's assessment.



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DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (KT—AMP). Motion prevails by a vote of 14–0.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Cunningham’s case, the Board voted to deny parole. The Board feels that a release at this time would not be in the interest of public safety, as there is a substantial risk that Mr. Cunningham would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole and that parole release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of the offenses and promote a lack of respect for the law.

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