



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

**EN BANC MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION—September 26, 2018**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on September 26, 2019, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following offenders:

<b>C68880</b>	<b>AARON HYCHE</b>
<b>C10244</b>	<b>THOMAS FULLER</b>
<b>C01355</b>	<b>NAMAR SMITH</b>
<b>C10587</b>	<b>MARK SMITH</b>
<b>C82943</b>	<b>HERMAN LAMB</b>

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Findley.

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Janet Crane.

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

13 Members Present

The Recording Secretary presented the August 1, 2019, Open Session Minutes for approval.

Motion to approve Open Session Minutes from **August 1, 2019**. (EC—DWD). Leave.



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

Meeting was adjourned (CF—DS). Leave.



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION—September 26, 2019**

Inmate Name: **AARON HYCHE**

IDOC Number: **C68880**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on September 26, 2019, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Aaron Hyche C68880.

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

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

Aaron Hyche C68880 was interviewed on July 25, 2019, at the Dixon Correctional Center by Mr. Ruggiero of the Prisoner Review Board. Present at the interview was his attorney, Andrew Sharp, from Illinois Legal Online. Mr. Hyche is 68 years old and presented himself in an appropriate manner. He was in a wheel chair. His physical appearance and speech were a bit shaky and frail. He stated he has Parkinson's Disease. Mr. Hyche was cooperative and respectful throughout the interview process.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

On January 27, 1976, Mr. Hyche pled guilty to Attempt Murder and Armed Robbery and was sentenced to 4-8 years. Mr. Hyche was given a 5-day stay. Mr. Hyche violated his bond and became a fugitive.

On March 18, 1976, State Trooper Layton Davis stopped an automobile driven by Mr. Hyche for speeding on Interstate 57. Mr. Hyche was driving on his way to Texas along with his passenger, James Taylor. Trooper Davis had been informed by State authorities that an arrest warrant for Mr. Hyche was outstanding. Trooper Davis searched Mr. Hyche, and then went around to search the passenger, Mr. Taylor, who had Mr. Hyche's gun. A struggle ensued between Mr. Taylor and Trooper Davis outside the car.

A passing male motorist witnessed the altercation. The motorist stopped his vehicle and went to help the trooper. Before the motorist could render any aid, Mr. Hyche picked up the gun, which was on the ground, and shot Trooper Davis three times. Trooper Davis died from these wounds. At least two shots were fired at the motorist through his windshield, as he hurriedly returned to his vehicle and sped away. The motorist left the highway at the first available exit and notified the State Police of the incident by telephone. Shortly after Trooper Davis's death, a



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female motorist saw Mr. Hyche and his companion near a car in a ditch off a county road. This motorist stopped to offer them her assistance. The men forced her, by beating her up, into the back of her car and drove off. Mr. Hyche and Mr. Taylor were later arrested, following a high-speed chase and an attempt to avoid a roadblock.

Mr. Hyche and Mr. Taylor were subsequently charged with the offenses of Murder, Attempt Murder, and Kidnapping. Mr. Hyche was convicted of Murder, Attempt Murder, and Kidnapping, and was sentenced to 150-300 years. His current projected parole date is October 19, 2126.

Mr. Taylor was convicted of all three offenses and was sentenced to 100-200 years. Mr. Taylor's parole request was heard and denied this past year. Mr. Taylor's current projected parole date is April 27, 2066.

#### MR. HYCHE'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES

Mr. Hyche stated there has been something on his mind since he did it. Mr. Hyche said "You don't kill every day." Mr. Hyche stated he was sorry for what he did. Mr. Hyche stated, "Whatever I say or do, people don't understand me." Mr. Hyche said he was referring to the time when this happened, and he said he didn't intend to kill the trooper. Mr. Hyche stated he did not recall shooting the trooper three times. Mr. Hyche said there was a lot going on in his head that day.

Regarding the innocent bystander that pulled up to assist, Mr. Hyche said his instincts told him to shoot at the man. In regards to the female victim Mr. Hyche said she stopped. Mr. Hyche stated he did not have a gun and he simply asked for a ride. Mr. Hyche admitted taking her car and stated, "That day was something else." Mr. Hyche indicated that he had nothing else to say about it, other than that he regrets what he did.

Mr. Hyche confirmed his prior criminal convictions. Regarding the 1976 Attempt Murder, Mr. Hyche said he was robbing someone while he was high. Mr. Hyche stated the victim shot Mr. Hyche, so he then shot the victim in self-defense.

#### CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Hyche's criminal record prior to his arrest for Murder in 1976 includes: an Armed Robbery conviction in 1966, for which he was sentenced to 1 ½ years; two Armed Robbery convictions in 1970, for which he was sentenced to 2-3 years; a Robbery conviction in 1971, for which he was sentenced to 2-3 years; an Armed Robbery conviction in 1973, for which he was sentenced to 4-8 years; and an Armed Robbery conviction in 1976, for which he was sentenced to 4-8 years.



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### INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Hyche has been previously placed in Menard, Pontiac, Hill, Danville, and Pontiac Correctional Centers. Mr. Hyche has been in prison for 52 years; for the last 17 years, he has been at Dixon Correctional Center. Mr. Hyche is classified as A-grade, low escape risk, and medium security.

While in prison, Mr. Hyche obtained an Associate Degree in 1985 and a Bachelor's Degree in 1996. Mr. Hyche earned a Paralegal Certificate in 1996. Mr. Hyche has worked as a housing unit janitor and in the employee's commissary.

Mr. Hyche's SPIN Assessment indicated he is a low overall risk.

Mr. Hyche stated that his mother is in a nursing home. Mr. Hyche stated he has three younger brothers and five younger sisters. Mr. Hyche stated he has one son, who is 48 years old. Mr. Hyche stated he keeps in contact with his family and receives visits. Mr. Hyche stated he has been in the Health Care Unit for the last seven years, and that he is getting worse. Mr. Hyche stated he takes thyroid medication, has hypertension, and is on a blood thinner because he had a stroke. Mr. Hyche stated he is not on any psychotropic medication.

Mr. Hyche has received 39 disciplinary reports from 2015-2018. The violations in these disciplinary reports include Unauthorized Movement, Contraband, False Information, Rules Violations, Abuse of Privileges, Insolence, Intimidation or Threats, Damaged Property, and Possession of Drugs or Paraphernalia. Mr. Hyche stated that he had so many tickets because the guards don't like him because he shot a police officer.

### PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Hyche's parole plan is to live with his brother in Chicago. Mr. Hyche's brother stated that he and other family members will take care of Mr. Hyche. Mr. Hyche's possible parole plans also include participation with the Inner-City Muslim Action Network's Green Re-Entry Program in Chicago. Mr. Hyche stated he hopes to continue school. He further stated that he will work at any job, but that due to his physical condition, he is unable to write.

### OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

Effingham County State's Attorney Bryan Kibler spoke in protest of parole. The Effingham County State's Attorney's Office also filed a written objection to parole release, setting forth the grounds for that objection in full therein. Illinois State Police Director Brendan Kelly spoke in protest of parole. Past organizations who have written objections to parole include the Illinois State Police, the Fraternal Order of Police, the Police Benevolent & Protection Association, the Illinois Police Association, and the Gold Star Families. Petitions objecting to



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parole have been signed by hundreds of citizens in the past. The victim's family members have submitted statements regarding protests to parole.

EN BANC HISTORY

Mr. Hyche is coming off a 5-year set and received no votes in favor of granting parole at his last parole consideration hearing in 2014.

**DISCUSSION**

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Ms. Crigler asked about the number of tickets that Mr. Hyche has received. Mr. Ruggiero stated he did not have the total number of major and minor tickets. Mr. Ruggiero noted that Mr. Hyche has been in segregation four times, Mr. Hyche is 68 years old, and has Parkinson's disease.

The Board discussed the fact that Trooper Davis would not have been aware that there was a warrant for Mr. Hyche when Trooper Davis initially stopped Mr. Hyche. Board Members noted that the theory that Mr. Hyche did not intend to shoot the trooper was rejected, based on the fact the trooper's hand was held down, so that he could not draw his own weapon.

Mr. Shelton talked about the family's offer of housing for Mr. Hyche as something that families do for each other. Mr. Shelton stated that there was a book written on the crime called "An Ordinary Day, The Story of Trooper Layton Davis" that had interviewed family members.

Mr. Shelton stated that he was previously unaware that Mr. Hyche was disabled.

The Board discussed parole plan suggestions, noting that St. Leonard's House is not accessible and that Mr. Hyche is in a wheelchair.

Mr. Hyche's attorney, Andrew Sharp, spoke on Mr. Hyche's behalf. Regarding his parole plans, Mr. Sharp explained that Mr. Hyche's plan is to live with his brother and to work with the Inner-City Muslim Action Network's Green Re-Entry Program in Chicago.

