



STATE OF ILLINOIS
 BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
 Craig Findley, Chairman

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION—November 29, 2018

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A Springfield, Illinois, on November 29, 2018, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

C01114	Chester Weger
C82424	Jerome Zamp
C01563	Michael Parker
C86186	William Howell

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. Ellen Johnson	X	
Ms. Virginia Martinez	X	
Mr. William Norton	X	
Mrs. Aurthur Mae Perkins	X	
Mr. Joseph Ruggiero	X	
Mr. Donald Shelton	X	
Mr. Ken Tupy	X	
Ms. Patricia Wilson	X	
Chairman Craig Findley	X	

14 Members Present

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
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Craig Findley, Chairman

***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—November 29, 2018

Inmate Name: **CHESTER WEGER** IDOC Number: **C01114**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on November 29, 2018, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Chester Weger C01114.

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

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

Ms. Harris presented the following summary of the parole consideration interview and review of the inmate's file:

On October 31, 2018, an institutional interview for parole consideration took place at Pinckneyville Correctional Facility with Chester Weger C01114. Attorney Celeste Stack of Hale Law Firm represented Mr. Weger *pro bono* in this matter. As of the date of interview, Mr. Weger has served approximately 58 years of a Natural Life sentence for the Murder of Lillian Oetting, one of three women found dead at the Starved Rock State Park, located in LaSalle County, Illinois.

Mr. Weger was born on March 3, 1939, to Herschel Wayne Weger and Juanita Louise Pearcy; both parents are deceased. Mr. Weger had four sisters, with one now deceased. Mr. Weger was married to JoAnn Weger, who is now deceased and has two children, a son and daughter.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On March 14, 1960, three women, Lillian Oetting, Mildred Lindquist, and Frances Murphy, checked in to the Lodge at Starved Rock Park. Thereafter, they ate lunch and decided to go for a walk around the campus. The women went missing for 46 hours until police discovered their dead bodies. According to pathology reports, the women each suffered multiple blows to the head with a blunt object, likely a log or tree branch. Mr. Weger, who was the major suspect in this case and was later convicted, worked for the Lodge as a dishwasher,

The Murder investigation went on for months. Beginning on March 17, 1960, and for the next five weeks, Mr. Weger was questioned almost daily about the case. On March 17 and 19,



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Craig Findley, Chairman

1960, Illinois State Police Troopers Lowthorp, Raisin, and Hall questioned Mr. Weger for approximately one-and-a-half to two hours about his actions on March 14, 1960.

On March 24, Tpr. Hall interrogated Mr. Weger for 1.5 hours about a shortcut between the Lodge and the St. Louis Canyon, where the bodies were found. Tpr. Hall directed Weger to meet him at the Canyon's entrance the following Saturday. On Saturday, March 26, Tpr. Hall and Mr. Weger spent an hour in the Canyon. Tpr. Hall pointed out where the bodies had been found. Afterwards, Tpr. Hall interrogated Mr. Weger for another 1.5 hours. Later that day, Tpr. Lowthorp accompanied Mr. Weger to his apartment; Tpr. Lowthorp examined Mr. Weger's shoes and the buckskin jacket that he had worn on March 14, 1960. Tpr. Lowthorp took two photographs of Mr. Weger wearing the jacket and snipped some fringe from it for chemical testing. The following week, the troopers took fingerprints and hair samples from Mr. Weger. They also took his buckskin jacket and kept it for 10 days.

On April 20, Tpr. Nelson went to Mr. Weger's apartment and picked him up for questioning. He was taken to a hotel room, where troopers interrogated him for twelve hours. During this period, the Illinois State Crime Lab subjected Mr. Weger to six lie detector tests. The trooper in charge of the investigation admitted that the intensity of the investigation put a strain on those subjected to it. Mr. Weger did not confess at that time, and the State Police did not charge him with Murder. It was then that LaSalle County authorities took over the investigation.

LaSalle County's investigation focused on Mr. Weger on September 26, 1960. Sheriff's Deputies Dummett and Hess, who are both now deceased, ordered Mr. Weger to report for a lie detector test on September 26. He was interrogated by then-State's Attorney Harland Warren, and the polygraph was given by operator John Reid and Associates, who administered four lie detector tests. Mr. Weger was advised that he had failed, and that further tests would have to be given, but Mr. Weger never got to see the results of the test.

On September 27, at approximately 7:00 a.m., Dep. Dummett picked Mr. Weger up. At his home in Chicago, between 9:00 a.m. through 1:00 a.m., he was given several lie detector tests. The following description has been made by Mr. Weger regarding the conduct of those tests:

- John Reid spent several hours trying pleading with Mr. Weger to confess.
- Mr. Reid threatened to give Mr. Weger truth serum.
- Mr. Weger was instructed by Mr. Reid to answer yes to all questions, including those for which a "yes" would be an admission of guilt.
- Mr. Reid suggested to Mr. Weger that his alibi witness was being given a test in the next room.
- Mr. Weger was then driven from Chicago to the LaSalle County State's Attorney's Office by Dep. Dummett and Assistant State's Attorney Craig Armstrong. ASA Armstrong testified that during the ride, Dep. Dummett several times suggested Mr. Weger would be sent to the electric chair.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
Craig Findley, Chairman

- At approximately 7:00 a.m., September 27, 1960, State's Attorney Warren told Mr. Weger that, in view of the lie detector results, they were going to be investigating him.
- At approximately 8:00 a.m., Dep. Hess and an ASA drove Mr. Weger to his apartment, where they searched his property, ultimately seizing the jacket that had been tested earlier by State Troopers and a pair of shoes.
- Deps. Dummett and Hess drove Mr. Weger to Chicago for an examination by a State prison psychiatrist, Dr. Meyer Kruglik. Mr. Weger was given a complete diagnostic interview and was also questioned about the murders. This exam took approximately four hours.

