

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board  
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET  
MEETING OF March 28, 2013**

The March 28, 2013, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

C68736 DANIEL VANSIKE
C71668 RODNEY GROSS
C64129 RICHARD BASKE
C68712 MICHAEL LETT
C90899 HARRISON CHANCY
C62434 FREDDIE MARTIN
C56165 DAVID LOTT
C61247 JAMES BRIMMER
U11312 DANIEL BAXTER
C63921 MICHAEL BAPTIST
C01871 LEON BOLTON

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

MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
Angela Blackman-Donovan	X	
Edith Crigler	X	
Ed Bowers	X	
Salvador Diaz	X	
Craig Findley	X	
Tom Johnson	X	
Jesse Madison	X	
William Norton	X	
Jennifer Parrack	X	
Donald Shelton	X	
William Simmons	X	
Geraldine Tyler	X	
Adam Monreal	X	

**13 Present**

The Recording Secretary presented the following minutes for approval:  
Open Session Minutes February 2013 (ADM – Leave)

Motion to continue Joseph Cunningham, Eddie Pitts and Oscar Jones for 90 days. Leave.

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

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board  
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET  
OPEN SESSION March 28, 2013**

Inmate Name: **Michael Lett**      IDOC Number & Institution: **C68712**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on March 28, 2013, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, T. Johnson, J. Madison, W. Norton, J. Parrack, D. Shelton, W. Simons and G. Tyler.

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

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

A parole assessment interview was conducted with Michael L. Lett on January 2, 2013 at Graham Correctional Center. Mr. Lett was born on November 4, 1954, and is currently fifty-eight (58) years of age and was a resident of Graham Correctional Center at the time of the interview. Mr. Lett is serving a sentence of 100-199 years for murder, aggravated kidnapping, indecent liberties with a child, armed robbery, concealment of a homicidal death and theft. Factors considered by the Board include, but are not limited to, testimony of the resident, a review of the file, the nature of the crime, the sentence for the offense, institutional adjustment and parole plans. His maximum release date is in 2069.

The file and record would indicate that on or about April 13, 1976, when Mr. Lett was 21 years of age, he escaped from a hospital facility for sex offenders in Westville, Indiana where he was a patient and serving a sentence for two (2) separate prior rape convictions involving minor female children. Six (6) days later, he abducted, on or about April 19, 1976, Mr. Lett arrived in Newton, Jasper County, Illinois, where he abducted, kidnapped, sexually assaulted and then murdered twelve (12) year old female child by the name of Cathy Jo Harris. Mr. Lett then fled the State of Illinois in a stolen vehicle and after being arrested in Florida he was returned to Illinois where following a jury trial he was found guilty as to the criminal offenses and that he did in fact sexually assault Cathy Jo Harris and murder her. Mr. Lett also stated that he felt the causation of his criminal behavior and sexual problems and behavior was as a direct result of the physical, sexual and verbal abuse that he experienced as a child by family members.

Mr. Lett related during his interview that his health is good with the exception of lower back problems resulting from a herniated disc and liver problems due to Hepatitis C. The record would indicate that Mr. Lett does have a GED and that he has received some vocational training and has completed a few college classes. Mr. Lett has been incarcerated in the Illinois Department of Corrections since on or about September 3, 1976. During this 36 ½ year time period Mr. Lett has received numerous major and minor IDR tickets. However, the most recent parole report involving Mr. Lett dated October 22, 2012 would indicate that Mr. Lett has made a positive adjustment since arriving at Graham Correctional Center about five (5) years ago and that Mr. Lett has only received one (1) IDR ticket since his last parole hearing in March 2010. Mr. Lett advised that he feels that he is ready for parole and has received great benefit

from the counseling in which he participated and received during the course of his incarceration. The Parole plan of Mr. Lett would be to reside with his sister, Linda Wells, in Washington, Indiana or reside with his former wife, Darlene Lett in Champaign, Illinois.

Mr. Lett has a troubled family history. His mother passed away when he was two months old and he was adopted by an aunt and uncle. He has had no contact with his natural father since he was 14. Get got married in 1995 and was divorced in 2007. His conviction and sentence have been affirmed.

Motion to enter executive session. (ADM – CF) Leave.

Motion to return to open session. (ADM – CF) Leave.

Member Norton noted that the petitioner expressed remorse and said he was thankful for the counseling he has received while incarcerated. He noted that he was abused during his childhood and used drugs and alcohol.

The Board noted the severity of the crime and that the petitioner is a sexual predator of children.

After a complete review, and after giving consideration to all factors, the Board voted to deny parole. The Board continues to have serious concerns due to the senseless nature of this sexual assault and murder of a twelve (12) year old child. The Board feels that to release at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law.

Motion to deny parole. (WS – GT). Leave.

Board Members also felt that they would not vote favorably within the next three years.

Motion for a three-year set. (WS – ADM). Leave.

Parole is denied for three years.

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

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board  
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET  
OPEN SESSION March 28, 2013**

Inmate Name: **Freddie Martin** IDOC Number & Institution: **C62434**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on March 28, 2013, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, T. Johnson, J. Madison, W. Norton, J. Parrack, D. Shelton, W. Simons and G. Tyler.

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

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

Inmate Freddie Martin, age 64, is incarcerated in the Illinois River Correctional Center, having been found guilty of Murder, Armed Robbery, Burglary and Theft in 1976 and sentenced to 150-450 years, 20-60 years, 3-9 years and 1-4 years imprisonment respectively, sentences to be served concurrently, for crimes committed in 1976. The inmate appealed his convictions and the Appellate Court of Illinois affirmed them in 1979. According to the inmate, he is now challenging his 150-450 year sentence in court.

Motion to enter executive session. (JP – JM) Leave.

Motion to return to open session. (GT – CF) Leave.

This is the 27th time that Inmate Martin has appeared on a parole request for the instant offenses since May of 1985. At the last hearing in 2010, this inmate was given a three-year set. The PRB records indicate that in the past, he had consistently gotten no support of his parole application. For the current request, inmate Martin was interviewed by PRB member Jesse D. Madison at the Illinois River Correctional Center on February 5, 2013. No persons appeared in behalf of, nor in opposition to, Martin's parole request at the hearing, however, in the file is a letter from Richard A. Devine, then State's Attorney for Cook County, dated October 7, 2008, indicating strong opposition to the granting of parole to this inmate and requesting a three-year set. While there are other protest letters going back to 2008, there are no other current protest letters in the file.

In the early evening hours of January 15, 1976, inmate Freddie Martin gained entrance to the home of Herbert & Catherine Alferink, ages 79 and 76 respectively, at 15210 Park Avenue in Harvey, Illinois. Upon gaining entry, the inmate tied and bound both victims and searched their house for valuables. He stole their wedding rings, money, a television and a silver pendant watch. Then the inmate stabbed both victims repeatedly in the chest until they were both dead. Before leaving the house, the inmate turned on the gas stove. Afterward, inmate Martin went to a lounge nearby where he met Johnnie Thompson and asked him for a ride to Chicago. Thompson noticed that the inmate had blood on his shirt and pants, and asked if he

had been in a fight. Martin responded that he had killed two people down the street. When Thompson refused to provide the ride indicating that he did not want to get involved, inmate Martin threatened him with a knife, but Thompson was able to run away.