Mr. Sharp stated that the disciplinary issues resulted from Mr. Hyche's Parkinson's. Mr. Hyche speaks in a whisper, bangs his foot on the wheelchair, wipes his mouth, and does not have a good grip on memory; however, Mr. Sharp argued that Mr. Hyche could comply with the conditions of parole, if released.

Mr. Hyche's brother indicated that he would provide the best assistance he can, and additionally stated that he is still working himself.





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Director Kelly spoke in protest of parole. Director Kelly stated that the facts speak for themselves. He feels that Mr. Hyche is still accepting the facts of the case, and that granting parole would diminish the seriousness of the crime.

State's Attorney Kibler also protested parole for Mr. Hyche. SA Kibler stated that his community still has strong, passionate feelings about the case, which still vividly remembers the events. On behalf of his community, he asked the Board to deny parole.

**DECISION AND RATIONALE**

Motion to deny parole (JR—PF). Motion prevails by a vote of 11–2. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Brink, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley. Ms. Crigler and Ms. Daniels dissented.

Motion for a three-year set (JR—DS). Motion fails by a vote of 7–6. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Brink, Mr. Fisher, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton and Mr. Tupy. Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Harris, Ms. Martinez, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley dissented.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Hyche'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. Hyche would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole release, and that parole 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."*



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION—September 26, 2019**

Inmate Name: **THOMAS FULLER**

IDOC Number: **C10244**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on September 26, 2019, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Thomas Fuller C10244.

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

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

Thomas Fuller C10244 was interviewed on July 19, 2019, at Graham Correctional Center by Mr. Dunn of the Prisoner Review Board. Mr. Fuller is 69 years old and appeared to be healthy at the time of the interview. Mr. Fuller was pleasant and was fully engaged during the interview.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

On April 27, 1968, Mr. Fuller shot and killed five people with a .22 caliber pistol. The victims were Louis Cox, Theresa Jean Cox, Mary Catherine Cox, Gary Lee Cox, and Kenneth Cox. The victims were all siblings of Louise Cox, who was the 17-year-old girlfriend of Mr. Fuller. Louis was the twin brother of Louise, and he was the oldest son.

Mr. Fuller pled not guilty and raised the defense of insanity. The court appointed three experts to examine Mr. Fuller, in order to determine whether he was competent to stand trial. Mr. Fuller was found competent to stand trial and was ultimately convicted of five counts of Murder, with one count for each of the five children of the Cox family. On December 10, 1968, Mr. Fuller was sentenced to 70-99 years, with three counts of Murder to be served concurrently and two counts of Murder to be served consecutively, for a total of 140-198 years.

Mr. Fuller appealed his case, which the Appellate Court denied and the Illinois Supreme Court declined to hear. Mr. Fuller's prior request for Executive Clemency was also denied.

**MR. FULLER'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES**

Mr. Fuller stated he had a dislike for Louis Cox and the Cox family, because of their opposition to his possible marriage with Louise Cox. Mr. Fuller stated his reason for his actions was to free Louise from undue oppression from her parents, so that he and Louise might be able to get married. Mr. Fuller stated that prior to the incident he had a relationship with Louise Cox





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for the approximately seven or eight months, and that they attended the same school. Mr. Fuller stated there were 12 children in the Cox family. Mr. Fuller further stated that he would go to Louise's home every weekend to visit, take target practice, and get away from his mother, who was very dictatorial to him.

Mr. Fuller stated his father was an optometrist, a veteran, and an alcoholic. Mr. Fuller stated his mother hated everybody. Mr. Fuller stated his father was abusive to him. Mr. Fuller related that at the end of the third grade, the family moved to Maine, but his father could not find work, so he moved back to Texas. Mr. Fuller stated his parents legally separated when he was 17 years old, and he stayed with his mother afterwards. Mr. Fuller stated that both of his parents later remarried, and he subsequently had a step-brother. Mr. Fuller stated his mother continued to be angry and took her aggression out on the children. Mr. Fuller stated his mother was angry all the time. He particularly noted that on one occasion, his mother attempted suicide, and that she threatened to kill all three of the children.

Mr. Fuller stated that he kept a journal when he was young, that in the journal he displayed himself to be a person with a lot of anger toward his family, with "pent-up" feelings regarding the Cox family. Mr. Fuller confessed in his journal his plan to dispose of the Cox family, and that he and Louise would go to Canada. Mr. Fuller felt as though the Cox family were not fairly treating Louise.