In mid-October, State Troopers began 24-hour surveillance, which they maintained for approximately four weeks, ending on November 16. During this time, the Troopers visited Mr. Weger's place of employment (a painting contractor), where they took pictures of him. They additionally drove Mr. Weger to his home and to work.

Until November 16, 1960, Mr. Weger was questioned every day. On November 17, 1960, at 2:00 a.m., Mr. Weger finally confessed after approximately eight hours of interrogation. From 6:40 p.m. through 7:45 p.m., Deps. Dummett and Hess interrogated Mr. Weger about his movements on March 16, 1960. At approximately 8:00 p.m., Mr. Weger refused to confess; at that point he was shown warrants for his arrests, charging him with Murder, Rape, and several counts of Robbery and Assault.

At 9:40 p.m., Mr. Weger was placed in a line-up while he was handcuffed. Dep. Dummett told Mr. Weger that he had been identified, stating, per Mr. Weger, that the State knew Mr. Weger to be guilty, had enough evidence to convict him, and would convict him if necessary, in that order; Dep. Dummett also again allegedly indicated that Mr. Weger would be sent to the electric chair.

At approximately 1:00 a.m., Mr. Weger's wife, father, and mother were brought to the interrogation room. Per the testimony of Mr. Weger's father, Sheriff Eutsey informed Mr. Weger's father that the charges against his son were serious, noting that "You don't want him to go to that little green room (meaning the electric chair)." Mr. Weger's father replied "No," whereupon Sheriff Eutsey stated, "Go up and tell [Mr. Weger] to tell the truth." The family was then taken up to meet with Mr. Weger.

Mr. Weger's wife and mother confronted Mr. Weger, before bidding him an emotional farewell. Mr. Weger's father was permitted to meet with Mr. Weger privately, regarding which Mr. Weger's father testified that he asked his son whether he committed the murders and Mr. Weger stated, "Daddy, I did not." Mr. Weger claims that after his wife and parents left, Dep. Dummett made indecent remarks about Mr. Weger's wife, which infuriated Mr. Weger and led immediately to Mr. Weger giving Dep. Dummett a confession.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
Craig Findley, Chairman

On November 18, 1960, the La Salle County grand jury returned three separate indictments, each charging the defendant, Mr. Weger, with the murder of one of the three women. He was tried on the indictment that charged him with the murder of Lillian Oetting, was found guilty by the jury, and was sentenced to a term of Natural Life imprisonment.

Mr. Weger later recanted his confession and maintained innocence before the trial. He requested a motion to suppress the confessions and admissions prior to trial. In denying the motion, the trial judge stated that "I do not believe there was any threat or promise which was of such a nature as to cause the defendant to tell an untruth." Mr. Weger additionally filed a motion for discovery of the psychiatric reports, which were either in the hands of the state court prosecutors or were unavailable to him.

MR. WEGER'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

Since his recantation prior to trial and throughout his admission to the Department of Corrections, Mr. Weger has proclaimed innocence. He stated that in the beginning, he signed a written and oral confession as a result of physical and mental abuse. Mr. Weger states that he was led to believe he would receive the electric chair if he did not confess to the murders of the three women.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Juvenile history (redacted here for confidentiality).

September 13, 1959 – Arrested for Armed Robbery, Larceny, and Assault With a Deadly Weapon. No conviction entered.

September 13, 1959 – Arrested for Rape, Intent to Rape, Assault With a Deadly Weapon. No conviction entered.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Weger reports that he is currently unassigned due to arthritis and asthma; he additionally indicated that he suffers from a double intestinal hernia, but that he does not take any medication. He also reports that he reads often, particularly the Bible, history books, and magazines. His most recent ticket was a few months prior to this hearing, for Disobeying a Direct Order; he received a loss of 30 days of commissary privileges for that infraction. He also indicates that some officers have been supportive of his release.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Weger provided several potential options for his parole plans, were he to be released:
1) that he stay near his sister in Missouri, where he would like to be housed at the Union City



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Craig Findley, Chairman

Mission, in Union City, Missouri; and 2) that he stay with his daughter in Illinois, with whom he has regular contact. He further indicated that his preference would be to live at the Christian mission location in Union City, and that he would not want to live anywhere in or near LaSalle County.

Mr. Weger's attorneys, with the Hale Law Firm, have also indicated that they will assist Mr. Weger in securing a viable placement in the event that he is granted parole release. His family members also indicate that they will support him if he is released to the community.

Ms. Harris further noted reports that Nancy Porter, who is the lone surviving juror in Mr. Weger's case, has indicated that she now believes he was too small of a man to overpower and murder three women, and that she further believes he should have been released by this time.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Motion to go into closed session for discussion of confidential information (VH—AP).
Leave.

Motion to return to open session (PF—DWD).

Ms. Johnson noted that Mr. Weger has the support of his family, and that his last ticket was in September 2018.

Mr. Dunn observed that Mr. Weger has difficulty standing.

Mr. Fisher noted that during his confessions, Mr. Weger gave information to investigators that only the killer would have known.

Ms. Crigler responded that Mr. Weger had many interviews and the information may have been told to him. Ms. Crigler reminded the Board that the Board should concentrate on whether or not Mr. Weger is eligible for parole, particularly on the question of whether his parole would affect public safety. Ms. Crigler noted that Mr. Weger has been incarcerated 58 years.

