



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

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION—March 28, 2019

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at the Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Room 403/404, Springfield, Illinois, on March 28, 2019, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

C82838	LEE JONES	L01404	EDDIE PITTS
C83534	CURTIS BROWNELL	L11109	PAUL BRYANT
C62434	FREDDIE MARTIN	C63078	ERNIE SLAUGHTER
C68879	JAMES TAYLOR	C86185	JOSEPH CUNNINGHAM
C82430	SALIK ABDULLAH	C57883	JAMES BAKER

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>
Ms. Edith Crigler	X	
Ms. Lisa Daniels	X	
Mr. Salvador Diaz	X	
Mr. Donald Wayne Dunn	X	
Mr. Pete Fisher	X	
Ms. Vonetta Harris		X
Ms. Virginia Martinez	X	
Mrs. Aurthur Mae Perkins	X	
Mr. Joseph Ruggiero	X	
Mr. Donald Shelton	X	
Mr. Ken Tupy	X	
Chairman Craig Findley	X	

11 Members Present

The Recording Secretary presented the February 28, 2019, Open Session Minutes for approval.

Motion to approve Open Session Minutes from **February 28, 2019**. (DWD—DS). Leave.



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

Prior to the presentation of specific cases, Chairman Findley advised that the Board would go into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing confidential victim statements on all cases to be heard that day.

Motion to go into Closed Session (CF-PF). Leave.

Motion to return to Open Session (CF-DS). Leave.

The Board heard and voted upon the scheduled cases as detailed in the individual case minutes.

Meeting was adjourned (CF—DS). Leave.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
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Inmate Name: **LEE JONES** IDOC Number: **C82838**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Room 403/404, Springfield, Illinois, on March 28, 2019, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Lee Jones C82838.

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

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Ms. Martinez presented the following summary of the parole consideration interview and review of Mr. Jones's file:

A parole consideration interview was conducted with Lee Jones C82838 on February 13, 2019. Mr. Jones was born on May 3, 1944, is currently 74 years of age, and was a resident of Dixon Correctional Center on the date of the interview. Mr. Jones is serving a sentence of 50-100 years for the offense of Attempted Murder and a sentence of 50-100 years for Aggravated Battery.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On October 14, 1977, Mr. Jones was driving northbound on LaSalle Street in Chicago when he nearly collided with an unmarked car. In that car were three plainclothes Chicago Police officers and two women who had just been arrested for prostitution. The unmarked car pulled alongside his vehicle and Mr. Jones yelled, "You almost hit me." The driver of the unmarked car, Officer Eddie Jackson, responded, "I did not". Someone in the unmarked police vehicle shouted, "What are you going to do about it?" (Mr. Jones said it was one of the men in the back of the car). Mr. Jones produced a gun and fired a single shot which wounded Officer Jackson in the head. Mr. Jones fled the scene and was apprehended about 20 minutes later. Mr. Jones states that he did not know the men in the car were police officers and no one identified themselves as officers. He claims the weapon discharged accidentally.

Officer Jackson was 58 years old at the time. He suffered massive injuries, requiring several brain operations. He suffered total paralysis to his right side, was confined to a wheelchair, had difficulty with vision in his right eye, and lost his ability to speak clearly. He has since passed away.



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

Mr. Jones was tried by a jury and found guilty of Attempted Murder and Aggravated Battery on June 29, 1978. He elected to be sentenced under the indeterminate sentencing laws. He filed a number of post-conviction petitions and appeals, including to the United States and Illinois Supreme Courts. The most recent denial was in 2016; the issue in that case revolved around whether the trial court is required to disclose the actual sentence to be imposed for an intelligent election to be made between sentencing codes. No further appeals are pending.

Mr. Jones has unsuccessfully petitioned three times for Executive Clemency: in 1984, 1990, and 1993.

In 1988, Mr. Jones escaped from prison and was captured three weeks later.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

On September 20, 1965, Mr. Jones was convicted of Battery and Resisting Arrest and received a sentence of 2 years of probation. On May 25, 1970, he was convicted of Armed Robbery (three indictments) and was sentenced to 2-3 years. On April 19, 1972, he was convicted of Bank Robbery in Sandstone, Minnesota, and was sentenced to 6 years, 1 month, and 2 days. He was conditionally released, subsequently arrested seven times for offenses that included Unlawful Use of a Weapon, found guilty of Contempt of Court, and sentenced to 3 days in the House of Corrections.

In the 1988 escape, Mr. Jones walked off the prison farm. He was convicted and sentenced to an additional 5 and 1/2 years in prison, consecutive to original sentence.

MR. JONES'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

Ms. Martinez met with Mr. Jones, along with his attorney, Nikki Donnelly, of Cabrini Green Legal Aid (on behalf of John Howard Association). Mr. Jones was cooperative, spoke clearly, and was responsive to questioning. He expressed sorrow for his actions that day in 1977. He stated that he did not know the victim was a police officer. According to Mr. Jones, the other car ran a stop sign and almost hit his car. He said he pulled the gun out during the verbal altercation and upon seeing several men in the car. He stated that the gun went off accidentally.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Jones is currently in A grade with Low Escape Risk status, Medium Security. He has been at Dixon since 2013. He has an excellent institutional record, based on only having had one major ticket since 1998. Mr. Jones stated that he thought that had been expunged because it involved having a radio which he proved had been approved and was not contraband. His overall assessment is positive, and he is currently assigned to therapeutic services, cleaning the offices of medical staff. This position, along with others he has held, gives him access to confidential



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

information and even personal belongings of prison staff. He has received certificates in Job Management, Job Appearance, Computer Skills, Communications, and Phone Communications.

Mr. Jones is a mentor to other inmates, as evidenced in letters of support from several inmates. These letters indicate that Mr. Jones is respected and a positive presence, helping them make good decisions.

Mr. Jones stated he is not the same person he was at the time of the offense, that he believes he is rehabilitated. Mr. Jones suggested that his actions in life show his spiritual strength, and he is living by the law of “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” He credits much of his spiritual growth to his introduction and continued participation in the Moorish Science Temple. He takes full responsibility for his actions, and he believes his jobs over the last 42 years, as adjustment committee clerk, clinical service clerk, kitchen worker, and unsupervised technician speak to his character. These jobs require trust, with sensitive information and access to the correctional officers’ food. He is still working, though he does have high blood pressure and cholesterol and prostate problems, for which he is taking medications. If paroled, he intends to continue working and has resources to assist in his pursuit of employment. He is in contact with his sister, but he does not know where his son and daughter are at this time.

A psychological evaluation from 2009 states that Mr. Jones has no history of violence against staff or other inmates, and concludes that there is a low risk for any future criminal behavior and specifically a low risk for future violence. Mr. Jones’s last SPIN Assessment was in 2017. It shows full risk as high, based on the crime, and his protective factors are moderate.

PAROLE PLANS

If paroled, Mr. Jones has been accepted by St. Leonard’s House for their residential and reentry programs; St. Leonard’s has an excellent track record with former C number individuals. Additionally, he has received letters of support from Jane Addams Resource Corporation, for enrollment in their Careers in Manufacturing Programs, and Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN), for their transitional housing program. IMAN indicated that Mr. Jones would qualify to work as a House Manager at the residential facility as well as qualify for wrap-around services, behavioral mental health counseling, and medical care. He has also been accepted into their transitional housing program at Bridge to Freedom, along with mentorship and discipleship training, life skills training, job readiness, and access to all basic needs. His attorneys, Cabrini Green Legal Aid, also offer the support of their social work team to assist Mr. Jones in his return to the community.

Ms. Martinez noted that Cabrini Green Legal Aid points to data which indicates that Mr. Jones has already served more time than individuals convicted of Murder, though he was



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

convicted of Attempted Murder and Aggravated Battery. They also noted the very low recidivism rate for “C-number” offenders and for offenders of comparable age to Mr. Jones.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

There is, and has always been, very strong and consistent opposition to parole from the Cook County State’s Attorney Office and Chicago Police Superintendent Johnson. Additionally, letters of protest have been received from the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation and the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police. The requests to deny parole are made on behalf of Officer Eddie Lee Jackson’s family and his extended police family.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Martinez indicated that she believes that Mr. Jones is remorseful and understands that his violent reaction was totally unwarranted and inexcusable. Ms. Martinez noted that Mr. Jones himself states that he reacted the way he did because he had been on the street since the age of 15. Ms. Martinez observed that even though he states that the weapon went off accidentally, he takes full responsibility for everything that happened as the result of his decision to pick it up.

Mr. Jones’s attorney, Nikki Donnelly, was introduced. Ms. Donnelly advised the Board that, if paroled, Mr. Jones intends to keep working and has been accepted to St. Leonard’s House. Ms. Donnelly also stated that the officer who was the victim in the case was in plain clothes at the time of the crime.

Cook County Assistant State’s Attorney Sara Whitecotton spoke about the weapon used, which was a .357 Magnum caliber Colt Python with armor-piercing bullets. ASA Whitecotton argued that the accidental shooting defense lacks credibility, given the type of weapon and bullets in Mr. Jones’s possession.

Chairman Findley reiterated that the Mr. Jones has claimed that the Colt was accidentally discharged.

Ms. Donnelly advised the Board that she is committed to help Mr. Jones after parole in any way possible.