Mr. Fuller stated that he sincerely regrets his actions, and that every night when he goes to bed, he can still see the faces of the victims of his crime. Mr. Fuller indicated his belief in God, and he says he has asked God for forgiveness. Mr. Fuller, while in prison, wrote a letter to Louise, asking her for forgiveness, but he doesn't know if she got the letter, or if prison authorities allowed it to be sent to her.

### CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Fuller has no prior criminal history.

### INSTUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

In 1968, Mr. Fuller was assigned to Stateville Correctional Center. He was transferred to Menard in 1969 and transferred to Graham in 1980, where he has since remained. In Menard, Mr. Fuller completed a Randolph County Diploma, was in an inmate support group, and belonged to a "lifer" group. Mr. Fuller also has earned a college degree during his period of incarceration.

Since 2014, Mr. Fuller has been employed as an assistant, with prior work assignments as an inmate commissary worker, clothing worker, laundry worker, and mechanical store worker. Mr. Fuller has not received any major disciplinary tickets and has maintained an A grade status. Mr. Fuller, while at Graham for the last 40 years, has only received two minor disciplinary



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tickets. Mr. Fuller has been on A grade status for the past 51 years. Mr. Fuller has visits from his mother, and he corresponds regularly with his aunt, who lives in Maine.

Mr. Fuller works nearly every day and has done so the entire 51 years of his incarceration. Mr. Fuller indicated he is a “loner”, who prefers to do his daily assignment and otherwise stay by himself. Mr. Fuller is also an avid reader and runner.

Mr. Fuller was given the SPIN assessment, and the results were that he has an overall Low Risk to re-offend. Additionally, Mr. Fuller was given a comprehensive evaluation as to his mental status. He was last evaluated in August of 2019, at which time he was found to have no mental health diagnoses and to be presently functioning well in IDOC. Mr. Fuller has a positive attitude and stays busy.

### PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Fuller’s aunt lives in Maine, and he plans to live with her if he is paroled. Mr. Fuller’s aunt and her husband live near his brother. Mr. Fuller stated he had no desire to return to Mattoon, or even stay in Illinois.

### EN BANC HISTORY

Mr. Fuller is coming off a 5-year set from 2014.

### DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Dunn summarized the main points of Mr. Fuller’s case that Mr. Dunn found to be most important. Mr. Dunn noted that Mr. Fuller has served 51 years in prison for the crime he committed, and that this was the first and only crime he ever committed. Mr. Dunn further observed that, at the time of the crime, when Mr. Fuller saw the only person in his life that he thought really cared for him being mistreated abused, he lost it. In Mr. Dunn’s summation, all of Mr. Fuller’s past years of rage and anger exploded. Mr. Dunn opined that, at the age of 19, Mr. Fuller’s judgment was not fully developed, and he never had any good role models to demonstrate to him appropriate ways of expressing his anger, rather than being explosive. He came from a terrible home life, with no positive role models. Both his parents were disturbed, and he was the ‘brunt’ of their issues. Mr. Dunn noted that Mr. Fuller has been on A grade for all of the years he has been incarcerated, and that he has only two minor disciplinary infractions. Mr. Fuller has improved his education by obtaining a high school diploma and a college degree. Mr. Dunn further noted that Mr. Fuller readily admits that he was wrong for what he did and has asked God to forgive him. He also wrote a letter to his girlfriend at the time, Louise, pleading for forgiveness. Mr. Fuller’s score on the SPIN assessment is a Low Risk to re-offend. Finally, Mr. Dunn noted that Mr. Fuller had recently been evaluated and did not have any symptoms that



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meet the criteria for a psychiatric diagnosis. Mr. Dunn indicated that he would be recommending parole release be granted to Mr. Fuller, as Mr. Dunn felt that Mr. Fuller would not be a threat to society and that to parole him would not deprecate the seriousness of the crime, nor would it promote disrespect for the law.

Mr. Shelton commented on the rationale for the crime provided by Mr. Fuller, noting that Mr. Shelton could not see how shooting five children would free Mr. Fuller's girlfriend.

Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss victim statements (CF—PF). Leave.

Motion to return to Open Session (CF—DWD). Leave.

Mr. Tupy noted the ages of the children who were killed. Mr. Fuller's girlfriend Louise was 16, and the children killed were her twin, Louis (age 16), her sister Theresa (age 9), her sister Mary (age 8), her brother Gary (age 7), and her brother Kenneth (age 5). Mr. Tupy noted that Mr. Fuller called them all out to the barn one-by-one, shooting each of them in turn.