Inmate Martin then left the lounge and was stopped by police officers at 147th and Halsted at about 9:30 p.m. He was carrying a television set. He explained to the officers that his car had broken down. The officers took information about Martin and released him. He then called for a taxicab and was taken to 89th and May Street, a half-block from his house.

The next day, the daughter of the Alferinks, Ruth Bronson, came to their house and discovered the bodies of her parents on the kitchen floor. The hands and feet of both victims were bound with rope. Both bodies had knives embedded in their chests. When the police arrived, they found the two bedrooms in the house had been ransacked.

That same day, in Chicago, a 19176 Oldsmobile belonging to Daniel Latronica was stolen from his business on South Western in Chicago. A few hours later, Chicago police officers spotted the stolen vehicle in the vicinity of 81st and California in Chicago, and inmate Martin was driving. The police tried to stop the car, but the inmate took off at a high rate of speed, trying to elude the police. He finally abandoned the car at 79th and Western and fled on foot. However, the police caught him and found a revolver and a number of car keys on his person. The inmate was charged with auto theft and, after a bench trial, was sentenced to 1-4 years in the penitentiary.

After inmate Martin was taken into custody for auto theft, the Harvey Police Department received a tip from an informant regarding the homicides of the Alferinks. The information provided was sufficient for a search warrant to be issued for inmate Martin's house. The police recovered the television set stolen from the Alferinks house. They then were directed to the house of inmate Martin's wife, where they recovered two rings belonging to the Alferinks. Martin's wife told the police that she received the rings from the inmate, and that he gave a \$1,000 bond to a friend, Albert Beard. She also told the police that inmate Martin showed her a large bundle of money he had in his sock. At Beard's house, they recovered the \$1,000 bond belonging to the Alferinks. Inmate Martin was charged with murdering the Alferinks, as well as armed robbery and burglary. He chose to have a jury trial and was found guilty on all counts, and sentenced as previously stated.

During the interview, inmate Martin would not say specifically that he committed the crimes for which he was convicted, indicating that he did plead not guilty, and making the point that he was uncomfortable discussing the particulars of the incident because he is presently challenging the sentence in Court. When I asked him why the Board should vote to parole him, he talked about the transition he has made over the years from who he used to be, to who he is today. When I asked him what preparations, if any, he had made for life outside of prison, he said that he had made contact with St. Leonard's House, and when accepted, would transition to his sister's house after a reasonable period of adjustment at St. Leonard's. He also said that he has a commitment for help with employment from the Safer Foundation.

Inmate Freddie Martin was born in Chicago on October 16, 1948. His father, Thomas Charles Martin, and his mother, Anna Jackson Martin, are both deceased. Freddie is the 3rd of eight children, five sisters, three of whom are deceased, and twin brothers both still alive. The inmate attended Schiller and Sherwood Elementary Schools, and Bond Upper Grade Center,

graduating in 1963 and moving on to Parker and Calumet High Schools before dropping out in the 10th grade in 1965. After that, he had a sporadic and erratic work history until his first arrest in 1968, followed by a second and third conviction, the last of which was in 1976 for the instant offense. He also said that he was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2001, and had his prostate removed in March of 2002. Inmate Martin is single, although he does admit to having one child. He has no military background.

Inmate Martin is a recidivist offender who is serving his third incarceration. In August of 1969, the inmate pleaded guilty to four separate burglary charges for crimes committed in May, June, October and November of 1968, finally being caught and arrested by the police on November 8, 1968. He received sentences of 1-8 years each for those four burglaries and also 1-8 years for an auto theft and possession of marijuana in March of 1969. All of the sentences were to be served concurrently.

He was paroled from Pontiac Correctional Center in May of 1971. In October of the same year, he was arrested for Robbery and, after a bench trial, found guilty and sentenced to 5-10 years in March of 1972. That conviction was affirmed on appeal. Martin was paroled from Sheridan Correctional Center in October of 1975. Less than four months later, he committed the instant offense.

Inmate Martin's incarceration for the instant offense began on July 9, 1976 when he was admitted to Joliet R&C, and transferred to Stateville Correctional Center on January 7, 1977. At Stateville, he received a total of 57 disciplinary reports within a nine-year period until he was transferred to Graham Correctional Center on December 19, 1985. He was only at Graham for approximately two years, and received one major and three minor disciplinary violations before being transferred to Dixon Correctional Center on October 14, 1987. Since then, Martin's institution movement has been as follows: Menard Correctional Center in 1991, back to Stateville in 1992, Hill Correctional Center in 1996, and Illinois River Correctional Center in 1998, where he remains to this day. Although his earlier years in prison were replete with disciplinary problems (85 disciplinary reports from 1977 to 1998), during his 15-year stay at Illinois River, Martin has received nine disciplinary reports, the last one occurring in August of 2004. Also, on the positive side, he obtained an Associate of Arts Degree in Applied Science and two electronics certificates.

Inmate Martin is currently minimum security, A-grade and low escape risk.

If granted parole, inmate Martin plans to live at St. Leonard's House in Chicago. He also has been in contact with the Safer Foundation regarding employment. He also indicates that he has sponsorship from a friend, a James Kramer, who has told Martin that he will assist him in getting employment and other necessities when he is released.

Although inmate Freddie Martin has spent nearly 37 years of incarceration for the instant offense, and has appeared before this Board a total of 27 times, not once has he received any positive votes for parole. In fact, it appears that he has never even been proposed. Martin's institutional adjustment in the early stages of incarceration was horrific. As was previously mentioned, he received 145 disciplinary tickets in his first 21 years of incarceration for the instant offense. However, the last 15+ years of incarceration has shown marked improvement, not only in his behavior, but also in his attitude toward dealing with incarceration.

Cook County Assistant State's attorney noted they are asking for a five-year set. They believe parole would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law. He has had no prior votes and the early stages of his institutional adjustment were horrific.

Member Madison stated that he is not going to recommend the Inmate Martin for parole at this time. However, in the very near future, he can see himself voting for him, assuming he continues his current progress while institutionalized. Member Madison noted that he impressed with inmate Martin's institutional adjustment, especially in the last 15 years, given his prison beginnings. He has been described as a model prisoner whose education and training while in prison point to an eventual release with sufficient preparedness to do well on the outside. And he is to be commended for taking the initiative to improve himself during his last 15 years of incarceration. But his 36+ years in prison, in my humble opinion, do not begin to atone for the death sentence that he handed Mr. And Mrs. Alferink back in 1976 when he stabbed both of them to death while robbing that couple of their belongings.

Motion to deny parole. (JM – GT). Leave.

Parole is denied.

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

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board  
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET  
OPEN SESSION March 28, 2013**

Inmate Name: **Daniel Baxter** IDOC Number & Institution: **U11312**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on March 28, 2013, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, T. Johnson, J. Madison, W. Norton, J. Parrack, D. Shelton, W. Simons and G. Tyler.

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

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

A parole assessment interview was conducted with Daniel Baxter on January 23, 2013. Mr. Baxter was born on March 11, 1953, and is currently sixty (60) years of age and was a resident of the Shawnee Correctional Center on the date of the interview. Present at the interview was Mr. Baxter, Member Norton, two third-year law students from Northwestern and Lloyd Godfrey, a friend of Mr. Baxter. Mr. Baxter is serving a sentence of 30-36 years for murder. Factors considered by the Board include, but are not limited to, testimony of the Inmate, a review of the file, the nature of the crime, the sentence of the offense, institutional adjustment and parole plans. Mr. Baxter has a current max discharge date in 2014 – 2016. He was sentenced at 48 years of age and has been incarcerated 11 years. He committed the instance offense on February 28, 1977 at 23 years of age. He was free for 25 years before sentencing.