Mr. Tupy stated that Mr. Weger did go to the scene with reporters and described how things happened. It was further noted that the State Police verified the fact that the flight path of the red-and-cream plane would have taken it over the St. Louis Canyon, as suggested in Mr. Weger's statements during the reenactment of the crimes, when he explained why the bodies were dragged deeper into the cave. This was considered damaging testimony to Mr. Weger by several Members.

Ms. Harris stated that there is so much information, some of which was never presented at trial. She referenced a listing of prior discretionary parolees, noting that many of the paroled



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Craig Findley, Chairman

individuals had served much less time than Mr. Weger. Ms. Harris made a move to parole which was seconded by Mr. Dunn.

Mr. Norton agreed with Ms. Crigler and other Members that it was not the Board's role to retry the case. Mr. Norton noted that he was especially concerned with the lack of any remorse on Mr. Weger's part, noting that this was a brutal crime, in which three innocent women were savagely beaten and their bodies destroyed. Mr. Norton agreed the investigation was flawed, but observed that Mr. Weger confessed on nine different occasions. Mr. Norton further noted that Mr. Weger was tried and found guilty after a month-long jury trial. In addition, Mr. Norton cited to the Illinois Supreme Court's review of Mr. Weger's case, wherein the Court found that there was no evidence to support overturning the verdict of the jury. Mr. Norton completed his review of the case by noting that the court's sentence was Natural Life and that he therefore cannot support parole.

Ms. Harris noted that Ms. Stack and the Hale Law Firm have been working tirelessly for Mr. Weger. Ms. Harris feels there is evidence that was not presented at the trial. She cannot get over the crime, but she does support parole.

Mr. Shelton spoke to the credibility of one of the witnesses that Ms. Harris referred to during her presentation, noting that the witness, a past barber of Mr. Weger, had a series of strokes in 2014 and was ruled not to be a credible witness.

Ms. Crigler stated that, in her opinion, coercion and possible innocence had to be acknowledged, due to the length of the interrogations.

Ms. Daniels asked the Board to focus on the ultimate question for any parole consideration case: Who is Chester Weger today and can he be a part of society?

Chairman Findley stated that the Board had previously paroled people who maintained innocence. He also noted that under past laws, anyone not sentenced to Death could ask for parole release. Chairman Findley reiterated Ms. Daniels's observation that the current question before the Board is whether Mr. Weger can be a part of society. The Chairman noted that Mr. Weger is currently the longest-serving inmate in Illinois.

LaSalle County State's Attorney Karen Donnelly commented on the parole consideration plan offered by Mr. Weger's counsel. She spoke to the number of tickets Mr. Weger has received, arguing that these offenses demonstrate a refusal to accept, respect, and follow rules. State's Attorney Donnelly stated that the number of interrogations of Mr. Weger is irrelevant, opining that when contrasted with today's standards, Mr. Weger was "treated with kid gloves" and would have received a mandatory sentence of Natural Life Without Parole. She further argued that Mr. Weger received a sentence of Natural Life and that he has not completed that sentence yet. State's Attorney Donnelly noted that the recent ticket, as well as host site issues, and the fact that Mr. Weger has not accepted guilt for his crime were all highly concerning; she concluded by asking that parole be denied by the Board.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
Craig Findley, Chairman

Chairman Findley spoke of the seriousness of the crime. He stated that any consideration of parole release also includes a review of the petitioner's behavior in prison.

Diane Oetting, the granddaughter of one of the victims, spoke about her experiences and the effects of the Murder of her grandmother upon her family. The Murders of three women in a State Park made the headline in the London Times newspaper, where her family was living at the time. Ms. Oetting noted that Mr. Weger confessed details that would have been known only to the killer, and that the jury returned a guilty verdict with a sentence of Natural Life. Ms. Oetting spoke about the effect this crime has had on her family, noting that her family spends a great deal of time and effort coming to Illinois to protest Mr. Weger's release, which takes an emotional toll on everyone involved. Ms. Oetting stated that she would look to see Mr. Weger take several specific actions in prison: 1) admit his guilt, 2) work to better himself, and 3) show remorse for his crimes.

Ms. Stack, Mr. Weger's attorney, spoke to some facts of the case. Ms. Stack argued that Mr. Weger did not receive a fair treatment and was denied his rights. Ms. Stack further argued that Mr. Weger's conviction was based upon a "confession-only" case and that Mr. Weger was arrested without probable cause. Ms. Stack also spoke about Mr. Weger's actions while incarcerated, noting that he has obtained his GED in prison, despite his having been admitted with a seventh-grade education. Ms. Stack noted that Natural Life sentences are still entitled to petition for parole, and that Mr. Weger has served most of his life incarcerated. She further noted that Mr. Weger is almost 80, and that he finds it difficult to walk to the cafeteria for food. She suggested that Mr. Weger was the perfect candidate to be charged with the crime, noting that the case occurred at the dawn of media attention and that he had no opportunity to prove his innocence. Ms. Stack observed that the evidence in the original case has been put on display and corrupted, but that Mr. Weger's counsel are hopeful that DNA testing may prove his innocence in the near future. Ms. Stack concluded by noting that Mr. Weger is a frail old man with health issues and that she and his family will work to find him a suitable host site; in her opinion, Mr. Weger has met all conditions for parole consideration.

Mr. Weger's niece stated that he has tons of family support and that it is time for him to come home. She does feel for the victim's families, but says that her family is also hurting.