Ms. Martinez asked if Mr. Fuller had applied for Inter-State Compact.

Mr. Ruggiero asked if there was a reason Mr. Fuller refused to be interviewed by Ms. Harris the last time he was eligible for parole. Mr. Ruggiero asked if Mr. Fuller really wants to be out of custody. Mr. Dunn noted that he feels that Mr. Fuller does want to be paroled.

### **DECISION AND RATIONALE**

Motion to grant parole (DWD—CF). Motion fails by a vote of 5–8. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Brink, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, Ms. Wilson, and Chairman Findley dissented.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Fuller'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 parole release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of these 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.”*



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION—September 26, 2019**

Inmate Name: **NAMOR SMITH**

IDOC Number: **C01355**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on September 26, 2019, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Namor Smith C01355.

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

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

Namor Smith C01355 was interviewed on July 18, 2019, at the Pontiac Correctional Center by Ms. Martinez of the Prisoner Review Board. Mr. Smith was cooperative and rather soft-spoken during his interview.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

Mr. Smith, along with his co-defendants, Herva Stephens and Douglas Stephens, all of whom were members of the Blackstone Rangers, were at the home of Elaine Goins on the South Side of Chicago. Also present were the victim, Sterling Burnett, age 21, Elaine Goins, and Calvin White. Herva Stephens asked the victim, Mr. Burnett, whether he was a Blackstone Ranger. Mr. Burnett said no, and Herva Stephens replied that “if you’re not a Stone, you’re not my brother.” At this point Herva Stephens hit the victim. Herva Stephens then ordered Mr. Smith and Douglas Stephens, along with other unidentified individuals, to take the victim into the alley behind 4611 S. Langley. Douglas Stephens and Mr. Smith then returned to the back porch. Five or six shots were fired at the victim, and the defendants ran through the house and stopped at the front porch. Herva Stephens waved a gun in the face of Ms. Goins and said, “I don’t want to hear no more about this.” At this point the defendants left. An arrest warrant was later issued for Mr. Smith in connection to the offenses.

Mr. Smith was arrested on October 11, 1968, for a Robbery where he was found hiding in a false ceiling at a lounge. He had fired a shot at the owner and ordered the owner to give him all his money. The gun was recovered, and the Robbery was indicted, but ultimately dismissed.

After a jury trial, all three co-defendants were found guilty and the death penalty was recommended for Herva Stephens. Mr. Smith was sentenced to 50–100 years for Murder. Douglas Stephens was sentenced to 20–30 years. Herva Stephens was sentenced to 100–200



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years and was paroled in 2001. The convictions of Mr. Smith and Douglas Stephens were affirmed by the Appellate Court in 1973.

On October 30, 1968, Mr. Smith and two other inmates awaiting trial in the Cook County Jail were involved in a fight. The fight involved the rivalry between the Blackstone Rangers and the Disciples. Mr. Smith hit Correctional Officer Montgomery. The officer was struck with a mop handle that broke. Officer Montgomery did not sustain any serious injuries. Mr. Smith was sentenced to 1–5 years for Aggravated Battery, to be served consecutive to the Murder sentence.

In 1987, while Mr. Smith was incarcerated in IDOC, he struck a fellow inmate several times with a homemade knife, causing injuries. Mr. Smith was sentenced to 8 years for Armed Violence, to be served consecutive to the Murder sentence and the Aggravated Battery sentence. Mr. Smith's current projected release date is June 20, 2023.

#### MR. SMITH'S STATEMENTS AT TO THE OFFENSE

Mr. Smith stated during the interview that one of his co-defendants shot the guy. Mr. Smith stated that all of the co-defendants were Blackstone Rangers and the victim was a Disciple. Mr. Smith stated that he was a "Prince" in the Rangers. Mr. Smith denied ordering his co-defendant to kill the victim. Mr. Smith stated when he got to the scene of the crime, "Look Under" (Mr. Douglas) had already shot the victim. Mr. Smith stated "Look Under" was with his brother "Thunder" (Herva Stephens). Mr. Smith stated that "Thunder" was one of the main 21 over everybody, and that the main 21 were the 21 "Chiefs" of the Blackstone Rangers. Mr. Smith stated "Look Under" was an "Ambassador" and was also above a "Prince" (Mr. Smith's rank).

In contrast to the statement Mr. Smith provided in this interview, past records of the Board indicated that during a previous Board interview, Mr. Smith admitted the facts of the case, and that he ordered two people below him in rank in the Blackstone Rangers to kill the victim.

#### CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Smith's criminal history prior to his arrest for Murder in 1968 includes: Unlawful Use of a Weapon in 1966, for which he was sentenced to 10 days in jail; Theft in 1967, which was reduced to Criminal Trespass, and for which he was sentenced to 6 months in jail; Armed Robbery in 1967, which was reduced to Theft, and for which he was sentenced to a 1-year prison sentence concurrent to a 6-month sentence for Criminal Damage to Property. Mr. Smith was also arrested for Robbery prior to his Murder arrest, and in 1969 he was sentenced to 4-8 years in IDOC for that offense.

#### INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Smith has had a poor institutional adjustment, though it has improved over time. Mr. Smith has received over 200 tickets during his incarceration, mostly in the beginning. Mr. Smith





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has had 15 Staff Assaults and one Inmate Assault. Mr. Smith also has tickets related to starting fires in his cell. Since 2013, Mr. Smith has only received one major ticket, for Contraband; Mr. Smith stated that infraction was for possession of his medication that he had not taken, and he said it was minor. The record indicates that the ticket was reduced to a minor violation classification (308) and he received only a verbal warning. Mr. Smith has received five other major tickets since his return in 2007. Mr. Smith is classified as medium security, low escape risk, and is on A grade status. Mr. Smith states he is housed in solitary confinement for safety reasons.

Mr. Smith stated that he renounced his membership in the Blackstone Rangers in 1986. He said he has never been asked by IDOC to renounce, he just told everyone. Mr. Smith stated he has continued in Bible studies, but has not taken any other classes. He worked in prison industry in 1989 and in 2003 making boxes. He also held gallery jobs, inside lawn, and floor maintenance. He is not currently assigned to work.

Mr. Smith was previously paroled in December 2004. His parole was later revoked in January 2007 for violations of Rules 1 (violation of a criminal statute), 5 (failure to attend or reside in facility established for the instruction or residence of persons on parole or mandatory supervised release), and 16 (failure to comply with electronic monitoring). While on parole, Mr. Smith was violated for unauthorized movement and being removed from several host sites. He was also accused of Criminal Sexual Assault while he was at Harry's Sober Living, though charges were never filed.

Mr. Smith has previously refused to speak with the Board. In 2012, he refused to take an oath and said, "to the PRB, you can take this parole thing and shove it up your ass." Regarding this past statement, Mr. Smith stated that he does not remember saying that, but he says he was angry then. Regarding his 1987 conviction, Mr. Smith states that the other inmate tried to stab him. Mr. Smith said he took the knife away and stabbed the inmate. Regarding his parole violations, Mr. Smith said his violation of parole was because he was AWOL. When asked about the alleged Criminal Sexual Assault at Harry's Sober Living, Mr. Smith said it never happened.

### PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Smith stated that all of his family is deceased. He suffers from diabetes and high blood pressure, though both are under control. Mr. Smith stated he has no parole plan but said he has heard of St. Leonard's House.

### OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE

The Cook County State's Attorney has always opposed the granting of parole. The current letter in opposition points to Mr. Smith's record and lack of a parole plan as proof that he is incapable of conforming to parole conditions. The People additionally note that the crimes themselves, a gang-related murder and assaults while in correctional institutions, are such that if





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he were to be granted parole, it would promote disrespect for the law. The State's Attorney argues that Mr. Smith does not deserve a second early release.

EN BANC HISTORY

Mr. Smith is coming off a 3-year set in 2016. Since his return to prison in 2007 after violating his parole, Mr. Smith has received no votes in favor of granting his release.

**DISCUSSION**

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Ms. Martinez stated that she didn't know what to expect based on his previous conduct during interviews, but she noted that Mr. Smith was responsive and polite. Ms. Martinez felt that he was broken, not rehabilitated. Ms. Martinez observed that Mr. Smith seems to be resigned to serving out his sentence, but that he is no longer as angry as he was. Ms. Martinez stated that although it appears that Mr. Smith has finally started following the rules, the Board cannot overlook the previous parole, where he failed to abide by conditions. Mr. Smith's current projected parole release date is in 2023, and, without a parole plan, Ms. Martinez noted that she did not think it would be advisable to release Mr. Smith. Ms. Martinez stated that she believed that, based on his record and lack of a parole plan, Mr. Smith would not be able to follow conditions that would be set for parole. Ms. Martinez stated that she felt that Mr. Smith needs help finding a place to parole to, and that he needs to be in residential treatment.