The file and record would indicate that the body of Eric Princell was found in the Big Bend Lake Forest Preserve in Des Plaines, Illinois on or about March 14, 1977. The skull of Mr. Princell was crushed and his throat slashed. This murder went unsolved for approximately twenty-two (22) years. Mr. Baxter was arrested for this murder in January 1999 after police obtained significant detailed information involving the instant offense. Mr. Baxter entered a plea of guilty to the murder on or about March 5, 2002.

Mr. Baxter is not in good health. Mr. Baxter indicated that he suffered a stroke in 1991 which has caused partial paralysis to his right side. He can walk with the assistance of a walker. Mr. Baxter further advised that he has been diagnosed as having a bi-polar disorder, has hearing loss, has Hepatitis, liver problems and leg ulcers. The institutional adjustment of Mr. Baxter has been problematic. He has received 28 IDR tickets since his incarceration in 2002, including several IDR tickets since his last parole hearing. The parole plan of Mr. Baxter would be to reside in Chicago, Illinois at Jack Clark's or in a similar transitional living program and his source of income would be Social Security



Disability. Mr. Baxter feels that he is ready for parole and that if parole were to be granted he would be able to obtain assistance for his physical and mental health conditionals. Mr. Baxter stated he would not be a threat to public safety due to his current health conditions. Mr. Baxter indicated he believes his mother was killed by his ex cell mate. He was in the USMC and was dishonorably discharged. He has been divorced three times and indicated he has three children that he has not seen since 2002. He indicated he believes his daughter was also killed by his ex cell mate.

Motion to enter Executive Session. (JP – GT) Leave.

Motion to return to Open Session. (ADM – JP) Leave.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Bonnie Greenstein noted that Inmate Baxter had asked his then girlfriend who she has slept with in the past and he told her he was going to kill all of those people. He killed the victim because he was one of them. She claimed the victim had raped her.

The law students representing Mr. Baxter noted that he did not bring a weapon with him to the scene of the crime and the victim did. The hammer and knife were in Mr. Princell's vehicle. Mr. Baxter intended to buy drugs from Mr. Princell, not kill him.

Mr. Baxter's attorney stated that he is very hard of hearing and reads lips. His tickets in the past were for insubordination and due to the fact that he cannot hear. He is currently not on any medication for his bipolar disorder.

Member Norton: After a complete review, and after giving consideration to all factors, the Board continues to have serious concerns by the nature of the conduct of Mr. Baxter relative to the offense and as to the conduct of Mr. Baxter since the time of his incarceration. The Board feels that a release at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law.

Motion to deny parole. (WN – ABD). Motion carries 12 – 1. Member Madison dissented.

Motion to continue to Max release date. (WN – ABD). Motion carries 10 – 3. Member Findley, Madison and Shelton dissented.

Parole is denied and continued to Max.

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

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board  
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET  
OPEN SESSION March 28, 2013**

Inmate Name: **Harrison Chancy**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C90899**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on March 28, 2013, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, T. Johnson, J. Madison, W. Norton, J. Parrack, D. Shelton, W. Simons and G. Tyler.

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

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

Chairman Monreal conducted a parole interview with Mr. Chancy at Illinois River Correctional Facility on February 5, 2013. Persons present for the interview were Chairman Monreal, Inmate Chancy, Mr. Randy Chancy (brother), Joshua Tepfer (Atty. NW Law School), Elena Garcia (NW law student) and Zachery Huringer (NW law student).

Inmate Chancy's projected release date is 06/23/2121, and is maximum release date is 09/01/2121.

Inmate Chancy is a Caucasian male 53 years of age. Inmate Chancy is the son of Mr. Warren Chancy (deceased) & Ms. Verna Grzyb (deceased). Inmate Chancy is the second youngest and his siblings are the following: Nelta, Steve, Randy, Michael, Charles (deceased) and Ronnie (deceased).

Inmate Chancy was born in Wayne Barrow, Tennessee, on April 10, 1959. Inmate Chancy stated that his biological father re-enlisted into the service and his parents divorced thereafter. Inmate Chancy's mother eventually remarried to his step-father who he does maintain some contact with. During his youth, inmate Chancy grew up in the areas of Romeoville, Lockport and Joliet Illinois. He attended Park View Grammar School and West View Middle School. At the age of 13, inmate Chancy stated that his mother moved him to the State of Alabama to live with his maternal grandmother. Years later he returned to Illinois.

Prior to his incarceration, inmate Chancy stated that he worked various jobs such as dishwasher, gas station attendant and gas station clerk/assistant. Inmate Chancy has never been in the military.

Inmate Chancy has been incarcerated for the last 35 years since the age of 17 which occurred in 1978.

According to the factual basis issued by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office:

Inmate Chancy is incarcerated for the for the murder and armed robbery of 68 year-old Mr. Emmanuel Slivinski and the armed robbery of 62 year-old Mrs. Lillian Slivinski (wife). The murder/armed robbery took place on May 28, 1977.

At approximately 6:15 am, Mr. Slivinski had taken the family dog out for a walk. When he returned to his home in Lemont, Illinois, there was a knock on the door. When he answered the door, he was met by inmate Chancy who was armed with a handgun. There were two additional co-offenders with inmate Chancy. The offenders forced their way into the Slivinski's residence. As the two co-offenders searched the home for valuables, inmate Chancy held Mr. & Mrs. Slivinski at gun point. During the course of the search for valuables, pillow cases were placed over the heads of Mr. & Mrs. Slivinski and they were bound and tied. After placing the pillow cases over their heads, Mrs. Slivinski heard her husband being attacked and beaten. After being beaten, Mr. Slivinski began to pray. An offender told him "I am a religious man too, but the man upstairs will not help you today." Property was taken from the residence was: approximately \$1,200.00 USC, a diamond pin, three watches and other personal property. Prior to leaving the residence, one of the three offenders shot Mr. Slivinski in the head.

After the offenders left the residence, Mrs. Slivinski was able to free herself and call for help. Mr. Slivinski remained alive for approximately two months after being shot in head. During the remaining two months of his life, Mr. Slivinski underwent multiple operation and medical procedures. During the short period that he remained alive Mr. Slivinski was paralyzed and was blind.

Inmate Chancy stated that he was wrongfully convicted of this murder and maintains that he is innocent of the charges that led to his incarceration. Thus, he stated he has no version of the events that resulted in the murder/armed robbery of Mr. & Mrs. Slivinski that occurred on May 28, 1977.

He stated that during the police investigation, detectives spoke to his older brother who, is now deceased about a possible involvement in this murder/armed robbery. Inmate Chancy stated that he did not know who committed the murder/armed robbery.