Mr. Fisher addressed the issue of *Miranda* rights, which was raised by Ms. Stack, noting that *Miranda* rights were not in place in 1960, since the ruling and subsequent enforcement of those provisions did not occur until 1966. Mr. Fisher again noted that Mr. Weger is entitled to be considered for parole, but that the Board is not here to retry the case.

Mr. Ruggiero asked about Ms. Stack's mention of retesting evidence with DNA. Ms. Stack stated that she and her colleagues were indeed in the process of testing evidence, and that they would absolutely refile an appeal if the tests revealed new evidence.

Chairman Findley discussed the possibility of specific parole conditions and the potential for success in having DOC approve an Interstate Compact host site.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
Craig Findley, Chairman

Ms. Johnson asked if Ms. Stack had prepared a parole plan. Ms. Johnson also briefly clarified her thoughts regarding the police lineup that included Mr. Weger and that led to his being charged with other crimes.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to parole (VH—DWD). Motion fails by a vote of 7–7. Members voting in favor of the motion were Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Harris, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, and Chairman Findley. Mr. Fisher, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Norton, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, and Ms. Wilson dissented.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Weger’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 a grant of parole release in this instance at this time would deprecate the serious nature of this 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
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
Craig Findley, Chairman

***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION—November 29, 2018

Inmate Name: **JEROME ZAMP**

IDOC Number: **C82424**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A., Springfield, Illinois, on November 29, 2018, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Jerome Zamp C82424.

Members present were Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Norton, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Wilson, 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 the inmate's file:

Jerome Zamp C82424 was interviewed on July 16, 2018 at Dixon Correctional Center. Mr. Zamp is 69 years of age, with a birthdate of September 6, 1949. Also present at the interview were Wilder Kendric Berry, Sr., a paralegal with Winston & Strawn law firm, and several family members. The family members were Mr. Zamp's brother, sister-in-law (with whom he plans to live if paroled), nephew, and nieces.

Mr. Zamp is serving a 200-300-year sentence for a 1977 Murder and his projected discharge date is 2120. Mr. Zamp entered the Illinois Department of Corrections on July 14, 1978, and he has been housed at Dixon Correctional Center since June 5, 1996.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On February 2, 1977, Dr. Hans Wachtel was murdered as he left to go to work at Woodlawn Hospital, on the Southside of Chicago. Dr. Wachtel was found slumped over the steering wheel of his car, in his regular parking space near his home, with gunshot wounds to his left eye and ear. He was taken to a hospital and pronounced dead. After investigation, it was determined that the Murder had been committed by Mr. Zamp and his co-defendant, Joseph Beto. Both individuals confessed to having been hired in a scheme to kill Dr. Wachtel. Dr. Wachtel was a very well-respected physician, who was Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Woodlawn Hospital. Dr. Wachtel had uncovered a scheme to increase billings by performing unnecessary surgeries on patients, which was being carried out by one of his colleagues, Dr. Samuel Chen. Dr. Chen spoke with Dr. John Peters about murdering Dr. Wachtel. Dr. Peters then contacted an associate in New Orleans to perform the hit; that person's name was Steve Fleming. Mr. Fleming knew Mr. Zamp, who was working as a bouncer at a bar



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
Craig Findley, Chairman

in New Orleans at the time. Mr. Fleming proposed the hit to Mr. Zamp who, at first, turned him down; Mr. Zamp later agreed and came to Chicago. Mr. Zamp lived with Dr. Peters for a few months, as plans developed for the hit. Dr. Zamp brought in an old friend, Joseph Beto, and both became familiar with Dr. Wachtel's routine; they were given the location of his home and the doctor's car license plate number. Mr. Zamp was also given a car and gun to use.

On the day of the Murder, Mr. Zamp and Mr. Beto waited for Dr. Wachtel to leave his home. When he entered his car, Mr. Beto approached and shot Dr. Wachtel. Mr. Zamp was driving the getaway car and the two fled the scene. Each was paid \$2,000 for the Murder. Dr. Chen paid Mr. Fleming \$9,000 for securing the hitmen.

Mr. Zamp was convicted of Murder after a jury trial and sentenced to 200–300 years. The case was appealed and affirmed in 1980. A writ of habeas corpus was denied in 1988. Post-conviction petitions were dismissed in 1997 and 1998. Each of those petitions raised the issue of whether Mr. Zamp's confession was voluntary. In a third post-conviction petition, Mr. Zamp sought to have his sentence vacated. That petition was denied, and an appellate court affirmed that denial in 2002. At this time, all appellate remedies have been exhausted.

During the parole consideration interview, Mr. Zamp stated that he was on parole in New Orleans, doing deep sea diving and working as a bouncer. He was doing drugs and drinking, and when Mr. Fleming first offered Mr. Zamp a contract to kill a doctor, he turned it down. But when he was asked again a few days later, Mr. Zamp agreed. When he met Drs. Peters and Chen, he was told Dr. Wachtel was doing bad things. Mr. Zamp didn't learn until later that it was Dr. Chen who was involved in bad conduct toward patients. Nevertheless, when Mr. Zamp ran into Mr. Beto and told him about the contract, Mr. Beto told Mr. Zamp, "No problem, I'll show you how to do it." Mr. Zamp said he couldn't walk away, because the job was connected to the Syndicate. Mr. Zamp noted that Mr. Beto actually shot Dr. Wachtel. When Mr. Zamp went to collect payment, he told Mr. Beto to stay outside and told Dr. Peters, who didn't know about Mr. Beto, that he was outside. Mr. Zamp said he did this because he was afraid the doctors would kill him, and that knowing Mr. Beto was outside would deter that from happening.