A representative of the Chicago Police Department spoke in protest of parole. He stated that Officer Jackson was shot in the head, but managed to survive the attack. The representative noted that Officer Jackson lived from 1977-2003 with physical ailments as a direct result of the shooting. The representative advised that the Chicago Police Department believes that Mr. Jones should serve his full sentence and not receive parole, noting that Mr. Jones was sentenced to Natural Life.



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

Ms. Daniels stated that she feels as though Mr. Jones's progress over the past 40 years has been good, and that the Board really should consider the life that he has remaining.

Mr. Shelton observed that due to the lengthy trigger pull on the Colt revolver, an accidental firing is unlikely.

Ms. Crigler pointed out that Mr. Jones didn't know these were police officers, as opposed to offenses where police officers were shot while in uniform and easily identifiable. Ms. Crigler further noted that although the loss of a life is a tragedy, nothing can be done at this point for the officer who lost his life in the case.

Ms. Martinez advised that she believes that the trust that both inmates and the Department of Corrections staff have in Mr. Jones has meant a great deal to him and is a part of creating the change from a life of crime to a life committed to work and spiritual growth. Ms. Martinez noted that, as his petition states, Mr. Jones now deescalates any situation that arises rather than reacting defensively. Ms. Martinez stated that she does not believe Mr. Jones is a threat to public safety and that paroling Mr. Jones would not deprecate the seriousness of the offense nor would it promote disrespect for the law.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to grant parole (VM—LD). Motion fails by a vote of 5–6. Members voting in favor of the motion were Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Martinez, and Mrs. Perkins. Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, and Chairman Findley dissented.

Motion for a 3-year set (LD—JR). Motion fails by a vote of 3-8. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Diaz, Mr. Ruggiero, and Mr. Tupy. Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Shelton, and Chairman Findley dissented.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Jones's case, the Board voted to deny parole. The Board feels that a release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of his offense 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."



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

***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—March 28, 2019

Inmate Name: **CURTIS BROWNELL** IDOC Number: **C83534**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Room 403/404, Springfield, Illinois, on March 28, 2019, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Curtis Brownell C83534.

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

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Ms. Martinez presented the following summary of the parole consideration interview and review of Mr. Brownell's file:

A parole consideration interview was conducted with Curtis Brownell C83534 on February 13, 2019, at Dixon Correctional Center. Mr. Brownell, now 64 years of age, was convicted of Aggravated Kidnapping (30-90 years), Murder (100-300 years), Rape (30-90 years), Rape (50-150 years), Aggravated Kidnapping (50-150 years), Armed Robbery (50-150 years), and Attempted Murder (200-600) years. These convictions occurred across two different counties in Illinois.

STATEMENT OF THE FACTS

Based on his written confession, on or about September 27, 1977, Mr. Brownell kidnapped and raped 17-year-old Louise Betts. He drove her to an isolated rural area, put a knife to her throat, and raped her. He then strangled her. His confession notes that it was taking a long time for her to die, so he stood on her. He heard a faint pulse and left her to die in a cornfield. These offenses occurred in Boone County, Illinois. Her body was not discovered for months, until after the next offense.

In Winnebago County, Illinois, on January 31, 1978, Mr. Brownell observed Kathy Brickey in a laundromat and came in with the ruse of looking for towels that had been left there earlier. He struck Ms. Brickey on the back of the head, put a (toy) gun to her side, and forced her into his car. He asked her a bunch of questions, which she refused to answer, put the gun to her head, and told her he would blow her head off. She asked him not to hurt her, because she was seven months pregnant. He drove out to the country and told her he wanted to make love to her, stating that if she let him, he would take her back to the laundromat. She refused at first, but he



STATE OF ILLINOIS

JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR

PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Craig Findley, Chairman

told her he would kill her. She then stopped resisting, and when he finished raping her, he put the gun to her head and told her to get out of the car. She asked him to take her back to the laundromat, but instead he hit her several times. She was knocked to the ground and pretended to be unconscious. He kicked her several times and then got in the car, backed up, and drove over her body. Because it had snowed, and because he had driven over the lower part of her body, there were no broken bones. He backed up again, and she got up and ran across the road, over a mound of snow and through the fields, eventually finding a house. The residents of the house helped her call the police.

Originally, Mr. Brownell was given a sentence of Death for his crimes. His sentence was later changed to the sentences previously noted, totaling 200-600 years.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Brownell had a Disorderly Conduct conviction in 1974, for which he paid a \$10 fine plus costs, and a Disorderly Conduct conviction in 1977, for which he received a 1 year of probation with the condition of mental health treatment. He admitted that he had a history of deviant sexual behavior, including making obscene phone calls and picking up hitchhikers with fantasies of raping them.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Brownell has had a good institutional record. He has had two major tickets since 1998. One was for Possession of Contraband and a Theft involving a candy bar; the other was for Unauthorized Movement, which Mr. Brownell said occurred when he returned to Dixon from Graham. He indicated that the process had changed while he was gone, and he was unaware of new rules. Mr. Brownell has been awarded an Associate of Arts degree from Belleville College (1990), Associate in Applied Science from Carl Sandburg (1989), Bachelor of General Studies from Roosevelt University (1992), a certificate in Food Service from Lake Land College (2005), and certificate in Custodial Maintenance from Lake Land College (2008). He has also completed Lifestyle Redirection and has attended Re-Entry Summits.

A 1978 psychological report indicated that Mr. Brownell is estimated to be of average or perhaps slightly above average intelligence with an impression of being a schizoid personality with paranoid features. He was considered extremely dangerous to women. There was also an indication of strong underlying feelings of hostility which are closely tied to sexual expression. He was additionally found to be suffering from depression at that time. A 1979 report describes him as exhibiting passive-aggressive and schizoid features and as having poorly-developed peer associations; he is also noted in that report as having a long-standing history of aberrant sexual activities, for which guilt feelings appeared to be minimal.



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

A mental health evaluation was done in 2005 at the request of the Board. The request from the Board was to determine the potential for violence or dangerousness in the community. The response indicated that it was impossible to provide an absolute opinion, since Mr. Brownell had been in prison for half of his life. He had not, up to that point, participated in sex offender treatment. The general impression given was a life of dedication to his self-involvement, with consistent denial of responsibility for his acts in the past. The conclusion was that his potential for violence in an unstructured environment was high.

In 2006, Mr. Brownell was transferred to Graham Correctional Center for sex offender treatment, which he completed. He states that while he was there, he worked as a therapist assistant. As part of his treatment he wrote a Personal Maintenance Contract and there is a listing of the modules completed and test scores for the various units.

MR. BROWNELL'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

Mr. Brownell began by expressing his deepest apology and sorrow for what he did. He states that he had had fantasies of having sex with girls who were hitchhiking. He had low self-esteem and was angry at women for not wanting him, although he was married at the time. He says he is still trying to find reasons for why he did what he did. He described his first acts involving victims as having occurred while he was in the Air Force; in that instance, he picked up two hitchhikers. While there was no rape, he did abuse one of them. In 1974, he attempted to pick up a woman and she turned out to be a police officer. In 1977, he picked up a young hitchhiker, who pulled a knife on him and got out of the car. Mr. Brownell additionally stated that his older brother introduced him to masturbation and performed various sex acts on him between age eight and ten.

Mr. Brownell also related an incident with a three-year-old girl. At the time, he had the practice of masturbating while making obscene calls. He couldn't get anyone on the phone, so he woke up the girl, undressed her, and masturbated while looking at her.

He said he went to the Sex Offender Program at Graham and learned skills to deal with his fantasies. He said he is eager to start over again after his very terrible crimes. When asked about any recent psychological evaluations, he said he thought he had one in 2010, but would welcome another evaluation.

He is currently unassigned due to spinal stenosis. His indicated that his back hurts too much to work.

PAROLE PLAN

If granted parole, Mr. Brownell plans to live with his sister in California. She has written a letter of support and she works for the California Department of Corrections. When asked about compliance with a probable bar to computer access, Mr. Brownell said he would speak



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

with his sister about it. He has also applied for Interstate Compact with California. He advised that he would apply for Social Security Disability, due to his back problems.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

There has always been, and continues to be, very strong opposition to parole including from the State's Attorneys for Winnebago and Boone Counties.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Martinez provided her conclusions regarding Mr. Brownell's case, indicating that although he has had a good institutional record, received a number of academic achievements, and attended the Sex Offender Program, there is concern due to the lack of evaluation of the impact of that program. His personal contract written during his participation in the program goes through steps outlined in the modules presented in the program, but there is nothing to show it was anything more than an academic exercise for him. Ms. Martinez noted that Mr. Brownell's crimes were committed after consuming alcohol, and that he will have access to alcohol, as well as disappointments and rejection. Ms. Martinez stated that she was not convinced that Mr. Brownell will not return to his aberrant behavior when faced with the realities of life and without the structure of the institution.

Boone County State's Attorney Tricia Smith and Winnebago County State's Attorney Marilyn Hite Ross were both in attendance at the hearing. The official Statement of Facts were read by the State's Attorneys, who both indicated that they were opposed to any grant of parole release to Mr. Brownell.

Ms. Martinez stated that Mr. Brownell has been eligible for parole since 1987, but that he has never received a vote in favor of release from any Board Members. Ms. Martinez noted that Mr. Brownell is considered extremely dangerous to women. She informed the Board that, as Mr. Brownell's last psychological evaluation was in 2005, she would request a new evaluation for the Board if he is not paroled.