During the course of the interview, inmate Chancy stated that he has one regrettable moment during the course of the trial proceedings. After the verdict was read, inmate Chancy turned toward Mrs. Slivinski in open court and pointed his finger at her and went "Bang Bang" as though he was firing a gun at her. Inmate Chancy stated that he recalls this and regrets his behavior in court. He stated that he regrets what he did but stated that he was a stupid and immature man at that time. He further stated that he has

sympathy for the victim's family and their loss but has no remorse because he did not commit this murder/armed robbery that led to the death of Mr. Slivinski.

Inmate Chancy has had multiple versions regarding his responsibility and role in the murder/armed robbery of Mr. Slivinski. The versions have strayed the spectrum from direct responsibility, accountability, accidental shooting, to the current version of innocence and wrongfully convicted. When I questioned inmate Chancy why there were so many versions of his role inmate Chancy stated, "for many years I was telling the PRB what I thought they wanted to hear and what would get me out of prison".

When questioned why he was identified at trial, inmate Chancy indicated that the prosecution coerced Mrs. Slivinski to identify him as one of the perpetrators.

Inmate Chancy was arrested and charged with the murder and armed robbery of Mr. & Mrs. Slivinski. During the trial Mrs. Slivinski identified inmate Chancy as one of the offenders.

During the course of the trial, the defense attempted to defeat the identification procedure by placing another detainee in the court room. The defense tactic failed because the detainee informed authorities and eventually testified at trial as to the tactic. The detainee also testified that inmate Chancy had confessed to him admitting his role in the murder/armed robbery.

Inmate Chancy was convicted of these charges following a jury trial. He was sentenced to 100 to 300 years for murder, 25 to 50 years for armed robbery and 5 to 15 years for burglary in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The sentences were ordered to run concurrently.

Inmate Chancy appealed his conviction and sentence. The Appellate Court affirmed the conviction and the sentence. Inmate Chancy filed additional motions before the Circuit Court challenging his conviction, incarceration and sentenced. All were denied and the denial were appealed and affirmed.

Inmate Chancy filed a petition requesting Clemency by the Governor in 2006. The petition was withdrawn.

Inmate Chancy stated that he was raised in abusive family by an alcoholic father who was a Merchant Marine. Inmate Chancy stated that he had a history with drugs specifically cannabis. He also stated that he had an arrest history for burglary, aggravated battery (5 years), armed robbery (state of Michigan). Inmate Chancy stated that other than the murder conviction he does not have an adult criminal history. A review of his criminal history indicated that he has previous arrests.

#### INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT:

Certificates: Bible study, substance abuse program completed, NA & AA certificates.

Educational Advancement: GED (1998). No college credits.

Institutions: IL River, Pinckneyville, Pontiac, Big Muddy, Statesville and Menard.

Current Grade: A grade, low escape risk.

Assignments: Shift office router/clerk within the major's office, commissary, health care commissary, maintenance, dietary and seg assistant.

IDRs: Inmate Chancy stated that during the years of his incarceration he has received in excess of 70 IDRs. He stated that the vast majority were categorized as major. An examination of the record reveals that since the year 2000, inmate Chancy has received 15 IDRs (13 minor & 2 major). The most recent occurred in 2011 for trafficking/trading (major) to which he pled guilty.

Lost Time: Inmate Chancy stated that during the years of his incarceration he has lost significant time. However, he stated that in various segments throughout the past year, 7 years, 10 months and 20 days have been restored to his good time credit.

Prior Vote History: Inmate Chancy has never received a favorable vote by a PRB member. Further he has received continuous 3 year sets since 1998.

Inmate Chancy stated that he maintains regular contact with his brother Randy, sister, nieces and nephews and some of his in-laws through some face to face contacts, letters and regular phone calls. Mr. Randy Chancy stated that he lives in Joliet, Illinois and has a painting business. Mr. Randy Chancy stated that he is a building maintenance manager and an over-all handyman. Further, he would be willing to help inmate Chancy in any manner he could if he were paroled.

Inmate Chancy stated that if he were to be paroled he would like to parole to a half-way house in order to live there for a temporary period. He would prefer to parole to City of Chicago or the City Aurora. Inmate Chancy stated that if paroled to Chicago he would like to seek admission in St. Leonard's House. If paroled to Aurora he would like to seek admission into Rita's Ministry. At the time of the interview, neither program had officially accepted inmate Chancy.

In terms of employment if paroled to the northern portion of the state, inmate Chancy stated that he would like to take advantage of the vocational programs provided by St. Leonard's House. If paroled to the southern portion of the state, inmate Chancy stated that his sister-in-law lives in southern Illinois and is the owner of approximately 44 acres of land. He could work for her. He further stated that his in-laws would assist him in starting a lawn care business in the area. He would like to become active stated with the local church organizations and donate his time in a preventative measure.

In terms of why he should be paroled, inmate Chancy stated that he was wrongfully convicted of this offense. He further stated that he was immature when he was

convicted however he has learned maturity and responsibility during the years of his incarceration and believes that he something to offer to society. He indicated that he would like to direct and advise the youth how to stay away from the wrong paths in life.

Motion to enter executive session. (ADM – JP). Leave.

Motion to return to open session. (ADM – CF). Leave.

Member Findley noted that eyewitnesses can be mistaken and we know offenders admit to crimes they did not commit. This case should be looked at. Mr. Chancy was only 18 at the time of the instant offense. His parole plan is just about perfect. Mr. Findley believes Inmate Chancy has been rehabilitated and is at a very low risk to reoffend. He believes he is an acceptable risk for parole.

Member Johnson indicated that he agrees with Member Findley. A jailhouse snitch is the only corroborating information in this case. There were three people involved and two of them are unknown. The Innocence Project is looking in to this case, but the PRB cannot retry the case. They have to assume he is guilty. It is a troubling case.

Member Shelton noted that Inmate Chancy's stories keep changing. He can't imagine an innocent person going back and forth like that.

Member Blackman-Donovan stated that Inmate Chancy has not embraced what he did. He needs to show remorse.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney stated that Inmate Chancy does have previous convictions in 1976 and 1978 and reviewed their written letter.

The petitioner's attorney stated that he has always expressed sympathy and remorse. He has been working for four years and there is still no evidence to prove innocence. Mr. Chancy has never named is co-offenders because he doesn't know who they are. There were fingerprints lifted at the scene but they did not match Mr. Chancy.

Monreal: In conclusion, based on the aforementioned interview of inmate Harrison Chancy , a review of the facts and circumstances surrounding the offense which led to his conviction, his criminal history, a complete analysis of his case file including; his institutional adjustment, his denial of participation in this murder/armed robbery, his family history, his accomplishment within the institution and his parole plans, Chairman Monreal is of the opinion that to parole inmate Harrison Chancy would not only deprecate the seriousness of his offense but would promote disrespect for the law.

I therefore move that the parole request of Harrison Chancy C-90899, be denied. (ADM – ABD). Voting in favor of the motion were Members Blackman-Donovan, Bowers, Norton, Parrack, Shelton, Simmons and Chairman Monreal. Members Crigler, Diaz, Findley, Johnson, Madison and Tyler dissented.

Parole is denied.

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

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board  
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET  
OPEN SESSION March 28, 2013**

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

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on March 28, 2013, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, T. Johnson, J. Madison, W. Norton, J. Parrack, D. Shelton, W. Simons and G. Tyler.

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

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

Inmate Richard Baske was interviewed for parole consideration on January 2, 2013 at Dixon Correctional Center. Present at the hearing was Member Simmons and Mr. Baske. He is currently serving 300 years for the offense of Murder.