Mr. Zamp's co-defendant, Mr. Beto, was tried with a separate jury and sentenced by the same judge to 200-300 years. Mr. Beto died in prison. Mr. Fleming was killed shortly after the arrests of Mr. Beto and Mr. Zamp. Mr. Zamp testified against Dr. Peters, who was tried by a jury and found not guilty, despite his concession to the Murder-for-hire plot. Mr. Zamp states that there were some questions about jury tampering. Dr. Chen was never tried, and as far as Mr. Zamp knows, all of the parties involved in the Murder are dead except for him.

MR. ZAMP'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

Mr. Zamp accepts full responsibility for his actions and expressed remorse for his participation in taking the life of Dr. Wachtel. He understands that the family opposes parole and said they have every right to protest and grieve. He has tried to let the family know that his remorse is real and is willing to attend any type of restorative justice program with them. He



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Craig Findley, Chairman

said, "it's never going to sit right with me either." Mr. Zamp expressed that he would be willing to participate in any type of process that will help bring them peace.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Zamp was on parole at the time of the Murder for a Burglary committed in Sacramento, California, in 1972, for which he had received a sentence of Six Months to Life. He had an arrest in Los Angeles for Robbery in 1971, for which he received a 90-day placement for diagnosis. Earlier in 1971, he was arrested for Murder in Los Angeles and released without being charged. Mr. Zamp also had an arrest for possession of dangerous drugs and was released.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Zamp has had a strong and positive institutional adjustment. He has been on A grade, minimum security since 1996, and has been designated a low escape risk since 1989. He has received only six minor tickets since 2003, with the last one being in 2017 for Failing to Check In after returning from the gym line. A major ticket in 2004 for Damage or Misuse of Property was reduced to Contraband or Unauthorized Property.

During his incarceration, Mr. Zamp has received his GED and taken college courses. He has held several jobs such as maintenance clerk, visiting room clerk, and office porter. His longest assignment has been to Optical Industries from 1999 until earlier his year. He is described by his supervisor as being a very responsible and hard worker, as well as for being pleasant, punctual, and dependable. Mr. Zamp has received certificates for participation in several programs including Maintenance, Anger Management, Lifestyle Redirection and Substance Abuse. He is also an accomplished painter.

His most important transformative event, Mr. Zamp insists, is finding religion. He participates in religious classes and daily Bible study. Through his religious practice, he has found a means to express his sorrow, pray for forgiveness for his sins and crimes, and to strive for a moral life. He has served as a source of strength and direction to other inmates. He has also maintained close ties with his family, through letters, calls, and visits from his brother, nieces, and nephew, who were present for the interview at Dixon.

Mr. Zamp is in failing health. He has liver disease, needs a pacemaker, and has Hepatitis C. He additionally indicates that he suffers from asthma, Grave's disease, gastritis, and prostate issues. Despite his illnesses, he participated actively in the interview. He was pleasant, cooperative, and happy to see his family members who were there to support him.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Zamp has been approved, through Interstate Compact, to transfer to South Carolina where he will live with his brother. His brother confirmed this during the interview at Dixon. Mr. Zamp's brother and sister-in-law have offered housing in the second floor of their home as well



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Craig Findley, Chairman

as financial and other support. Mr. Zamp's nieces and nephews have also offered financial and other support, though they do not live in South Carolina. Mr. Zamp is also in regular communication with the pastor of NMB Christian Church in South Carolina, where he has been accepted as a member of the community. Additionally, Mr. Zamp's attorneys have contacted the South Carolina Department of Corrections and the Horry County Sheriff's Office to seek and secure commitments of assistance for any social services or employment searches that may be necessary. There are part- and full-time employment opportunities in area golf courses and new developments.

EN BANC VOTING HISTORY

The Board first considered parole for Mr. Zamp in 1985. His past voting history in favor of parole release is as follows: 2015, 3 votes (3-year set); 2014, 4 votes; October 2013, 4 votes; January 2013, 4 votes; 2010, 2 votes; 2009, 3 votes; 2008, 3 votes; 2007, 7 votes; 2006, 4 votes; 2006, 1 vote; 2004, 1 vote; 2003, 2 votes; and 2002, 3 votes.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Ms. Martinez noted that there is, and always have been, vigorous protests against release of Mr. Zamp from both the State's Attorney and the family of Dr. Wachtel.

Chairman Findley spoke about what a wonderful and unique person Dr. Wachtel was.

Dr. Wachtel's son-in-law spoke about his father-in-law, noting what a great person Dr. Wachtel was. Dr. Wachtel's son-in-law highlighted what he considered the important points for the Board to consider: 1) due to the severity of the crime, this was meant to be a Life sentence, noting that he felt that the argument that Mr. Zamp has been in a long time (41 years) does not enter into the decision if it's a Life sentence; 2) he is concerned with Mr. Zamp's ability to comply with the conditions of parole, since the crime was committed while Mr. Zamp was out on parole previously. Dr. Wachtel's son-in-law concluded by focusing upon the concern for the victim's family's safety.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Sara Whitecotton stated that Mr. Zamp flew from Louisiana twice during the planning of this crime. He selected the getaway driver, planned the details of the crime, and learned about the victim. This was a crime calculated over time.

Mr. Ruggiero noted Dr. Wachtel's service to the community, in that he started clinics for poor women on Chicago's Southside, so that they could receive medical care. Mr. Ruggiero also noted that Dr. Wachtel was murdered for being a whistleblower, as he had threatened to expose another doctor for performing unnecessary surgeries in order to defraud Medicare.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Craig Findley, Chairman

Ms. Crigler asked Mr. Zamp's age. Ms. Martinez clarified that Mr. Zamp is 69 years of age at this time.