Assistant Attorney General Derek Smith requested a 90-day stay of release if parole were to be granted, for the purpose of having Mr. Brownell evaluated for possible commitment as a Sexually Violent Person.

Ms. Martinez noted that she believes Mr. Brownell could still pose a threat to the public. She noted that he has not had access to alcohol which played a role in his criminal sexual actions. She also stated that while he has learned skills to deal with his fantasies, he has not been tested and he has not had real life situations presented to him. Ms. Martinez advised that she does not support parole at this time, and requested that a psychiatric report be completed prior to the Board granting parole.



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

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (VM—AMP). Motion passes by a vote of 11–0.

Motion for a 3-year set (VM—DS). Motion passes by a vote of 11-0.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Brownell’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. Brownell would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole, and that his release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of his 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.”



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

***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—March 28, 2019

Inmate Name: **FREDDIE MARTIN** IDOC Number: **C62434**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Room 403/404, Springfield, Illinois, on March 28, 2019, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Freddie Martin C62434.

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

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

DISCUSSION

Mrs. Perkins presented the following summary of the parole consideration interview and review of Freddie Martin's file:

A parole consideration interview was conducted with Freddie Martin C62434 on February 5, 2019, at Illinois River Correctional Center. Mr. Martin, now 70 years of age, was convicted of Murder (150-450) years, Armed Robbery (20-60) years, Burglary (3-9) years, and Theft (1-4) years. All sentences are to be served concurrently. Mr. Martin is coming off of a 5-year set.

STATEMENT OF THE FACTS

In the early evening hours of January 15, 1976, Mr. Martin gained entrance into the home of Herbert and Catherine Alferink, ages 79 and 76 respectively, at 15210 Park Avenue in Harvey, Illinois. Upon gaining entry, the Mr. Martin tied and bound both victims and searched their house for valuables. He stole wedding rings, money, a television, and a pendant watch. He then stabbed both victims repeatedly in the chest, until they were both dead. Before leaving the house, Mr. Martin turned on the gas stove.

After the Murders of the Alferinks, Mr. Martin went to a lounge nearby, where he met Johnnie Thompson and asked him for a ride to Chicago. Mr. Thompson noticed that Mr. Martin had blood on his shirt and pants and asked if he had been in a fight. Mr. Martin responded that he had killed two people down the street. When Mr. Thompson refused to provide the ride, indicating he did not want to get involved, Mr. Martin threatened Mr. Thompson with a knife, but Mr. Thompson was able to flee.



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

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

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

That same day, in Chicago, a 1976 Oldsmobile belonging to Daniel Latronice, was stolen from his business at 7545 South Western in Chicago. A few hours later, on January 16, 1976, Chicago Police officers spotted the stolen car in the vicinity of 81st Street and California Avenue in Chicago. Mr. Martin was the driver of the car. When the police tried to stop the car, Mr. Martin took off at a high rate of speed and tried to elude them. He abandoned the car at 7940 South Western and fled on foot. The police eventually caught him. The police found a revolver and a number of car keys on his person. Mr. Martin was charged with Auto Theft and was given a sentence of 1-4 years.

After Mr. 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 Mr. Martin's house. The police recovered the television set stolen from the Alferinks home. They then were directed to the house of Mr. Martin's wife, where they recovered two rings belonging to the Alferinks, along with other items belonging to the victims. Mr. Martin was charged with the Murders of 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.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mrs. Perkins indicated that Mr. Martin has a lengthy criminal history dating back to his youth.

MR. MARTIN'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

Mr. Martin stated that at the time he committed the crimes, he was high on alcohol and drugs. He also stated he stopped using drugs in 1996. Mr. Martin said that he had lived a life of crime from the age of eight and that he had chosen to do wrong. He says he is remorseful for his life of crime and now tries to help young inmates understand that crime and wrong thinking are not the answer.



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

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

In the interview with Mr. Martin, he was very soft spoken and pleasant to talk to. He advised that in 2002 he had prostate cancer and that in 2014 cancer was found in his body again; at the present time, he is cancer-free. He also noted that he has held a variety of jobs in the institution, though Mr. Martin is currently unassigned.

Mr. Martin had a psychiatric interview in 2009, as requested by the PRB. That report concluded that Mr. Martin does not suffer from a psychiatric disorder, and that he presents with a good mood and effect. The report also noted that his concentration, insight, and judgment are fair, and that he appears somewhat genuine in his approach. The psychiatrist noted, however, that the potential for violent behavior was not predictable.

Mr. Martin said he was married on September 2, 1970, and that his wife is still alive. Mr. Martin indicated that he had one child, a girl, who died in 1973. Mr. Martin stated that the only contact he has with family and friends is by letter. His last visit was from legal counsel on May 25, 2008.

Mr. Martin is very proud of being able to intervene in an incident that took place at Illinois River, which could have become dangerous for one of the nurses. His institutional disciplinary adjustment has been very good, with his last ticket being a minor one on November 6, 2016. He is classified as medium security and has been on A grade since July 24, 2002. He is classified as a low escape risk.

Although Mr. Martin is a recidivist offender who is serving his third incarceration, he has also obtained an Associate of Arts degree in Applied Science. Mr. Martin also has obtained two certificates in electronics.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Martin's parole plans are not solid. Mr. Martin talks about going to St. Leonard's House and The Safer Foundation, but he does not have a letter from either place saying they will take him if paroled.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

Mrs. Perkins indicated that victims of this case are highly opposed to parole for Mr. Martin. The Cook County State's Attorney's Office has also been consistently opposed to any grant of parole in this case.



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

DISCUSSION

Mr. Fisher asked if a substance abuse class been completed by Mr. Martin. Mrs. Perkins answered that Mr. Martin has not completed a substance abuse class through the Illinois Department of Corrections to date.

Mr. Shelton stated the victim saw Mr. Martin in front of her house while he was out on parole. Mr. Shelton also noted that Mr. Martin had stated that his mistake was leaving the victim alive. Mr. Shelton also noted a 2015 ticket in Mr. Martin's file for Possession of 19 Vicodin pills, which is a major ticket.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Sara Whitecotton spoke in opposition to parole release. ASA Whitecotton also noted that there is evidence that two additional Murders had been committed by Mr. Martin.

Mrs. Perkins commented that Mr. Martin has spent his entire adult life in custody of IDOC and noted that he has done well there. She feels that to parole him at this time would depreciate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law. She stated that she cannot support the parole of Mr. Martin at this time.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (AMP—DWD). Motion passes by a vote of 11–0.

Motion for a 3-year set (AMP—DS). Motion passes by a vote of 10-1. Members voting in favor of this motion were Ms. Daniels, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, and Chairman Findley. Ms. Crigler dissented.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Martin'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. Martin would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole, and that his release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of his 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.”



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

***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—March 28, 2019

Inmate Name: **JAMES TAYLOR**

IDOC Number: **C68879**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Room 403/404, Springfield, Illinois, on March 28, 2019, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for James Taylor C68879.

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

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Shelton presented the following summary of the parole consideration interview and review of Mr. Taylor's file:

James Earl Taylor C68879, age 69, was heard for parole consideration by a Member of the Prisoner Review Board at the Danville Correctional Center on February 21, 2019. He was not represented by counsel, and there were no other persons present in support of or in opposition to parole at that time.

In 1976, Mr. Taylor received a sentence of (100-200) years for a Murder conviction in the killing of Illinois State Trooper Layton T. Davis. Mr. Taylor was also sentenced to 6-20 years for a Kidnapping charge which stemmed from the abduction of eighteen-year-old Anna Mae Feldhake. These offenses occurred in Effingham County on March 18, 1976. Originally, these were consecutive sentences, but the Appellate Court later remanded the case back to the circuit court for re-sentencing to concurrent sentences.

After a separate trial, co-offender Aaron Hyche was similarly convicted and sentenced. Mr. Hyche, however, received an additional sentence for his conviction on the additional charge of Attempt Murder.

There were two victims in this case: Trooper Davis, a veteran of the Illinois State Police, who was shot to death; and Ms. Feldhake, an eighteen-year-old student at Lake Land Community College, Mattoon, who was kidnapped, but survived her encounter.



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

STATEMENT OF THE FACTS

The facts of the case are that Mr. Taylor was a passenger in a car being driven by co-offender Hyche southbound on Interstate 57, when they were stopped by Trooper Davis for speeding. Mr. Hyche was wanted in Cook County. Mr. Taylor retrieved a .357 Magnum caliber Colt revolver from under his seat and concealed it in his waistband, prior to being directed by Trooper Davis to exit the car. Trooper Davis subsequently discovered the revolver, immediately before finding himself engaged in a struggle with both Mr. Taylor and Mr. Hyche.

Trial testimony established that Trooper Davis was shot by Mr. Hyche, while Mr. Taylor used both hands to pin Trooper Davis's right wrist to the ground. Mr. Hyche fired three additional shots at a witness who stopped to assist Trooper Davis but had to flee for safety.

Trooper Davis was declared dead on arrival at St. Anthony Memorial Hospital in Effingham, Illinois.

Additional facts are that both offenders fled the scene in their car, before then stopping at a nearby gas station. The two then purchased bus tickets to Chicago at the Greyhound Bus Depot of Effingham, but then fled the Bus Depot by car. During that flight, their car became stuck on a local road. Ms. Feldhake, who was on her way home and driving her own car, stopped to offer assistance. After agreeing to accept her help, Mr. Hyche took control of her car and the two offenders forced her to lie on the back-seat floorboard.