Inmate Baske stated that on March 23, 1974, after four to five days of drinking, he went to 2251 W. 72nd Street in Chicago Illinois, which was the residence of Ms. Loretta Hoppe, an 84 year old widow. Baske stated he went into the house to rob Ms. Hoppe, not thinking anyone was in the house.

While searching through the house, a woman came up behind him. Baske stated that he had a knife in his hand and he began to stab the woman. He does not know how many times he stabbed her. He was told it was about 30 times.

I asked Baske if he knew Ms. Hoppe, he replied "yes she was a neighbor of mine." Inmate Baske stated he panicked, and set the house on fire to cover up the crime. He further stated that he did not know if Ms. Hoppe was dead or alive, and he went home.

During the investigation of the murder of Ms. Hoppe, the Chicago Police department came to inmate Baske's house and asked him if he knew Ms. Hoppe. While questioning inmate Baske, the officers smelled smoke on his jacket, and asked Baske where was he earlier in the day. Baske replied he was at the Hoppe house and he admitted that he killed Ms. Hoppe and set the house on fire.

If paroled, inmate Baske stated that he would like to go to St. Leonard's House, though he has not applied. Alternatively he could live with his sister in Marionette Park, Illinois. His current max out date is in 2118. Member Simmons indicated that he was not able



to verify all of the degrees Inmate Baske claims he has earned. Inmate Baske expressed remorse. He has had no prior votes in favor of parole.

Inmate Baske's institutional adjustment has been good. He did not admit his culpability to Member Parrack last year, though he did admit his guilt to Member Simmons this year.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney reviewed Inmate Baske's prior criminal history. She further noted that this is the first time Inmate Baske has taken responsibility for his actions. He has told several different versions in the past.

Simmons: To grant parole at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law. Motion to deny parole. (WS – CF). Motion carries 13-0.

Motion for a three year set. (WS – TJ). Voting in favor of the motion were Members Simmons, Johnson, Norton and Chairman Monreal. Dissenting were Members Blackman-Donovan, Bowers, Crigler, Diaz, Findley, Madison, Parrack, Shelton and Tyler. Motion does NOT carry 4-9.

Parole is denied.

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

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board  
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET  
OPEN SESSION March 28, 2013**

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

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on March 28, 2013, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, T. Johnson, J. Madison, W. Norton, J. Parrack, D. Shelton, W. Simons and G. Tyler.

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

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

Inmate Michael Baptist was interviewed for parole consideration on February 27, 2013 at Western Illinois Correctional Center. Present for the interview was Inmate Baptist and Member E. Bowers.

Inmate Baptist is a 57 year old African American male serving a sentence of 180 to 200 years for each of the two counts of murder and 50 to 100 years for attempt murder, the sentences to run consecutively. He entered IDOC in 1975. He is A grade and Low Escape risk. He has been at Western C.C. since 2007. His Max Projected Date is November 11, 2216.

Prior votes: 2012 Reynolds, Simmons, Madison, Crigler, and Tyler. He had no votes prior to his 2012 En Banc.

There is a protest on file from Cook County State's Attorney's Office.

According to Inmate Baptist's account to M. Bowers, he and John Perkins Jr. went to Wayne Lindsey's apartment. Inmate Baptist stated the victims were in Lindsey's apartment when Baptist was first there. Inmate Baptist stated Wayne Lindsey was a relative and lived in the same apt building as Baptist's mom. Inmate Baptist stated there was not much happening at Lindsey's party, so Baptist and Perkins left. Baptist stated he and Perkins were gone for about 20 to 30 minutes. He said when they returned and approached the front of the apartment building they heard people talking alongside the building. Baptist stated he looked alongside the building and observed Wayne Lindsey and Lenox Lawrence. He also saw Leo Carter and two others. Inmate Baptist stated he heard Lindsey say to Carter, "Who told on my cousin, Elijah Baptist?" Inmate Baptist stated he could see Lindsey and Lawrence both holding guns. He said he then saw Lindsey and Lawrence shoot Carter and the other two men. Inmate Baptist

said he and Perkins ran, Perkins going down the street and Baptist going into the apartment building. Inmate Baptist admitted to being present when the shootings occurred, but denied having any involvement in the shootings. He denied involvement in any conspiracy to commit the crimes.

The Official Statement of Facts points to Inmate Baptist's brother Elijah, being charged for a separate homicide. Two of the three victims in Inmate Baptist's case were witnesses in the brother Elijah's homicide case, and were slated to testify in Elijah's murder trial. According to the case facts, the victim's in Michael Baptist's case were invited to Wayne Lindsey's apartment for a party. Victim's Leo Carter, Leslie Scott and Henry Carter came to Lindsey's apartment. Case facts state Inmate Baptist was involved in inviting the victims to the party and that at the command of Inmate Baptist, Lawrence and Lindsey drew guns and ordered the victims outside. Once outside the victims were questioned about who "tricked on Elijah." When the victims claimed they did not know, case facts state at the command of Inmate Baptist, Lindsey and Lawrence shot each of the three victims in the head. One victim, Leo Carter, was able to survive two gunshot wounds, one in the head and one in the back. That surviving victim was able to identify the shooters and one pistol was recovered.

In his 2012 hearing Inmate Baptist stated to the Board Member he had gone to the party at Lindsey's apartment but returned to his mother's apartment located in the same building and was in his mother's apartment when he heard the shots fired. According to the information provided at the 2012 hearing, Inmate Baptist claimed his mother and his son's mother saw him in his mom's apartment at the time the shooting occurred. His statement in his January 2012 Board meeting is in direct contradiction to his statement to Mr. Bowers in his recent hearing, in which he admits to being present outside the apartment building and seeing Lindsey and Lawrence holding guns on the three victims and shooting the victims. He said Lindsey fired first, and then Lawrence fired.

Although Inmate Baptist has debated the Statement of Facts as set forth as being inaccurate, his conviction has been upheld. He has filed five pro se post conviction petitions and in all five situations the petitions were demised and/or denied. All appeals to the Appellate Court resulted in the Court affirming the conviction and sentencing.

Inmate Baptist has a GED and several college credits, but no degrees. He has certificates in construction and HVAC. He currently is working as a porter in laundry. His last ticket was in 2007 for refusing housing. He received one month C grade and 15 days seg. He has had a relatively otherwise good adjustment, receiving a total of 22 IDRs and none since the 2007 ticket. He said he did not get along with his cell mate, which resulted in him refusing housing in the 2007 IDR issue. He states he stays focused by studying scriptures, reading and doing his job as a porter. He has not received any visitors since 2001. He maintains contact with family via mail or phone. His prior arrests/convictions include an August 1972 U UW, No State ID and Ineligible to Reg -1973 Auto theft and Violation of Probation with 60 days jail---1973 Burglary SOL 1973 Att. Theft 6 mos---and.---1975 Arm Robbery and Agg Battery SOL.

If paroled, Inmate Baptist stated he would reside at St. Leonard's. However, when asked he stated he has not been accepted at St. Leonard's, but has an application which he needs to fill out and submit. He said a Mr. Brownie McGee has offered him a job at his shoe parlor, but there is nothing in the file to support that offer. He said he would like to continue with his education.