Mr. Shelton asked about what Mr. Zamp was on parole for previously. Ms. Martinez explained that Mr. Zamp was arrested and released after supposedly shooting his partner in a Burglary in California.

Wilder Kendric Berry, Sr. and Bryce Cooper, who provide legal assistance to Mr. Zamp, asked that the Board trust Ms. Martinez's view of Mr. Zamp. They noted that they have been working towards Mr. Zamp's release for the past ten years, and that they will continue to do what they can to help after his parole. Mr. Zamp has been approved through Interstate Compact to transfer to South Carolina to live with his brother.

Mr. Zamp's niece spoke in support of Mr. Zamp's release. She says he has the support of his entire family. She stated that drugs played a part in the crime, and that if you met with Mr. Zamp, you would see that his remorse is real.

Mr. Norton discussed how Mr. Zamp had returned to New Orleans after the crime, noting that Mr. Zamp was not arrested until May 14, 1977, when he gave himself up.

Ms. Johnson asked how long it had been since Mr. Zamp's last parole consideration hearing. Ms. Martinez noted that Mr. Zamp had received a 3-year set in 2014 at his last hearing.

Chairman Findley agreed that Mr. Zamp regrets the crime. Chairman Findley noted that he thinks Mr. Zamp deserves a chance to be released on parole. Chairman Findley also expressed that he feels for the family of Dr. Wachtel.

Ms. Crigler noted that she believes Mr. Zamp should be paroled.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to parole (VM—EC). Motion passes by a vote of 9–5. Members voting in favor of the motion were Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Harris, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley. Mr. Fisher, Mr. Norton, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton and Mr. Tupy dissented.

After a complete review of Mr. Zamp's case, and after giving thoughtful discussion and consideration to all factors, the Board decided and voted to grant parole to Mr. Zamp, subject to conditions of parole release as set by the Board and by law. The Board hereby finds that Mr. Zamp 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
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Craig Findley, Chairman

***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION— November 29, 2018

Inmate Name: **MICHAEL PARKER**

IDOC Number: **C01563**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on November 29, 2018, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Michael Parker C01563.

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

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

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

Board Member Tupy met with Michael Parker C01563 at Robinson Correctional Center for a parole release consideration interview. Mr. Parker was born on December 8, 1952, and he is currently 68 years old. He is serving a sentence of 100–200 years for Murder. The jury recommended the Death penalty, but the court sentenced him to a term of years instead.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The facts of the crime are that on March 14, 1970, Mr. Parker went to the residence of the victim, Alice Thomas. Mr. Parker stated he was 17 years old and was high on marijuana and crack cocaine. He attempted to have sex with the victim, who was a 26-year-old woman; she refused his advances. The crime occurred in the kitchen, and when Ms. Thomas resisted, Mr. Parker grabbed a knife and began stabbing the her. Mr. Parker stabbed Ms. Thomas in the upper torso and face approximately 30 to 40 times. Ms. Thomas had an 11-month-old and a seven-year-old in the apartment; her seven-year-old had cerebral palsy. During the attack, Ms. Thomas's seven-year-old attempted to defend his mother, and he grabbed Mr. Parker's leg. Mr. Parker responded by kicking the seven-year-old in the groin, and then left the apartment. Ms. Thomas's seven-year-old son then crawled over his mother to get help. He later identified Mr. Parker as the murderer at trial.

On August 26, 1991, at the age of 39, Mr. Parker was released on parole. On November 30, 1993, Mr. Parker was convicted for the Armed Robbery of a Baskin-Robbins Ice Cream Parlor. He indicates that, when he was released, his friends picked him up and had liquor in the car, and they wanted to celebrate his release. He did not want to ruin the party, so he had a drink. He said that led to him getting addicted to drugs, and he went back to his old lifestyle. He



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
Craig Findley, Chairman

said he saw the manager giving the girls at the Baskin-Robbins money, and he decided to rob the store. After the Robbery, he went back to his apartment and realized that he could have hurt the Baskin-Robbins employee. When he realized this, he went to the police station and told them he robbed the store and turned over the money and the knife. The police were unaware the store had been robbed until they checked out his story. His parole was revoked, and he received an additional 30-year sentence for the Armed Robbery.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

In addition to the instant offense of Murder and the Armed Robbery which resulted in Mr. Parker's reincarceration, his criminal history indicates that he had a conviction for Possession of Marijuana in 1970, for which he was on probation at the time of the Murder. During his period of parole release between 1991 and 1993, Mr. Parker was also charged with a Battery, which ultimately was dismissed.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

On January 19, 1996, Mr. Parker suffered a stroke. He is now partially paralyzed on his right side. He currently walks with the aid of a cane. Mr. Parker has made efforts to address his addiction problems and has attended drug programs for the last three years. He had certificates showing he has participated in drug and alcohol treatment every month. He states he wants to continue with drug programs if he can leave the facility, and he states that he never wants to hurt another person.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Parker's parole plans are to attend Saint Leonard House. The Board also received a letter from a friend of Mr. Parker, who indicates he would allow Mr. Parker to live at his home. Since his reincarceration in 1996, Mr. Parker has received 25 major tickets and five minor tickets. Mr. Parker's last major ticket was in October 2016 for Refusal of Housing. The SPIN Assessment indicates overall High Risk with Moderate protective factors. Mr. Parker was formerly involved in a gang, but he has not been active in some time.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Ms. Crigler stated that Mr. Parker's housing plans were weak, noting that he has no particularized parole plan and no money with which to support himself.