Ultimately, another State Trooper attempted to stop Ms. Feldhake's car. When the victim looked up and attempted to signal her distress to the officer, Mr. Taylor pushed her back down and ordered her to shut up. This began a high-speed pursuit involving multiple police agencies and several roadblocks. After Mr. Hyche crashed the vehicle, both suspects were apprehended. Ms. Feldhake, suffering minor injuries from the crash, was recovered from the car. Ms. Feldhake has recalled in the past how both offenders, during the abduction, discussed how they should dispose of her body.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Taylor's institutional adjustment has been good for many years. He has enjoyed the support of family in the form of visits and other correspondence.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Taylor indicated that he plans to reside with a family member if granted parole.



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

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

The Board continues to receive protests against parole release from a victim and persons directly involved in this case. The Effingham County State's Attorney continues to vigorously protest the release of Mr. Taylor, both in person and in writing.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Shelton advised that Mr. Taylor is pleasant and remorseful. Mr. Shelton also noted that Mr. Taylor advised that his parole plan is to live with his sister.

Mr. Tupy asked about the SPIN Assessment for Mr. Taylor. Mr. Shelton advised that the SPIN is incomplete. He noted that a pre-screening was completed by Illinois Department of Corrections staff, and Mr. Taylor was found to be low risk, so an entire evaluation was not completed by IDOC.

Effingham County State's Attorney Bryan Kibler spoke in opposition to parole release, and noted the memorials that have been put in place for Trooper Davis. He noted that Highway 57 South has been dedicated as a memorial highway in Trooper Davis's name, and that there also is an end-of-watch plaque in the park square in Effingham County. SA Kibler advised that this crime hit the community hard, and that the community still remembers the crime and celebrates the life of Trooper Davis to this day.

Victim Witness Coordinator Susan Majors was also in attendance from Effingham County. She presented the Board a letter from a victim of Mr. Taylor.

Member Shelton advised that he believes that to grant of parole to Mr. Taylor at this time would promote disrespect for the law.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (DS—PF). Motion passes by a vote of 11–0.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Taylor'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 his release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of his 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."



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

***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—March 28, 2019

Inmate Name: **SALIK ABDULLAH** IDOC Number: **C82430**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Room 403/404, Springfield, Illinois, on March 28, 2019, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Salik Abdullah C82430.

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

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Mr. Diaz presented the following summary of the parole consideration interview and review of Mr. Abdullah's file:

A parole consideration interview was conducted with Salik Abdullah C82430 (also known as Theodore Bruce Parsons, under which name he was convicted in the instant cases) on October 18, 2018, at approximately 10:00 a.m. at the Dixon Correctional Center. Mr. Abdullah, age 62, his attorney, Daniel Fultz, and Board Member Sal Diaz were present for the interview. Mr. Abdullah had been incarcerated with the Illinois Department of Corrections for 40 years at the time of the interview, having entered IDOC custody in 1978 at age 21.

Mr. Abdullah was convicted and sentenced to 30 years for Attempted Murder (2 counts) and Attempted Robbery (2 counts), to run concurrently, in his 1977 Vermilion County case. Mr. Abdullah was additionally convicted of two counts of Murder, for which he received concurrent sentences of 500-1000 years, in his Champaign county case. The sentences in the separate cases were, however, to run consecutively.

STATEMENT OF THE FACTS

On September 23, 1977, Mr. Abdullah and two companions, Mr. Gleckler and Mr. Kirkpatrick, agreed to rob a bank. In preparing for the robbery, they burglarized the home of a friend of Mr. Gleckler. In the course of that robbery, they obtained three shotguns from the home. On the following day, Mr. Abdullah and his co-offenders met at Mr. Glecker's trailer, where they then sawed off the barrels of the shotguns.

Mr. Abdullah and Mr. Kirkpatrick then drove to an Arco gas station in Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois, where they entered and robbed the business of \$200. After the gas



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

station attendant, Curtis Smith, complied with the demands of the robbers, offering no resistance, Mr. Abdullah shot Mr. Curtis with the shotgun from close ranging, striking Mr. Curtis in the neck, shoulder, and head. Mr. Curtis survived this shooting, but was paralyzed for life as a result of the attack. Mr. Abdullah also later pleaded guilty for this offense.

The following day, Mr. Abdullah and his co-offenders met and decided to steal a vehicle, so that they would not need to use Mr. Abdullah's vehicle during the course of the planned bank robbery. At that time, they drove to the Lake of the Woods Liquor Store in Champaign County, Illinois, where they waited for a car to steal. The victims, Mr. Harris, age 19, and Mr. Simmons, age 18, drove into the liquor store parking lot in Mr. Harris's Plymouth Satellite. They purchased beer and exited the lot, followed by the three co-offenders. After driving away, the co-offenders forced the Plymouth to pull over on a side road, whereupon Mr. Abdullah and Mr. Gleckler stepped out of their vehicle armed with shotguns. The co-offenders ordered the victims to exit the Plymouth, and then ordered them to face a cornfield, at which point Mr. Abdullah shot each victim in the back.

After the victims fell, Mr. Gleckler fired an additional shotgun round into the skull of each of the young men. The pathologist in the case later testified that each victim had "little or no skull or brain tissue left" as a result.

On September 27, 1977, officers from the Danville Police Department arrested Mr. Abdullah, who then provided the names of his co-offenders, blaming them for the Murders of the two young victims.

MR. ABDULLAH'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

Mr. Abdullah admits his guilt in these offenses and at the time of the interview presented as a remorseful, burdened individual. His pain with regard to having committed these heinous crimes was readily apparent. He additionally related, as he had during his last parole consideration interview in 2013, that the drug Valium had contributed to his behavior at the time of the offenses, and that he had been addicted to the drug for a significant period of time.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

During the course of his 40 years of incarceration, Mr. Abdullah has had an excellent institutional adjustment overall. As detailed under the facts of the case, Mr. Abdullah was convicted under the name of Theodore Bruce Parsons. After his conversion to the Muslim faith while serving his sentence, he changed his name to Salik Abdullah. He has also been noted to be a leader within the IDOC community, as it relates to his religious faith.

Mr. Abdullah is currently classified as A grade, minimum security. Mr. Abdullah has achieved over 200 hours of college credit, by consciously choosing not to complete a degree,



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

which would otherwise result in his being prevented from engaging in further educational opportunities through IDOC. He holds several certificates and has held jobs of significant responsibility within the institution, but is currently unassigned, due to a medical light sensitivity that effectively renders him legally blind.

Mr. Abdullah has had no Inmate Disciplinary Reports while at Dixon Correctional Center, and his last major ticket was nearly twenty years ago, in 1999. In the entirety of his time at IDOC, he has remarkably received only 16 tickets in nearly 41 years.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Abdullah has a strong parole plan, and he has been accepted as a potential resident of St. Leonard's House by that organization. Mr. Abdullah would also be on disability upon release, but he has also indicated that he has a business plan for an online business that he would seek to engage in, were he to be granted parole.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Diaz indicated that although Mr. Abdullah has accomplished much, and taken advantage of the educational offerings available at IDOC, the essence of the brutal nature of the perpetrated offenses is too heavy for Mr. Diaz to recommend a grant of parole release in this case. Accordingly, Mr. Diaz stated that he would be moving to deny Mr. Abdullah's parole.

Mr. Shelton stated that he feels as though Mr. Abdullah is not forthcoming. Mr. Shelton noted that the Judge at trial stated that the Prisoner Review Board should know Mr. Abdullah was never to be released.

Ms. Daniels commented that she felt as though Mr. Abdullah is someone who has made significant progress. She asked the Board to not base their decision on a person's single act. Ms. Daniels stated that her hope is that we are not all judged by the worst thing we have ever done and asked the Board to consider that in making its decision.

Mr. Daniel Fultz, attorney for Mr. Abdullah, read a letter that Mr. Abdullah had written. In the letter, Mr. Abdullah confirmed that he committed the crime he was convicted of and that he has spent the last 41 years doing everything he could to change himself. Mr. Abdullah also stated that he is sincerely remorseful for his actions. The letter also notes that Mr. Abdullah has acquired 383 college credits while incarcerated and that he has a strong parole plan.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (SD—DS). Motion fails by a vote of 5–6. Parole is therefore denied as a matter of State law, due to the failure to receive votes in favor of parole release from a majority



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

of the appointed Board Members. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, and Mr. Tupy. Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, and Chairman Findley dissented.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Abdullah'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 release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of his 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."



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

***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—March 28, 2019

Inmate Name: **EDDIE PITTS** IDOC Number: **L01404**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Room 403/404, Springfield, Illinois, on March 28, 2019, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Eddie Pitts L01404.

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

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Ms. Crigler presented the following summary of the parole consideration interview and review of Mr. Pitts's file:

On February 13, 2019, Eddie L. Pitts L01404 appeared before Ms. Crigler of the Prisoner Review Board for parole consideration at Dixon Correctional Center.