Over the past twelve months, Inmate Baptist has presented two different accounts of the events for which he was subsequently convicted. He stated in his 2012 En Banc interview he was in his mother's apartment at the time the three victims were shot. During his 2013 En Banc interview, he stated he was outside and in fact witnessed the shootings. Although it is clear Inmate Baptist did not pull the trigger during the execution of the two witnesses and the attempt murder of the third victim, it should be clear that even today he fails to clearly describe his involvement in the events leading to the shootings. The seriousness of this crime, coupled with his changing accounts of his personal involvement, causes me to make the motion for parole be denied.

Discussion: Member Johnson stated that he is convinced Inmate Baptist was convicted on accountability and he was not the shooter. One of his co-defendants was found not guilty and another was found guilty. However, he has no parole plans.

Motion to deny parole. (EB – TJ). Voting in favor of the motion were Members Bowers, Blackman-Donovan, Findley, Johnson, Norton, Parrack, Shelton and Chairman Monreal. Dissenting were Members Crigler, Diaz, Madison, Simmons and Tyler. Motion carries 8-5.

Parole is denied.

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

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board  
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET  
OPEN SESSION March 28, 2013**

Inmate Name: **James Brimmer**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C61247**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on March 28, 2013, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, T. Johnson, J. Madison, W. Norton, J. Parrack, D. Shelton, W. Simons and G. Tyler.

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

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

Inmate James Brimmer, age 57, is incarcerated in the Pontiac Correctional Center, having been found guilty of Murder, Rape, and Attempt Murder in 1976 and sentenced to 100-200 years imprisonment for each crime, sentences to be served concurrently, for crimes committed in 1974. The inmate appealed his convictions and the Appellate Court of Illinois affirmed them in 1978.

This is the 20th time that Inmate Brimmer has appeared on a parole request for the instant offenses since December of 1985. In the last three hearings, in 2004-07-10, this inmate was given three-year sets. The PRB records indicate that in the past, he had consistently gotten no support of his parole application. For the current request, inmate Martin was interviewed by PRB member Jesse D. Madison at the Pontiac Correctional Center on February 18, 2013. No persons appeared in behalf of, nor in opposition to Brimmer's parole request at the hearing, however, in the file is a letter from Anita Alvarez, State's Attorney for Cook County, dated March 20, 2013, indicating strong opposition to the granting of parole to this inmate and requesting a five year set. There are also other current protest letters in the file. [Motion to go into Executive Session if necessary].

On November 25, 1974, Chicago police officers received a call of "girl shot" at 2132 West Crystal Street on the second floor. When they arrived, the officers saw 16 year-old Pamela Britt in the first floor lobby screaming "they killed my mother." The officers proceeded to the second floor, they saw that the apartment had been ransacked, and the lifeless body of 35-year-old Joyce Britt was in a seated position and leaning against the bunk bed and dresser. Mrs. Britt was dressed in a white nurse's uniform, but had on no under garments. The officers observed several gunshot wounds to the head and body of the Mrs. Britt. Her body was transported to St. Mary's Hospital where she was

pronounced dead upon arrival. Pamela Britt was also transported to the same hospital for treatment of numerous gunshot wounds.

Pamela Britt stated that she had traveled to the Chicago suburb of Oak Park to pick up her mother's paycheck earlier that morning. When she returned home, she knocked on her apartment door and co-offender Richardo Norals eventually opened the door. Pamela had known Norals for about 18 months, and referred to him as "Carl." When she entered, she noticed that the apartment appeared to be, in her words, "all messed up." At this point, her mother, Joyce Britt, came running out of the bedroom. She was naked and being pursued by inmate James Brimmer, known to Pamela as "James," and a 3rd assailant. Brimmer was brandishing a pistol. The 3rd offender made Pamela remove her coat and forced her into the bedroom. There she struggled with him while he began beating and choking her. She finally relented after her mother admonished her to "do as they say." Pamela stated that Brimmer was in the bedroom as the 3rd assailant pushed her down on the bed and forcibly had intercourse with her. She did not remember how long, but stated that when the unidentified man finished, Brimmer raped her for about ten minutes.

According to Pamela, when Brimmer came into the bedroom, he had a gun, which they gave to the 3rd assailant as he was going out. When Brimmer finished and left the bedroom, co-offender Norals entered and handed his gun to Brimmer. Then Norals raped Pamela.

After being raped by all three men, Pamela was permitted to go to the bathroom. Her face was severely injured from the beating, so she splashed water on her face and returned to the living room to join her mother and the three assailants. When Norals asked if they had any money, Pamela informed him that all they had was her mother's check which she gave to him. With that, Norals went into the bedroom and ordered Joyce Britt to accompany him. As Pamela remained in the living room with the other two assailants, she heard several shots coming from the bedroom. As she tried to get up from a chair, the 3rd offender picked up a pillow and attempted to place it over her head. As Pamela struggled with the assailment, she was shot twice in the legs, and a third time in the neck. She fell to the floor and played dead. At this point, all three of the assailants fled. Pamela remained on the floor for about five minutes, and then looked into the bedroom where her mother lay dead. She began screaming and then ran to a neighbor who called the police.

Pamela was not only able to give the police the names to two of the perpetrators, but she also knew the area where they hung out. After their arrests, she was shown photographs of Norals and Brimmer, and identified them as the offenders. Norals was arrested on November 26, 1974 at his home and charged accordingly. Inmate Brimmer was arrested almost two months later, on January 3, 1975. The 3rd assailant remains at large. Brimmer elected to have a bench trial with his co-offender Norals. Both were found guilty of the murder of Joyce Britt, the attempt murder of Pamela Britt, and the rape of Pamela Britt. Having the inability to apply the death penalty, Judge Suria sentenced them both as previously stated.

During the interview, inmate Brimmer continued to emphasize that he did not kill Joyce Britt, and should not have received the same sentence as Norals. When I asked him why the Board should vote to parole him, he talked about the transition he has made over the years from a teenager when this and other crimes were committed, to a 57-year-old man who has all of his adult life in prison. When I asked him what preparations, if any, he had made for life outside of prison, should he be paroled, he said that he would transition to his grandmother's house in Chicago. He did not indicate any employment plans currently.

Inmate James Brimmer was born in Clarksdale, Mississippi on March 15, 1956. His father, J. W. Brimmer, and his mother, Betty Brimmer, are both deceased. James is the youngest of four children, one sister and two brothers, all of whom are deceased, according to him. The inmate moved to Chicago with his family in 1960. He attended John Mandrell and Faraday Elementary Schools, and Marshall High School, dropping out in the 11th grade in 1972. After that, he had a sporadic and erratic work history, mostly part-time, until his first arrest in May of 1973 at the age of seventeen, followed by two other arrests, the last of which was in 1975 for the instant offense. Inmate Brimmer is single, and he has no military background.

Inmate Martin was a youthful offender who engaged the criminal justice system as an early age. In May of 1973, he was arrested for disorderly conduct. In October of that same year, he was arrested and indicted for armed robbery, although no further disposition is available. He was also arrested for battery on January 2, 1975, the day before he was arrested for the instant offense.