Ms. Wilson felt that Mr. Parker's mental health needs to be evaluated. He was found fit to stand trial, but she doesn't feel he is mentally strong.

Ms. Crigler asked about Mr. Parker's Refusal of Housing ticket.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Craig Findley, Chairman

Ms. Perkins stated that Mr. Parker needs to secure appropriate housing in order to be released, particularly in light of his medical needs, noting that he walks slowly with a cane.

Mr. Shelton felt that he made a mistake in not supporting Mr. Parker's parole initially. Mr. Parker knew he had a problem and took steps to resolve it.

Ms. Crigler asked if Mr. Parker has been evaluated by the State's Attorney as he has no designated sex offender status.

Mr. Tupy stated Mr. Parker was sentenced to 30 years for Armed Robbery, and that, based on his history, he received the maximum sentence. He served 15 years on that conviction.

Ms. Crigler asked if he was paroled on the Murder charge and then violated with the Armed Robbery charge. Mr. Tupy said that was correct.

Ms. Martinez asked about his parole plan, inquiring what would happen if he were to be paroled, in light of how weak the plan is. Chairman Findley said that the Illinois Department of Corrections will help him file for benefits and attempt to secure housing for him. Mr. Tupy is concerned that Mr. Parker will need significant health benefits and support.

Mr. Dunn and Ms. Harris asked if he has any speech impairment due to his stroke. Mr. Tupy and Mr. Shelton both stated that Mr. Parker can be understood.

Chairman Findley mentioned several half way houses that could be considered for Mr. Parker, including St. Andrew's Court at St. Leonard's House, Hope House, and Safe Haven.

Mr. Norton asked Mr. Parker's discharge date. Mr. Tupy answered that it is 2066.

Mr. Norton also asked if Mr. Tupy felt that SPIN being High was a problem. Mr. Tupy stated that he thought those results were the results of poor choices and drug addiction.

Mr. Tupy said he knew the parole plan was not the strongest but feels that after another five years Mr. Parker may not have any friends or support left.

Chairman Findley talked about the SPIN Assessment. He said IDOC received a grant to put that program in place. Its implementation was heavily delayed, and now there is some question how helpful the instrument is, particularly for the indeterminate population. Chairman Findley noted that there are efforts to find a better tool. Mr. Ruggiero feels the SPIN slants badly toward the individual when they are too honest. Ms. Martinez said her problem with the SPIN is that it is based too heavily on past actions. Chairman Findley observed that much of the SPIN is computer generated and not generated by humans. Mr. Norton stated that he finds the SPIN inaccurate.

Ms. Martinez stated that Mr. Parker needs mental health services.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
Craig Findley, Chairman

Mr. Fisher stated that Mr. Parker thought he couldn't function outside, so he committed crime in order to return to prison.

Ms. Johnson mentioned that he was out for two years prior to committing the offense for which he was recommitted to IDOC.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Sara Whitecotton spoke to Mr. Parker's lack of a parole plan. She argued that the SPIN needs to be considered because it shows High Risk to recidivate overall. The State asked for denial of parole.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

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

After a complete review of Mr. Parker's case, and after giving thoughtful discussion and consideration to all factors, the Board decided and voted to grant parole to Mr. Parker, subject to conditions of parole release as set by the Board and by law. The Board hereby finds that Mr. Parker 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
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

Craig Findley, Chairman

***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**
OPEN SESSION— November 29, 2018

Inmate Name: **WILLIAM HOWELL** IDOC Number: **C86186**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on November 29, 2018, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for William Howell C86186.

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

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE

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

A parole assessment interview was conducted with William Howell c86186 on October 24, 2018. Mr. Howell was born on June 25, 1956; he is currently 62 years of age. He was a resident of Menard Correctional Center on the date of the interview. According to the file, upon a plea of guilty to the offense of Murder, on July 20, 1978, Mr. Howell was sentenced to 35-100 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections in Madison County Case Number 77-CF-569.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On or about December 16, 1977, Mr. Howell, who was 21 years of age at the time, was out for a night of drinking with a friend by the name of Joseph Cunningham. Needing money to purchase more alcohol, Mr. Howell and Mr. Cunningham decided to go to the residence of Emma McKinley to ask for money.

Ms. McKinley was 75 years of age, and she had known Mr. Cunningham for a period of time prior to her Murder. Ms. McKinley allowed Mr. Cunningham into her residence, but she refused to give him any money. At that point, Mr. Cunningham became involved in an altercation with Ms. McKinley, whereupon Mr. Howell came into the residence, kicked Ms. McKinley, and struck her in the head with an ash tray. As the assault continued, Mr. Cunningham armed himself with a knife; Mr. Howell brandished a two-prong meat fork. The two then proceeded to repeatedly stab Ms. McKinley. Once Ms. McKinley was dead or unconscious, one or both of the attackers applied petroleum jelly to the rectal area of Ms. McKinley and proceeded to have anal intercourse with her.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
Craig Findley, Chairman

The autopsy revealed that Ms. McKinley received a total of 60 knife and puncture wounds during this attack, as well as two fractures to her skull and two rib fractures. The liver and right kidney of Ms. McKinley were also ruptured during this attack, resulting in her Murder.