STATEMENT OF THE FACTS

On November 30, 1976, the victim, Jerry Keane, and his co-worker, Winston McCain, were on duty as servicemen for Peoples Gas Company. At approximately 4:00 p.m., they answered a typical complaint call regarding a gas leak. The call was from 6620 South Harvard Avenue in Chicago. When the two men arrived at the location, Edward Stewart answered the door and let them into the house. Mr. Stewart informed them that the gas leak was coming from the basement. Mr. Pitts, who was already in the house, joined the three men and all four men proceeded to the basement. Mr. Keane went to inspect the furnace. He had trouble removing the furnace door, so Mr. McCain, his co-worker, started upstairs to get another tool. However, before he could get upstairs, Mr. Keane screamed, "Winston, run, get help!"

Mr. McCain instinctively ran back downstairs and saw Mr. Pitts with his left arm around Mr. Keane's neck, stabbing Mr. Keane in the chest with his right hand. Mr. McCain then ran outside to radio for help. The police officers responding to the call found Mr. Keane lying on the floor of the basement with bloodstains all over his body. He was transported to St. Bernard's Hospital, where he was pronounced dead upon arrival. It was determined that he had been stabbed 23 times in his back, neck, arm, chest, and thigh.



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

The day after Mr. Keane was killed, officers learned the identity of the attacker to be Mr. Pitts.

Mr. Pitts was found guilty of Murder in 1979 and sentenced to 150-300 years. Mr. Pitts was initially found unfit to stand trial and was admitted to the Illinois Department of Mental Health. He was diagnosed with schizophrenia, paranoid, with a history of auditory hallucinations. He was re-evaluated and determined to be in remission with medication and deemed fit to stand trial. It was determined that Mr. Pitts was able to fully appreciate the criminality of his offense, retained an understanding of the nature of the nature and purpose of the criminal proceedings against him, and that he had the ability to cooperate with his counsel.

PAROLE PLANS

Should parole be granted, Mr. Pitts has no concrete parole plans at this time. He stated he would apply to St Leonard's or go to a shelter. He did not indicate any particular work preference or experience.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

There are prior letters of protest in the file, including a letter from Anita Alvarez, State's Attorney of Cook County, dated March 16, 2016. There are no current letters in the file in support of Mr. Pitts's parole.

DISCUSSION

Ms. Crigler advised the Board that she felt as though Mr. Pitts was hallucinated and believed that he was protecting himself. Ms. Crigler noted that Mr. Pitts received a mental health evaluation from Illinois Department of Corrections staff in February of 2019. She stated that he does not take any medication, nor does he have a mental health diagnosis. Ms. Crigler additionally stated that she found Mr. Pitts pleasant and found that he has had good institutional adjustment. However, she did note that Mr. Pitts has a very weak parole plan. She advised that he would like to go to St Leonard's house but has not been accepted there. Ms. Crigler felt that Mr. Pitts needs a viable host site for parole; maybe a residential group home where his needs would be met.

Mr. Shelton asked about Mr. Pitts's mental issue and questioned if it has now been resolved.

Mr. Fisher asked if Mr. Pitts had stopped taking medication. Ms. Crigler replied that he currently does not take medication.



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

Mr. Dunn asked how old Mr. Pitts was when he committed the crime. Ms. Crigler stated Mr. Pitts was 27 at the time of the crime.

Mr. Diaz stated that he believes that Mr. Pitts needs a stable placement and that he needs to continue on his medication.

Ms. Crigler stated that she thinks that Mr. Pitts needs a home with proper services that he can benefit from and that will aid him in his reentry into society.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Sara Whitecotton spoke in opposition to parole release, arguing that Mr. Pitts is extremely manipulative. ASA Whitecotton also added that he has no parole plan for his release and that he is a risk to society.

Ms. Crigler advised the Board that Mr. Pitts has never received a vote in favor of parole.

Ms. Crigler recommended parole for Mr. Pitts. She stated that she believes that he could be paroled with a strong and comprehensive parole plan that will provide him with the support to maintain his mental stability and structure to remain in remission.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to grant parole (EC—VM). Motion fails by a vote of 3–8. Members voting in favor of the motion were Ms. Crigler, Ms. Martinez, and Chairman Findley. Ms. Daniels, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, and Mr. Tupy dissented.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Pitts'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. Pitts would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole, and that his release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of his 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.”



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

***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—March 28, 2019

Inmate Name: **PAUL BRYANT** IDOC Number: **L11109**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Room 403/404, Springfield, Illinois, on March 28, 2019, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Paul Bryant L11109.

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

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Mr. Ruggiero presented the following summary of the parole consideration interview and review of Mr. Bryant's file:

A parole consideration interview was conducted with Paul Bryant L11109 on February 13, 2019. Mr. Bryant, age 69, was born on January 18, 1950. He has been in Illinois Department of Corrections custody since August 9, 1979, and has served a total of 39 years to date. Mr. Bryant is serving a sentence of 500-1500 years for Murder, consecutive to a sentence of 6 years, 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. He 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.

STATEMENT OF THE FACTS

79C5186 – Murder (500-1500 years), Burglary (6 years, 8 months-20 years)

Ms. Francis Parro is the elderly victim in this case. She was residing at 5417 Kenmore, Chicago. She was alone in her apartment when she came upon Mr. Bryant, who was burglarizing her apartment. Mr. Bryant told the police that his cousin Joe Patterson lived in apartment. When the victim saw the petitioner, she grabbed onto him. Mr. Bryant stated that he beat her and at knife point "slit her guzzlepipe". There are photographs which depict how in fact he slit her throat extremely deeply and violently. He said he killed her so that she would not be able to identify him. He also noted that he wanted to sexually assault her, but he was worried her



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

screams had already attracted attention, so he took off. At trial, Mr. Bryant chose not to testify. He was convicted by a jury.

The conviction in this case was Affirmed on Appeal by the First District Appellate Court in 1982. Habeas Corpus Relief was then denied by the U.S. District Court in 1985, and once again 1992. A motion for Forensic DNA Analysis was submitted for Mr. Bryant's case, and the request was denied in 1998. In 1999, his appellate attorneys withdrew from the case, as there was no arguable basis for relief, so the Trial Court decision was affirmed.

79C5187 – Murder (90-100 years), Robbery (5-15 years)

The victim, 19-year-old Ladonna Warren, was brutally raped and murdered. Her body was found naked, with her limbs bound, on a basement porch located at 5740 N. Kenmore, Chicago. This location was just three blocks from the location in which Ms. Parro was murdered. Mr. Bryant stated in a court-reported statement to an assistant state's attorney that he was in the area of this Murder with the intent to burglarize an apartment when he saw this girl walking on Kenmore Street. Mr. Bryant believed that she was a prostitute and decided to rob her. He abducted her into a gangway and porch area behind 5740 Kenmore. He demanded she give him money. According to Mr. Bryant, "She offered sex for him not harming her." So, he got her naked and found \$20 in her shoe. He forced Ms. Warren to have sex with him at knife-point. He tied her up with clothesline and strangled the life out of her. Mr. Bryant then poured lighter fluid on her head and pubic area and lit her on fire. There are photographs which show Ms. Warren's lifeless body as it was found. She was covered in bruises and there was burned rope still wrapped around her neck, as she lay naked with her head and pubic area burned.

Judge Strayhorn stated at sentencing that Mr. Bryant should "leave the penitentiary in his burial box and never be allowed into the community again."

79C5652 – Home Invasion, Rape (20 years), Robbery (7 years), and Burglary (7 years)

At 3:00 a.m. Mr. Bryant broke into the victim's home on North Pine Grove. He entered the home through a window. Once inside, he beat and choked the victim. He also raped the victim and stole \$25 in cash from her.

79C5651 – Home Invasion, Rape (20 years) Robbery (7 years), and Burglary (7 years)

Mr. Bryant broke into home of the victim at 3:00 a.m. She lived on North Glenwood. Once in the home, he beat the victim, raped her, and stole \$20 and travelers checks from her.



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

79C5650 – Home Invasion, Deviate Sexual Assault, Rape, Armed Violence, and Armed Robbery (20 years)

Mr. Bryant broke into the victim's home. Once inside, he raped her and escaped. The victim called police, but Mr. Bryant had gotten away. Two days later, Mr. Bryant returned to her home and raped her again. See also case 79C5648.

79C5649 – Home Invasion, Rape, Armed Robbery (20 years), and Burglary (7 years)

At 6:00 a.m., Mr. Bryant broke in the front door of the victim's residence. At knife-point, he tied up the victim. He stole \$38 from her and then raped her. Mr. Bryant took the knife and asked the victim, "How would you like this stuck up your ass?" He then stuck the knife into her rectum, causing a puncture. The file also noted that he stuck the knife into her sex organ.

79C5648 – Home Invasion, Deviate Sexual Assault, Rape (20 years), and Burglary (7 years)

This victim in this case was also the victim in 79C5650. Two days after her first assault, Mr. Bryant came back and entered her home through her bathroom window around 5:00 a.m. Mr. Bryant beat her, raped her again twice, and performed cunnilingus on her. Mr. Bryant also stole her mace. After leaving the scene, Mr. Bryant was caught by police within 2 blocks of her home, as the victim had called the police. When he was arrested, the police found the can of mace he had stolen from Ms. Kading. The police then searched Mr. Bryant's apartment and located two traveler's checks belonging to the victim in case 79C5651.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

The following additional criminal history was presented to the Board by Mr. Ruggiero:

- **October 25, 1968** – Unlawful Use of 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 Attempt Theft - SOL
- **January 19, 1973** – Theft – BFW
- **September 27, 1973** – Criminal Trespass to Vehicle – Received Supervision



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

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

MR. BRYANT'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

In reviewing Mr. Bryant's criminal history, he was asked about his criminal history prior to November 16, 1976, which is the date Ms. Parro was murdered. Mr. Bryant indicated he committed many crimes during this period of time, including Burglary, Theft, Robbery, and Auto Theft. Mr. Bryant was asked if he had ever used any of the following aliases: Andrew Bryant, Paul Johnson, Lloyd Anderson, and Marty Baxter, to which Mr. Bryant admitted he had.