Inmate Brimmer's incarceration for the instant offenses began on May 1, 1976, when he was admitted to Joliet R&C, and transferred to Pontiac Correctional Center on May 29, 1976, and then on to Stateville Correctional Center on March 29, 1979. During his 21-year stay at Stateville, he received a total of 207 disciplinary reports, 60 of which were major and 147 minor infractions. His tenure at Stateville was diplomatically described as "problematic." In October of 2000, he was transferred to Menard Correctional Center. During his almost 8-year stay at Menard, the inmate received three major disciplinary reports, the last of which was for possession of a homemade weapon which caused him to receive a disciplinary transfer in August of 2009 to Pontiac Correctional Center and, among other things, loss of Good Time. After being transferred, he requested and received Protective Custody. Inmate Brimmer remains at Pontiac to this day. Brimmer is currently maximum security, A-grade and low escape risk.

As stated earlier, if granted parole, inmate Brimmer has no concrete plans, except to live with his grandmother in Chicago. He claims to have developed skills in welding, tailoring and cooking, and would pursue employment in those areas.

Discussion: Member Blackman-Donovan noted the brutality of this crime. The victims were raped repetitively and shot.

Madison: I did not vote for inmate James Brimmer when his petition for parole was before this Board three years ago. As a matter of fact, he has never received any positive votes during his 19 previous petitions for parole. And I am not prepared at this time to recommend, nor vote for, parole for him this year. Even though his disciplinary record for the last thirteen years of incarceration has shown marked improvement over the previous 21 years, the period in which he received 207 disciplinary tickets, mostly at Stateville, I am still not convinced that this man is ready, nor do I believe that he deserves, to confront life in a free society at this time.

And so, Mr. Chairman, I am persuaded that to parole Inmate Brimmer would deprecate the seriousness of his offense, and promote disrespect for the law. Therefore, it is my motion that the parole petition of James Brimmer, C-61247, be denied. His projected maximum discharge date is 2068. (JM – ABD). Motion carries 13-0.

Board Member did not feel they would vote favorably for Inmate Brimmer in the next three years. Motion for a three-year set. (JM – EB). Motion carries 13-0.

Parole is denied for a three year set.

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



**Illinois Prisoner Review Board  
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET  
OPEN SESSION March 28, 2013**

Inmate Name: **Daniel VanSlike**

IDOC Number & Institution:**C68736**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on March 28, 2013, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, T. Johnson, J. Madison, W. Norton, J. Parrack, D. Shelton, W. Simons and G. Tyler.

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

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

Member Blackman-Donovan conducted a parole assessment interview with Daniel Vanskike on February 19, 2013, at the Big Muddy River Correctional Center. Present at the hearing was his wife, Celeste Vanskike, who offered supportive testimony for the inmate's release. During the interview testimony was taken from Mrs. Vanskike and the inmate. Their testimony, a review of the file, the offense, the inmate's institutional adjustment and parole plans have formed the basis for the Board's decision. Inmate Vanskike is currently 58 years old and was 21 at the time of the instant offense. Current MSR date is in 2036.

Offense facts indicate that the inmate in two separate series of events committed the offenses of aggravated kidnapping, burglary, aggravated battery, rape and deviate sexual assault. He forced his way into one victim's apartment and abducted the other on the street. These crimes occurred in Macon County between February and April of 1976. Upon conviction, the Court imposed an aggregate prison term of 80-135 years. Inmate Vanskike grabbed both victims off of the street and drove them to a secluded area where he beat them and deviate sexually assaulted them. The second victim was stabbed. He also admitted to raping six women in Texas when he was in the military there and those cases were not prosecuted. He went AWOL and was Court Marshalled and fired shots at the MPs. He was dishonorably discharged.

Motion to go in to Executive Session. (ABD – EB). Leave.

Motion to return to Open Session. (JP – ADM). Leave.

Mr. Vanskike has participated in the sex offender program at Big Muddy, obtained his GED and completed a construction technology program. He expressed remorse for his crimes. He works in the laundry room at Big Muddy.

If paroled, Mr. Vanskike indicated he would live in public housing with his wife who is a very religious woman who lives out of state.

The Board reviewed his case during an En Banc session. It was determined that parole would deprecate the seriousness of the offenses and promote disregard for the law. Motion to deny. (ABD – EB). Motion carries 13-0.

Board Members felt they would not vote favorably for Mr. Vanskike in the next three years. Motion for a three-year set. (ABD – EB). Motion carries 13-0.

Parole is denied for a three-year set.

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

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board  
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET  
OPEN SESSION March 28, 2013**

Inmate Name: **Rodney Gross** IDOC Number & Institution: **C71688**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on March 28, 2013, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, T. Johnson, J. Madison, W. Norton, J. Parrack, D. Shelton, W. Simons and G. Tyler.

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

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

Inmate Gross is 55 years old white male serving a 75 to 100 year sentence for a 1976 rape and Murder in Rock Island County. He has been A grade since 2009. He is assigned as a janitor in his housing unit wing. He has served 35 yrs in IDOC. His Projected Max date is December 13, 2018. He has no prior votes supporting parole. There is a protest letter on file from the city of Rock Island Police Chief.

Inmate Gross stated he knew his 21 yr old victim, Della Masengarb, through social gatherings and stated he had gone out with her once on a date. On the date of the incident, he stated he was drunk and using cocaine. He went to the victim's home, where she was living with her two children. Inmate Gross stated, "I raped her and then stabbed her to death." He maintained both of the children were in their bedroom in another part of the house when the rape and murder occurred, contrary to statements by the State that one of the two children was present in the room when the murder took place. Inmate Gross did not elaborate further.

A 2012 protest letter from the prosecuting attorney on the case also states the victim was stabbed 18 times during the assault and her neck was slashed resulting in her death. Two additional women testified, during the trial of Inmate Gross, to prior assaults by Inmate Gross, while they were in the bedrooms of their homes. Inmate Gross plead not guilty, but was convicted by a jury. All appeals have been exhausted.

Inmate Gross' last IDR was in December, 2008, and was a major ticket for contraband (cigarettes) and he received 13 days Seg and 15 days revoke GCC. From 2000 to 2008 he has received a total of seven major tickets. However, since 2008 Inmate Gross has remained ticket free. He has participated in almost two years of sex offender counseling. He has received certificates for Construction Occupations, Microsoft 2007,

Interviewing techniques and Resume building. He received his GED in April, 1975, and has 51 credit hours of course study through Carl Sandburg College.

Inmate Gross has no specific parole plans. He stated he has nowhere to go. He stated he would hope he could go to a Halfway House. He has no employment offers, but would try to seek employment in small engine repair or construction. He stated he believes he has family members that would possibly assist him financially.

Inmate Gross expressed remorse for what he did, stating he was ashamed of his actions but cannot change what happened. He said he tries to stay positive by taking educational classes and going to church. Although he has a less than stellar Institutional Adjustment, he has made improvement in that area over the past four years.

Taking everything into account, to include the seriousness of the crime, a moderate institutional adjustment and no parole plans I would make the motion that parole for Inmate Gross be denied. (EB – ABD). Motion carries 13-0.

Parole is denied.

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

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board  
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET  
OPEN SESSION March 28, 2013**

Inmate Name: **David Lott**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C56165**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on March 28, 2013, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, T. Johnson, J. Madison, W. Norton, J. Parrack, D. Shelton, W. Simons and G. Tyler.