Mr. Ruggiero asked about the Criminal Sexual Assault charge. Ms. Martinez stated that he was not charged for the incident at Henry's Sober Living and that no other tickets were of a sexual nature. Instead, his infractions involved setting fires, insolence, and fights.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Sara Whitecotton spoke for the State against parole. She stated that regarding the alleged sexual assault, the victim's mother refused to press charges. ASA Whitecotton also argued that Mr. Smith is a high risk to violate parole conditions, as he was only on parole for three years after his previous release prior to being revoked.

**DECISION AND RATIONALE**

Motion to grant parole (VM—DS). Motion fails by a vote of 3—10. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Dunn, Ms. Martinez, and Chairman Findley. Mr. Brink, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Fisher, Ms. Harris, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, and Ms. Wilson dissented.

After thorough consideration of Mr. Smith'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. Smith would not conform to reasonable conditions of parole, and that



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



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION—September 26, 2019**

Inmate Name: **MARK SMITH**

IDOC Number: **C10587**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on September 26, 2019, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Mark Smith C10587.

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

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

Mark Alan Smith C10587 was interviewed via teleconference with Danville Correctional Center by Mr. Tupy of the Prisoner Review Board.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

On January 27, 1970, Mr. Smith kidnapped 27-year-old Jean Bianchi from a laundromat. He sexually assaulted her, stabbed her 17 times, and threw her off a bridge, leaving her to drown under the bridge. Mr. Smith came back, found she was still alive, poured sand down her throat, and held her head under the water until she drowned.

On February 27, 1970, Mr. Smith was working at a chemical plant. He followed the victim, Janice Bolyard, into the basement and kissed her. Ms. Bolyard resisted, and he strangled her until she passed out. Mr. Smith then raped her. Mr. Smith then tied pantyhose around her neck and strangled her to death.

On May 27, 1970, Mr. Smith abducted 17-year-old high school student Jean Ann Lingerfelter. Mr. Smith then raped her, strangled her to death, and dumped her body in a lake.

Mr. Smith was convicted of Murder in Cook County and sentenced to 50–100 years. Mr. Smith was convicted of two counts of Murder in McHenry County and sentenced to 199–200 years. All three of Mr. Smith's Murder convictions were to run consecutively to one another.

**MR. SMITH'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSES**

Mr. Smith was asked why he killed these women. Mr. Smith replied that he did not know why he had committed the offenses.



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### CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Smith, while incarcerated at Pontiac Correctional Center, attempted an Escape from the prison. Mr. Smith was convicted for Escape in Randolph County and sentenced to 6–18 years in prison, to be served consecutive to the Murder convictions. Mr. Smith also has a Murder conviction in Arkansas, for which he was sentenced to Life.

Mr. Smith also previously admitted to at least three more Murders and rapes of young women, which occurred when he was stationed in Germany.

### INSTUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Smith presents himself as very articulate and educated. Mr. Smith states he is getting older and does not want to learn the Arkansas prison when he is older. Mr. Smith further stated that he has the life sentence in Arkansas and that he should be transferred there.

Mr. Smith was previously diagnosed as having a sociopathic personality. Mr. Smith had a book written about him titled "Legally Sane." The psychiatrist indicates that whenever Mr. Smith feels threatened, he reacts violently.

### OPPOSTION TO PAROLE RELEASE

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Sara Whitecotton spoke on behalf of the State in protest of parole release. The Cook County State's Attorney's Office also filed a written objection to parole release, setting forth the grounds for that objection in full therein.

### EN BANC HISTORY

Mr. Smith is coming off a 5-year set and has never received a vote in favor of granting parole release during any past Board hearings.

### DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss victim statements (CF—DS). Leave.

Motion to return to Open Session (CF—DWD). Leave.

ASA Whitecotton spoke on behalf of the State in protest of parole. She asked that the Board consider the effect of these hearings on the victims' families, and asked for mercy for



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them. ASA Whitecotton argued that the Board should deny parole release, and specifically requested a 5-year set before the case would be heard again.

Mr. Tupy stated that he believed that granting parole would deprecate the seriousness of the crimes and promote disrespect for the law.

**DECISION AND RATIONALE**

Motion to deny parole (KT—JR). Motion prevails by a vote of 13–0.

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



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION—September 26, 2019**

Inmate Name: **HERMAN LAMB**

IDOC Number: **C82943**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 319 East Madison Street, Suite A, Springfield, Illinois, on September 26, 2019, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Herman Lamb C82943.