Mr. Bryant was also asked to address his criminal history since November 16, 1976, specifically asking him if he is now claiming, as he did in his 2014 letter to the Illinois Prisoner Review Board, that he is innocent of all the rapes and murders he was charged with since 1976. In his letter he stated, "Conclusion, [Chairman]; and members of the board. I'm no [angel], and have made some bad choices in life, but taking the life of another person, and the taking of women against [their] will, I would not and could not ever do that.... Out of all the crimes I've committed, [Burglaries], Auto Theft, and Robbery, not one time have I ever physically hurt anyone."

Mr. Bryant reiterated that he was innocent of all the crimes he's been charged with since 1976. He said the only crime he did commit was the Home Invasion on the day he was arrested (August 9, 1979), but he reiterated that he never raped anyone. Mr. Bryant was advised that the victim in that case was also raped. Mr. Bryant hesitated, then told Mr. Ruggiero something Mr. Bryant claimed he has never told another human being before. He stated that there were two other people with him when they went into that house, and one of the other guys raped the victim. Mr. Ruggiero asked Mr. Bryant for the names of these other persons and a way to find them like an old address, work, family, or phone. He was very hesitant, but finally noted that one of the men was deceased. Mr. Bryant was asked for a name of the deceased co-offender. He hesitated again and advised that the man's name was Larry. When asked for Larry's last name, Mr. Bryant advised that it was Williams. When asked where Larry Williams lived while alive, Mr. Bryant said that he had lived on the streets and had no neighborhood, address, work or family. Mr. Ruggiero then asked who the final co-offender was. Mr. Bryant gave the name Mark Johnson. When he was asked for additional information in order to identify this person, he said all he knew was that Mr. Johnson lived in some boarding house. Mr. Bryant was asked if he told his lawyer about this information and he said no. Mr. Ruggiero questioned Mr. Bryant regarding this, noting that his lawyer represented Mr. Bryant for over a year before he pled guilty and he never once told his lawyer or anyone else before today? Mr. Bryant said that was correct, he never told anyone that before today.



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

Mr. Ruggiero asked Mr. Bryant, if he was innocent of these Rapes and Murders, why did he plead guilty to all the Rapes and a Murder case? Mr. Bryant said they had a confession and he pled guilty for a plea deal, and because his lawyer said he could avoid the Death penalty.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Bryant was interviewed by the Board Member Ruggiero on February 13, 2019, at Dixon Correctional Center. At the time of his interview, his representative Joseph Dusek was present. Mr. Bryant presented himself in a well-maintained and appropriate manner. His demeanor was pleasant, conversational, and appropriate.

Since 2004, Mr. Bryant has been housed at Dixon Correctional Center. He is currently in A grade. He has adjusted well and achieved much while he has been incarcerated. When asked if he ever participated in a program specifically addressing sexual violence, Mr. Bryant presented a certificate for a 1-hour program presented by the Sauk Valley YWCA and Director of Crisis Line, which covered Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, dated October 7, 2017. He indicated there were no other programs he attended related to sexual violence. Mr. Bryant also stated that he did not feel as though he needed it, because he was innocent of the Murder and Rape cases.

Mr. Bryant indicated he had nine children by three different women. He noted that one of his children (Gus) was deceased. At the time of the interview, he noted the names and ages of his children. Mr. Bryant indicated that these ages were approximations and he only has kept in contact with two of his children, whom he indicated he had spoken with in the last year.

Mr. Bryant advised that he has one sister, who lives in Texas. He noted that she plays a major role in Mr. Bryant's parole plans, as do his nieces.

The IDOC SPIN Risk Assessment shows that Mr. Bryant is Moderate for Risk, and also High for Protective.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Bryant has a solid parole plan, as outlined in his petition. It includes a home with a caring supportive family, employment, and spiritual support. The only thing missing from his parole plan is a specific program addressing his sexually violent history.

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

Several letters of protest have been received for this case. Letters from various police officers have been received in 2014, 2011, and 2008. Letters have also been received from victims regarding the four Rape cases noted in the Statement of the Facts. Additionally, victims of Ms. Parro's Murder have sent in protest letters regarding the parole of Mr. Bryant.



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

EN BANC HISTORY

From 1999 to 2015, Mr. Bryant received no votes from the Board. He also received 3-year sets at every hearing during that period. In April of 2018, Mr. Bryant received six votes for parole from the Board.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Ruggiero commented that Mr. Bryant presented very well; he was pleasant and neat in appearance. He also advised that Mr. Bryant feels that his deep hatred of his mother is the reason for his behavior. Mr. Ruggiero noted that Mr. Bryant's last ticket was in 2005 and was a minor ticket for passing a note.

A 2005 letter from Ms. Lyon, the attorney who represented Mr. Bryant at his trial, was read by Mr. Ruggiero. Within the letter Ms. Lyon stated "I met Mr. Bryant over twenty years ago when I was a young public defender assigned to his cases. As I am sure you are aware, he was charged with a lot of crimes, some of which he was responsible for, but many of which he was not." The question was raised by the Board why she would have her client plead guilty to crimes if he was not guilty of them.

It was noted that Mr. Bryant has filed a claim with Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission. The Cook County claim unit had nothing new to present at this time in regard to his case.

Mr. Ruggiero stated that Mr. Bryant has earned a number of certificates. He also noted that Mr. Bryant has stated that he grieves for the victims' families.

Ms. Daniels suggested that the focus be on number of years spent in prison and that more than enough time had been served to pay for his crimes.

Mr. Ruggiero noted that there has been vigorous protest by both police officers and victims against the parole of Mr. Bryant.

Ms. Martinez noted that she presented this case last year and that she then believed that Mr. Bryant was innocent of these crimes. She advised that she still believes that he is innocent and feels as though Mr. Bryant had been beaten by the police, that his confessions were coerced due to the beatings, and that without his confession, he would not have been convicted of these crimes.

A discussion followed involving Ms. Martinez, Mr. Fisher, and Mr. Diaz regarding the action of police officers in Illinois during the time when this crime occurred, specifically those on the South Side of Chicago. Mr. Diaz stated that he recalled her discussion of Mr. Bryant's innocence from the prior year and that he remembers telling her that she had used a broad brush to depict the Chicago Police Department and police officers in general.



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

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Sara Whitecotton stated that the allegations made against the police officer(s) who obtained Mr. Bryant's confession were not appropriate for this Board. ASA Whitecotton stated that Mr. Bryant is not credible, as one of the pieces of evidence found on his person was a victim's ID. She also noted that Mr. Bryant's statement that there were others involved with the crime is new information and has never been presented before. ASA Whitecotton stated that Mr. Bryant is a significant risk to reoffend and that the State's Attorney's Office requests that parole be denied.

Mr. Tupy pointed out that it is an ethical violation for an attorney to advise a client to plead guilty, knowing their innocence. Mr. Tupy also asked if there were any other complaints about the officer Mr. Bryant mentioned in his complaint. ASA Whitecotton replied that there were none that she knew of.

Assistant Attorney General Derek Smith requested a 90-day stay of release if parole were to be granted, for the purpose of having Mr. Bryant evaluated for possible commitment as a Sexually Violent Person.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (JR—KT). Motion passes by a vote of 6–5. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, and Mr. Tupy. Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Martinez, and Chairman Findley dissented.

Motion for a three-year-set (JR—KT). Motion fails by a vote of 5-6. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Diaz, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, and Mr. Tupy. Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, and Chairman Findley dissented.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Bryant'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. Bryant would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole, and that his release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of his 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."



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

***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—March 28, 2019

Inmate Name: **ERNIE SLAUGHTER** IDOC Number: **C63078**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Room 403/404, Springfield, Illinois, on March 28, 2019, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Ernie Slaughter C63078.

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

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Mr. Fisher presented the following summary of the parole consideration interview and review of Mr. Slaughter's file:

A parole consideration interview was conducted with Ernie Slaughter C63078 on February 27, 2019. Mr. Slaughter was born November 26, 1955, is currently 63 years of age, and was a resident of Western Illinois Correctional Center at the time of the interview. Mr. Slaughter is currently serving a sentence of 100-300 years for the offense of Murder, 6-20 years for the offense of Burglary, 2 years for the offense of Intimidation, and 5 years for Escape from a Penal Institution. All cases are to run concurrently.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On August 17, 1973, just before 5:15 p.m., Mr. Slaughter and his friend, Barney Alston, rode their bikes from their Chicago Housing Authority high-rise at 5266 North State Street to the Hyde Park area, intending to go to the beach. Instead, Mr. Slaughter suggested that they should go and try and make some money. They entered a yard located at 5009 S. Ellis through a gangway. They then entered the rear of the home through an unlocked screen door. Mr. Slaughter saw a purse on the kitchen table and began rummaging through it. As he was doing so, Susan Hebel entered the kitchen holding her own purse. Startled by seeing Mr. Slaughter and Mr. Alston in the home, Ms. Hebel began to shout at the two young men. Mr. Slaughter then picked up a kitchen knife from the sink area and began to stab Ms. Hebel repeatedly. A dog began barking, and both young men fled. A few blocks away, Mr. Slaughter dropped the knife into a sewer drain. Mr. Alston also told Mr. Slaughter that he stole two or three dollars from the other purse.