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

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

David Lott was interviewed for parole consideration on January 30, 2013, at the Pinckneyville Correctional Center, Segregation Unit. Factors considered by the board include, but are not limited to, testimony of the inmate, a review of the file, parole plans, institutional adjustment and the nature and sentence for the offense.

Offense facts reveal that Mr. Lott and a co-defendant shot and killed two men outside an East St. Louis tavern following a financial dispute. Lott admits to the offense and indicated he was remorseful. He also has an aggravated battery charge from 1980 in Pontiac Correctional Center, for which he was sentenced to 4 years IDOC. Inmate Lott believes his sentences should be concurrent, not consecutive. His current MSR date is in 2275.

His institutional adjustment has been poor. He was in the segregation unit at the time of the interview, and he has received 6 IDRs since the last Parole hearing, including fighting. His parole plan is to live with his sister in Centreville, Illinois. He has lived in the Segregation Unit most of the time. He indicated he likes being in Seg because he gets his own room and doesn't have to work. He received four years for an aggravated battery charge while at Pontiac. He said he feels bad for what he did but he has lost all hope. He said he doesn't believe he will ever be paroled. He indicated he likes prison because he gets three meals a day, a warm room and doesn't have to work.

Motion to deny parole in that parole would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law. (ABD – WS). Motion carries 13-0.

Board Members also felt they would not vote favorably in the next three years. Motion for a three-year set. (ABD – TJ). Motion carries 13-0.

Parole is denied for a three-year set.

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

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board  
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET  
OPEN SESSION March 28, 2013**

Inmate Name: **Leon Bolton**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C01871**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E Madison, Springfield, IL, on March 28, 2013, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, C. Findley, T. Johnson, J. Madison, W. Norton, J. Parrack, D. Shelton, W. Simons and G. Tyler.

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

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

A parole consideration interview was held on February 27, 2013 at Western Illinois Correctional Center. Present was Inmate Leon Bolton, Priscilla Bolton (sister), Isenrae Lockett (niece), and Member S. Diaz.

Leon Bolton is serving an indeterminate sentence of 90-150 years for murder which occurred in 1971. The conviction was reversed on appeal and Mr. Bolton was awarded a new trial. In 1974 the jury again returned a guilty verdict and Mr. Bolton was again sentenced to 90-150yrs.

Mr. Bolton has been incarcerated for 39 years, 42 years if counting the three years prior to the second trial. This is his 29th time before the PRB for parole consideration. The Projected Discharge Date is 1-20-2040 and has never received a favorable vote.

On the evening of 15 December 1970, 18 year old Leon Bolton with friends Charles Marshall, Leo Collins, and Tommy Watkins went to the home of Mrs. Bernice Vanzant in a rural section of Pembroke, Illinois (approx. 70 miles south of Chicago, a few miles east of Kankakee). All four subjects entered the home, engaged the victim in conversation, and forced her into a bedroom where she was sexually assaulted. After the sexual attack, the victim was tied up, gagged, blindfolded, and led across a field into a wooded area adjacent to her home. In the wooded area, Leon Bolton and his companions proceeded to shoot Mrs. Vanzant six times (five times with a .38 cal. revolver and once with a .22 cal. Rifle). An autopsy later revealed that the victim had been shot twice in the back, twice in the head, and twice in the hip. The body was left in the woods. Returning to the victim's home, the group proceeded to take her food stamps from her purse. The body of the victim was discovered by members of her family five days later on 20 December 1970. Bolton was arrested eleven days later on 31 December 1970.

During the interview, Leon Bolton was open and forth-coming while relating his version of the subject offense; his version did not differ far from the statement of facts.

In essence and not verbatim:

Leon Bolton related that he was acquainted with the victim and her husband through his friend Charles Marshall.

Q: For what reason did you and your friends go the Vanzant home?

A: "To rob, steal, and do mayhem".

Q: Were there children in the home?

A: I believe so, her children were in a bedroom, they came out as we were leaving.

Q: Were you concerned that the children might identify you?

A: No, they were little, couldn't have identified him.

Q: For what reason did you 'all relocate the victim to the woods?

A: Shot the woman in the field because we didn't want any witnesses.

Q: Who did the shooting?

A: Mr. Bolton admits to having the .38 and to having fired it.

Q: What did you 'all take?

A: Food stamps and not sure if we took some jewelry. Cashed in the food stamps the next day.

Q: What did you do afterwards?

A: Drove around, was arrested in Chicago about two weeks later.

Of note: One day after the subject offense while still in the community of Pembroke, the inmate and his friends/co-defendants robbed a bread truck driver and shot him in the head. The victim survived, the bullet was removed, compared to and matched ballistically to the same gun which had been used to kill Bernice Vanzant. This case was not charged to the inmate.

Inmate Bolton has been housed at Western CC for six years. He has had no sexual offender programming. He is presently "A" grade, low escape risk classification. He has received one minor IDR in 2009 while at Western CC, has evidenced a progressive history of adjustment. His early 13 year stay at Stateville reflected a difficult disciplinary time with numerous infractions which resulted in over eleven months loss of good time. In 1989 he received a two year conviction for possession of cannabis in a penal institution. The 2009 counselor's report points out that in 2002 the inmate was designated a sexual predator for an alleged sexual assault on another inmate. With regard to a job he is currently unassigned. Has been previously assigned as an Assistant to the Assistant Warden of Operations, Unit Janitor and Housing Unit Laundry Man. Mr. Bolton has earned his GED, an Associate of Arts in Applied Science in Const. Technology, and several Certificates. He reports a good relationship w/ staff and other inmates. Staff has described him as a model inmate and excellent worker who takes his job seriously.



Health issues: Inmate Bolton has diabetes, takes meds for hypertension, chronic back pain and for an irregular heartbeat.

Mr. Bolton relates that he prays every day for forgiveness, believes he is a different person now than at age 18; would like the Board to know that he is not the person today that committed the crime in 1971, that he has grown older, believes very much in education and can contribute to the community if considered for parole.

If paroled, Mr. Bolton's plan is to live with his sister Priscilla Bolton in the city of Kankakee. She believes she can provide a supportive home environment and assist her brother obtain employment. He believes he can work in the construction field and apply his Construction Tech. degree.

Letters of Support and/or Opposition: there are no current letters for or against Mr. Bolton in the PRB file.

The inmate was never convicted of the sexual assault of Bernice Vanzant? I found no explanation of the sexual predator offense in 2002. No sexual offender programming was effected.

Recommendation: I had to weigh the positives w/ the negatives  
The inmate is to be commended for turning away from his early institutional years which were simply negative. That he has been able to maintain a relatively good to excellent adjustment while gaining the staff's support is a major rehabilitation bench mark. I found him calm, accepting of his deadly offense, anxious to share his remorse, and displayed appropriately genuine warmth toward his sister and niece during the interview.

The quality of the offense was in essence an execution, a brutal and senseless crime. Isolated in a rural community, with her husband serving in Vietnam, her children in another bedroom, this victim was more than just murder a victim, she was raped, terrorized while bound and gagged, and left in a wooded area for five days until discovered by family members.

The parole plan to live in Kankakee is a detriment. That the crime took place a few miles west is simply too close to the offense. If parole was to be recommended it would have to include a parole plan geographically far removed from the Pembroke area, with a restriction to never being able to come close again.

Motion to deny parole. (SD – EB) Motion carries 13-0.

Parole is denied.

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