MR. HOWELL'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE

At the time of his parole assessment interview, Mr. Howell continued to maintain that he has no memory or recollection of his involvement in the Murder of Ms. McKinley, nor does he recall any aspects of the attack on Ms. McKinley, which resulted in her death. Mr. Howell stated that he must have been in an alcoholic blackout at the time of the offense, due to his self-admitted chronic alcoholism. Mr. Howell admitted, however, that he was a friend of Mr. Cunningham, that Mr. Howell and Mr. Cunningham often drank together, that Mr. Howell did give a confession, and that he did enter a plea of guilty to this offense for Murder.

INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

The parole assessment as completed by the Illinois Department of Corrections reveals that Mr. Howell was admitted to the custody of the IDOC on July 27, 1978, and that he has remained in custody ever since; he has now been in custody for over 40 years.

The institutional adjustment of Mr. Howell has been excellent. Mr. Howell has not received an Inmate Disciplinary Report since 2000. His current work assignment is as a tailor. Mr. Howell has earned his GED, an Associate Degree in General Studies, and several vocational certificates.

Mr. Howell admits that he has been diagnosed as having a history of alcohol and substance abuse, and Mr. Howell self-admits to being a chronic alcoholic. Mr. Howell also admits that he has done little or nothing while incarcerated to seek or obtain treatment for these issues, and that while once enrolled in alcohol and substance abuse treatment and counseling, he failed to complete the program.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Howell stated that he was born in Texas, and that his family eventually moved to Alton, Illinois. Mr. Howell reported that both of his parents are deceased and that his only sibling, his sister Vivian, is also deceased. Mr. Howell stated he was never married and has no children. Mr. Howell stated his closest living relatives are a niece who lives in Missouri, with whom he has some phone contact, but whom he has not seen in more than 20 years; his only other close relatives are two nephews with whom he has no contact.

Mr. Howell appeared to be in good health and reported himself to be in good health. Mr. Howell stated that if he were to be granted parole, he would plan to reside with his niece in Missouri and attempt to seek some form of employment. Mr. Howell was courteous and polite during the interview.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
Craig Findley, Chairman

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Norton states that although the parole plan in this case is very weak, he is conflicted in his recommendation. At first glance, Mr. Howell appears to be a suitable candidate for parole: his crime was not premeditated, he has served 40 years incarcerated, and he has had a positive institutional adjustment. In counterpoint, Mr. Norton noted that the crime was committed over an attempt to secure \$20, and that Mr. Howell has an extreme alcohol abuse problem. Mr. Howell would need close supervision, drug and alcohol counseling, and sex offender treatment. Mr. Howell has never completed alcohol abuse treatment. Mr. Norton would recommend a psychological evaluation. As a result of those issues, Mr. Norton was unable to recommend parole for Mr. Howell at this time.

Mr. Ruggiero asked where the description of the crime came from and about Mr. Howell's tickets in the institution. Mr. Norton replied that he drew the description from his review of the Board's file, including past statements in protest of Mr. Howell's release. Mr. Norton further replied that Mr. Howell's last ticket was in 2005.

Mr. Dunn stated that Mr. Howell is very passive and is a follower.

Ms. Johnson spoke about Mr. Howell's sobriety. She stated that just because he hadn't gotten a ticket for alcohol didn't mean he was sober. She also noted that Mr. Howell will reach his maximum sentence in nine years.

Mr. Tupy noted that Mr. Howell was friends with the victim. Mr. Tupy wondered whether the Attorney General was looking at classifying Mr. Howell as a sexually violent person, since Mr. Howell was convicted of Murder, as opposed to a sexual offense.

Mr. Ruggiero gave credit to the sentencing judge in the case, observing that the judge sentenced Mr. Howell to 35-100 years. Mr. Ruggiero noted that the judge had listened to all of the testimony and used his experience and intelligence to decide on a length of time he felt Mr. Howell needed for the crime. Mr. Ruggiero felt Mr. Howell had done his time, as the judge would have given him more time if he felt it was needed.

Chairman Findley said he would be more comfortable if the order stated that any intoxication would result in the immediate return of Mr. Howell for a violation.

Ms. Martinez stated that her primary concerns were Mr. Howell's weak parole plan and his serious and untreated alcohol abuse.

Ms. Johnson asked what sentence the co-defendant, Mr. Cunningham, received. Mr. Norton indicated that Mr. Cunningham received the same sentence as Mr. Howell.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD
Craig Findley, Chairman

Ms. Johnson also asked if Mr. Howell had participated in sex offender counseling. Mr. Norton indicated that Sex Offender counseling is not offered at Menard, as it is only available at Big Muddy and Pinckneyville. Accordingly, Mr. Howell has not received that counseling.

Mr. Dunn asked whether substance abuse counseling completion could be required, in the event that parole release was denied.

Mr. Dunn was also concerned about the lack of remorse on Mr. Howell's part, noting that even if, as Mr. Howell maintains, he does not remember the crime, he could still have a level of compassion for the terrible crime committed.

Mr. Fisher's concerns are the absence of a parole plan and that he does not believe that Mr. Howell cannot remember the crime at all.

Mr. Dunn stated Mr. Howell is not addressing his behavioral problems and is only focusing on studies.

The Board briefly reviewed the history of Mr. Howell's past votes at *en banc*.

DECISION AND RATIONALE

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

Despite his excellent institutional adjustment, the Board remains concerned, as previously addressed, and noted that Mr. Howell has done little or nothing to obtain treatment for his diagnosed and self-admitted issues of alcohol and substance abuse. Evidence continues to be lacking that Mr. Howell has sought to understand his particular needs in recovery, including an understanding of the risk of relapse, which could accompany the stress upon entry back into society. The Board also expressed concern with the lack of a verifiable and stable parole plan.

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