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

Ms. Hebel was a 23-year-old graphic designer and commercial artist. She was at 5009 South Ellis working for her employer, Leo Tanenbaum and Associates. Her boss's daughter, Lisa Tanenbaum, was home that day, and was at the top of the stairs playing with her dog when she heard Ms. Hebel's cries for help. Ms. Tanenbaum ran to the kitchen and found Ms. Hebel, who was unable to speak and holding her stomach. Ms. Tanenbaum could see that Ms. Hebel was badly injured and yelled for David Nebenzahl (who was a printer who also worked with Ms. Tanenbaum's father). Mr. Nebenzahl was in the basement when Ms. Tanenbaum called to him for help. Mr. Nebenzahl and Ms. Tanenbaum both continued to ask Ms. Hebel what had happened, but all she could do was groan. Ms. Tanenbaum called police. When police arrived, they were unable to wait for an ambulance, due to Ms. Hebel's injuries. They wrapped her in a blanket and transported her to Chicago Osteopathic Hospital, where she was pronounced dead on arrival.

Ms. Hebel suffered four stab wounds to the chest, abdomen, and back of her left hand. Her purse was bloodstained and had holes in it, consistent with her clutching her purse as she was stabbed.

Latent fingerprints were discovered in the kitchen on a door jamb. Prints were also discovered on the contents of one of the purses. The fingerprints were subsequently identified as those of Mr. Slaughter, who was also known as Larry Land.

On October 4, 1973, after learning that Mr. Slaughter's fingerprints were recovered and identified from the crime scene, officers went to Mr. Slaughter's residence, where he was placed under arrest. A .22 caliber revolver was recovered from him at that time. He was confronted with the fingerprint evidence being discovered at the scene and admitted to police his participation in the crime. Shortly thereafter, he made the same admissions in a court-reported confession to an assistant state's attorney. Mr. Slaughter was charged with Murder and Burglary. Mr. Slaughter chose to have a jury trial.

Proof of evidence of other crimes was admitted at trial. The day before the Murder of Ms. Hebel, Mr. Slaughter entered the home of a young doctoral student at the University of Chicago, who lived just a few blocks from the home where Ms. Hebel was murdered. Mr. Slaughter had entered through a back door and told the victim that he was going to kill her after he had taken what he wanted. A television was on in another room, and Mr. Slaughter asked what the noise was. The victim told him that it was her husband and baby playing in the next room. In actuality, there was no one else home at the time, but Mr. Slaughter panicked and fled. The victim later identified her attacker, Mr. Slaughter, to police.

Mr. Slaughter was subsequently sentenced to 100-300 years for the Murder of Ms. Hebel and 6-20 years for the Burglary.



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

On April 12, 1978, while incarcerated for the Murder of Ms. Hebel, Mr. Slaughter escaped. Mr. Slaughter and another inmate were being transported from St Joseph's Hospital in Joliet back to Stateville Correctional Center. Mr. Slaughter managed to free one hand from the cuff of the security belt he was wearing and ran from the hospital into Joliet West High School. He entered a classroom and emerged holding a female by the arm. He told everyone to stay away and told his victim that, if she did not tell everyone to stay away, he would hurt her. After she did exactly that, Mr. Slaughter whispered into her ear that he would not hurt her and that he would let her go. He then kissed her and pushed her away from him. He was apprehended and charged with Escape and Intimidation. He was later found guilty and was sentenced to concurrent terms of 6 years for the Escape and 4 years for Intimidation.

On appeal, the Appellate Court reversed and remanded the case for a new trial. Mr. Slaughter was subsequently convicted by way of a plea agreement and sentenced on February 9, 1981 to 5 years for the Escape and 2 years for Intimidation. These sentences were to run concurrent to one another, but consecutive to his Murder sentence.

MR. SLAUGHTER'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

Mr. Fisher indicated that Mr. Slaughter's version was basically the same as the Statement of Facts. He stated he entered a house with the intent of stealing money. He said he was startled by the victim, at which time he picked up the knife from the sink area and stabbed her. He stated he really doesn't know why he stabbed Ms. Hebel. He stated his co-offender never entered the residence and was not charged. Mr. Slaughter also stated that the co-offender was later murdered in Chicago.

Mr. Slaughter's version of the Escape was also basically the same. He did state he never grabbed the female victim, just asked her to come over to him, which she did. He said he had no intention of hurting her or anyone, and that he just wanted to get away. He described himself as young and foolish, and stated, "the new me would never do that."

Mr. Slaughter said he has tried to change his life and his bad habits. He also stated he started attending church services. He said watching the young guys leave and then come back made him realize that he needed to change. He said he has learned to read and write since being incarcerated. He added that he is no longer involved with gang activity, stating "I'm here to help myself, not worry about anyone else."

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Slaughter has been incarcerated approximately 43 years. His projected discharge date is January 9, 2118. Mr. Slaughter appealed his conviction, which the Appellate Court affirmed. He then filed a petition for leave to appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court, which was denied. He then filed a writ of habeas corpus in Federal District Court, which the court dismissed.



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

Mr. Slaughter is currently A grade, moderate escape risk. He is currently unassigned, which has been his status since 2012, after being released from segregation for fighting. During his incarceration he has received over 207 Inmate Disciplinary Reports, which include Sexual Misconduct. Mr. Slaughter is coming off a 3-year set at the time of this hearing. He has never received a favorable vote for parole from the Board.

Mr. Slaughter stated that he is waiting to get on a list for his GED, and that he wants to get it. He said his last job assignment was in 2004 in building maintenance and construction, where he was a teacher's assistant.

Mr. Slaughter's institutional adjustment has been described over the years as fair, not good, and very poor. Since his last *en banc* in 2016, he has received one IDR for Disobeying a Direct Order. He has had over 207 IDRs total since his incarceration, but only one since 2012.

Mr. Slaughter's health remains a concern. He currently uses a wheelchair and can only walk short distances. He has been diagnosed with metastatic prostate cancer, with very high tumor markers. According to Dr. Zorian Trusewych's affidavit, Mr. Slaughter is on palliative therapy, which has slowed his tumor. He still has a guarded prognosis and would qualify for hospice designation. Mr. Slaughter stated he was diagnosed with prostate cancer May 25th of last year and that he has three abdominal cancerous tumors. He stated chemotherapy treatments ended in January, and he is scheduled to move to the next phase, which he said were injections. He stated he is under the care of Dr. Johnson at Blessing Hospital in Quincy.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Slaughter advised that he would like to parole to his brother's home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mr. Slaughter said he only has his brother and some cousins in Indiana who could provide a residence for him, and they are the only relatives he would be comfortable with and who could transport him back and forth to the hospital. A handwritten letter from his brother was submitted to the Board, indicating that Mr. Slaughter would have the support of his family.

Inmate Slaughter stated he has no history of drugs or alcohol abuse, admitting he smoked weed and used to drink a little wine. He added he would like the Board to know that he has tried to rehabilitate himself and is a changed person. He stated, "I regret what I did, taking a person's life. I cannot accomplish anything in my life that I wanted to do. I ruined that. I would just like a chance to live out what life I have left with my family."

Mr. Slaughter's last visit was in 2005 from his mother, who is now deceased, and a sister.



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

DISCUSSION

Mr. Fisher advised that Mr. Slaughter stated that he has tried to rehabilitate himself and that he also stated that he wants to get his GED but has not used the resources available to him at the facility. Mr. Fisher stated that he believes that Mr. Slaughter needs a more structured plan for parole. Mr. Fisher also stated that Mr. Slaughter's institutional adjustment is poor but improving.

Ms. Crigler asked if a better parole plan would allow Mr. Fisher to recommend parole. Mr. Fisher said yes, and that Mr. Slaughter needs to be proactive on the parole plan.

Mr. Fisher read a statement from Mr. Slaughter's doctor regarding his current medical conditions.

Mr. Shelton observed that Mr. Slaughter was 17 years old at the time of the offense. He also noted that Mr. Slaughter is not confined to wheelchair, has no mental issues, and is eligible for hospice.

Mr. Fisher advised that he believes that Mr. Slaughter has no solid, structured parole plan. Mr. Fisher observed that Mr. Slaughter's institutional adjustment is poor at best, but has improved slightly over the past seven years. Mr. Fisher also noted that the Board cannot forget that Mr. Slaughter had a Burglary pending at the time he senselessly murdered Ms. Hebel, during yet another Burglary. Mr. Fisher stated that he recommends that parole be denied, as he feels that to grant parole at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the offense, promote disrespect for the law, and jeopardize the safety of the public.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (PF—CF). Motion fails by a vote of 2–9. Parole is therefore granted as a matter of State law, due to receiving votes in favor of parole release from a majority of the appointed Board Members. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Diaz and Mr. Fisher. Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, and Chairman Findley dissented.

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



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

***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—March 28, 2019

Inmate Name: **JOSEPH CUNNINGHAM** IDOC Number: **C86185**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Room 403/404, Springfield, Illinois, on March 28, 2019, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Joseph Cunningham C86185.

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

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Mrs. Perkins presented the following summary of the parole consideration interview and review of Mr. Cunningham's file:

A parole consideration interview was conducted with Joseph L. Cunningham C86185 on February 21, 2019. Mr. Cunningham is currently 59 years of age and has been incarcerated for a total of 41 years. He was residing at Danville Correctional Center at the time of his interview. Mr. Cunningham was sentenced to 35-100 years for the brutal Murder of 75-year-old Emma McKinley, whom he previously befriended and who had been his babysitter when he was a child.

STATEMENT OF THE FACTS

On the night of the offense, Mr. Cunningham and his co-defendant, William Andrew Howell, were partying. It was decided they needed more money for beer. They went to Ms. McKinley's house to solicit beer money. Mr. Cunningham had borrowed money from her in the past and had also used her car on prior occasions. Mr. Cunningham knocked on the door and was admitted in by Ms. McKinley. After a brief conversation, Mr. Cunningham asked Ms. McKinley for money, but she refused. According to Mr. Cunningham, her answer seemed to set Mr. Howell off; Mr. Howell grabbed a knife and started to stab Ms. McKinley. Mr. Cunningham stated that he grabbed her car keys and fled the scene. He crashed the car a short time later and ended up in the hospital.

MR. CUNNINGHAM'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

Mr. Cunningham stated that he did not have any involvement in the Murder and he hated Mr. Howell for what he did to involve Mr. Cunningham in this Murder, however when they both ended up in Graham Correctional Center, he could tell there was a great transformation in Mr.



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

Howell. Mr. Cunningham said he could tell that Mr. Howell was genuinely sorry for his part in this Murder and Mr. Cunningham's involvement.

Mr. Cunningham made no mention of any sexual involvement with the victim. According to other Statements of Facts of the Murder, the victim was sexually assaulted by one or both of the defendants. The Rape took place shortly before or after the death of the victim.

Mr. Cunningham stated in regard to the commission of the Murder that he can accept his responsibility and can do his time.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Cunningham has been incarcerated in the following institutions: Menard, Graham, Illinois River, Centralia, Pinckneyville, and Danville. He earned his GED from Menard in 1984, and an Auto Body Certificate from Graham. Mr. Cunningham worked finishing furniture for five years and is currently working in the laundry.

Mr. Cunningham's institutional has been good. He has received 95 Inmate Disciplinary Reports during his incarceration. His last minor IDR was on April 23, 2007. He has been in A grade since August 11, 2002, and he is classified as minimum security and low escape risk.

Mr. Cunningham noted that he was never a heavy drinker and did not do drugs, however drugs were found in his system at the hospital. He stated he does not know how they got in his system, unless someone put something in his drink.

Mr. Cunningham has four brothers and one sister. He indicated that he stays in contact with his family by mail.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Cunningham's release plans are very weak, as he has no direct plans. He would like to go to a halfway house, but has not made contact with anyone regarding his release.

EN BANC HISTORY

Mr. Cunningham has been before the Board 20 times. He has had one 2-year set, in 2017, and two 3-year sets, in 2009 and 2014.

DISCUSSION

Mrs. Perkins reiterated that Mr. Cunningham's institutional adjustment has been good. However, his parole plans are poor.



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

Various members of the Board commented that they feel as though he has not been truthful with them.

Mrs. Perkins notes that the Board recommends that Mr. Cunningham be heard again next year, hopefully with better parole plans in place. However, at this time, she cannot support parole for Mr. Cunningham as to do so would depreciate the seriousness nature of this offense and crime and promote a lack of respect for the law.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (AMP—JR). Motion prevails by a vote of 11–0.

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 his release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of his 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.”



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

***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—March 28, 2019

Inmate Name: **JAMES BAKER**

IDOC Number: **C57883**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at Illinois State Library, 300 South 2nd Street, Room 403/404, Springfield, Illinois, on March 28, 2019, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for James Baker C57883.

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

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Dunn presented the following summary of the parole consideration interview and review of Mr. Baker's file:

James Edward Baker C57883, was interviewed at Lawrence Correctional Center on February 14, 2019. Mr. Baker was born on February 12, 1951, and he is currently 68 years old. He is currently serving a sentence of 30 years to Life for Murder. Mr. Baker has served approximately 44 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections, having entered IDOC custody on October 22, 1975.

STATEMENT OF THE FACTS

Mr. Baker and his brother-in-law, Mr. Hammel were visiting Mr. Hammel's father-in-law on his farm near Marshall, Illinois, in Clark County. At that time, both Mr. Baker and Mr. Hammel were residents of Terra Haute, Indiana. Mr. Baker and Mr. Hammel armed themselves with a .22 rifle and a shotgun and proceeded to an adjoining farm, where Mr. Hammel shot a 600-pound calf, which they proceeded to butcher. While they were going back to the farm house of the father-in-law of Mr. Hammel, they were met by the owner of the calf, Mr. Everett Livvix, who was a senior citizen. Mr. Hammel ran to the nearby woods and hid. Mr. Baker shot the 70-year-old man in the side, then reloaded and shot him again, in the head, with the twelve-gauge shotgun. Mr. Baker then reportedly dragged the body to the nearby woods and robbed the body of \$101. The shotgun was later recovered from the Wabash River, where Mr. Baker said he had disposed of it. Mr. Baker, when apprehended and arrested, pled guilty to the offense of the Murder of Mr. Livvix.



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

CRIMINAL HISTORY

The prior criminal history of Mr. Baker would indicate when he was 15 years of age he was sentenced to the Indiana State Reformatory for a period of 1-10 years for a charge of Entering to Commit a Felony in the State of Indiana. This happened in 1967, and he served 3 years of this sentence prior to being released. Mr. Baker later had another arrest in 1971. In the interview, Mr. Baker indicated that he had been in juvenile facilities several times, and that he ran away from home when he was an adolescent.

MR. BAKER'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

Mr. Dunn interviewed Mr. Baker, who chose to testify on his own behalf. During the interview, Mr. Baker was less than cooperative and forthcoming. He appeared to be very angry, and openly voiced his displeasure with appearing for the interview. Mr. Dunn related that, as he was trying to make a proper record of the conversation, Mr. Baker said, "There you go, you are doing the same thing as all of the rest of them have done in the past." Mr. Baker also indicated that his brother was contemplating seeking legal redress if Mr. Baker was not paroled this time.

Per the past two interviews with other members of the Board, Mr. Baker had indicated that he was guilty of the Murder and he did not deserve or expected to every be paroled, but Mr. Baker believed that he could justifiably spend the rest of his life in prison. Mr. Dunn indicated that Mr. Baker again indicated that he was guilty and expected to spend his life in IDOC.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

The offender overview presented by IDOC staff of Mr. Baker indicates he has had a reasonably good adjustment, even though he does not have a work assignment. Mr. Baker appeared to be in relatively good health.

Mr. Baker has obtained his GED since coming into IDOC.

Mr. Baker indicated that he has five brothers, and six sisters. He advised that they all live near Terra Haute, Indiana. Mr. Baker also verbalized that some of his family came to see him every month and they send him money "all the time". However, IDOC records indicate that Mr. Baker has not had a visitor since 2005.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Dunn noted that Mr. Baker provided no actual parole plans during the interview.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
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PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
Craig Findley, Chairman

OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

Mr. Dunn noted there was a strong protest letter was presented from the from the Clark County State's Attorney. Mr. Dunn also advised that a victim related to Mr. Livvix also sends a protest letter nearly every time Mr. Baker is presented for consideration. Finally, Mr. Dunn indicated that there have also been many strong letters of protest from former State Senator William Peterson from 1991 through 2009.

EN BANC HISTORY

Mr. Baker has been considered for parole 26 times, and he failed to receive any votes in favor of release in 23 of those hearings. He has also received multiple-year sets at four past hearings, with three additional occasions at which the vote for a multiple-year set ended in a tie. The last time Mr. Baker was presented, he received a 5-year set.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Dunn advised that he used several factors when deciding whether or not to recommend Mr. Baker for parole. Mr. Dunn also advised that there was no remorse shown by Mr. Baker for the terrible crime that he had committed, and for the taking of the victim's life for no just cause.

Mr. Dunn also commented that when Mr. Baker spoke of his family's involvement in his life, he offered conflicting testimony to the information that was provided by his institutional counselor. Mr. Dunn followed up with noting that Mr. Baker continues to exhibit a lot of anger that he still has not addressed, which could present a problem if he was paroled. Mr. Dunn also advised that Mr. Baker has refused completely to participate in two parole consideration interviews by the Board.

Finally, Mr. Dunn advised that Mr. Baker never indicated that he had any type of parole plan ready, should he granted parole by the Board. Mr. Dunn noted that he does not believe that Mr. Baker is ready to be paroled, especially when Mr. Dunn can still observe the pent-up anger exhibited by Mr. Baker. Mr. Dunn stated that he believes that Mr. Baker may still present a danger to society at this time.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (DWD—EC). Motion prevails by a vote of 11-0.

Motion for a three-year set (DWD—AMP). Motion prevails by a vote of 11-0.



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After thorough consideration of Mr. Baker'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. Baker would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole, and that his release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of his 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."