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

Recording Secretary: Janet Crane.

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

Herman Lamb C82943 was interviewed on August 22, 2019, at the Dixon Correctional Center by Ms. Daniels of the Prisoner Review Board. Mr. Lamb is 73 years old.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

On December 3, 1977, the victim, Denise Stahlhut, agreed to give Mr. Lamb a ride to a local K-Mart. The K-Mart was located three to four miles from Ronnie B's, the bar where the victim worked, which was located in Edwardsville, Illinois. Mr. Lamb told the victim that he had recently been working as a construction worker on a pipeline project in the Bloomington area. Mr. Lamb told her the project had ended and he was on his way home to Texas. Mr. Lamb told her he had shipped his clothes ahead of him to Texas and needed a ride to K-Mart, so that he could buy clothes to wear for the remainder of his trip back to Texas. Ms. Stahlhut agreed to help. After work Ms. Stahlhut left with Mr. Lamb, and that was the last time anyone saw her alive.

Ms. Stahlhut's body was found in the trunk of her car one week later, at a truck stop along Interstate 55/70. The cause of death was determined to be strangulation. The pathologist also found bruises on her head and the back of her neck, consistent with being struck from behind. Moreover, the pathological examination determined that she had been sexually assaulted, both vaginally and anally. Semen was also found on her underwear and a pair of white gloves was found in her car.

Mr. Lamb was the primary suspect from the early stages of the investigation. The investigating authorities learned that Mr. Lamb had been involved in a prior incident four days earlier in LaSalle County, where he abducted a barmaid who had agreed to give him a ride.





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During the trip, Mr. Lamb pulled a knife on her and told her that he was going to rape her. Fortunately, she was able to escape before being assaulted.

Unfortunately, the investigation did not yield sufficient information to charge Mr. Lamb with the rape and Murder of Ms. Stahlhut at that time. Although Mr. Lamb was positively identified by the patrons of Ronnie B's as the individual who had left the bar with Denise Stahlhut, there was not sufficient evidence to link him to her rape and Murder.

Decades later, in 1999, the Madison County States Attorney's Office learned that Mr. Lamb was incarcerated in the State of Oklahoma for an unrelated offense. A search warrant was obtained for a blood sample for DNA analysis and comparison to the DNA in the semen that was found on the victim's underwear and the white gloves. The results positively linked Mr. Lamb to the crime, and on September 30, 1999, he was charged with the Murder of Ms. Stahlhut. On January 17, 2003, Mr. Lamb was convicted of the Murder of Ms. Stahlhut and sentenced to 100–300 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

#### MR. LAMB'S STATEMENTS AT TO THE OFFENSE

Mr. Lamb admitted leaving the tavern with Ms. Stahlhut, and stated that when they got to her car, there was an altercation between Ms. Stahlhut and another man. Mr. Lamb stated he remembers leaving at the onset of the altercation, but he was hit twice by the man attacking Ms. Stahlhut and told to leave the scene. Mr. Lamb stated that after learning of what happened to Ms. Stahlhut, he regrets not going back into the bar for help. Mr. Lamb stated "I failed that young woman". Mr. Lamb further said that, although he feels responsible for what happened to Ms. Stahlhut, he was convicted on technicalities. Mr. Lamb's message to the Board was, "I've done the best I can."

#### CRIMINAL HISTORY

Mr. Lamb was convicted of Kidnapping in LaSalle County for the 1977 attack on the barmaid four days prior to the Murder of Ms. Stahlhut. Mr. Lamb was sentenced to 6 years in IDOC for that offense.

Mr. Lamb was also incarcerated in the State of Oklahoma from 1988–1999.

#### INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Lamb is A-grade, medium security, and low escape risk. Mr. Lamb indicated that he views Dixon Correctional Center as a comfortable place. Mr. Lamb has never completed any educational or rehabilitative programming during his incarceration. Mr. Lamb has received fewer than five major tickets during his incarceration.

Mr. Lamb's SPIN Assessment from 2017 shows he is a moderate risk to reoffend.



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Mr. Lamb has never received any visits from family or friends since entering IDOC custody. Mr. Lamb's current projected release date is September 10, 2149.

PAROLE PLANS

Mr. Lamb has no specific parole plan or viable host site options. Mr. Lamb states that he remembers family in both Oklahoma and Florida, however has not had any contact with anyone during his time of incarceration.

EN BANC HISTORY

Mr. Lamb is coming off a 5-year set. At his last hearing before the Board in 2014, he received no votes in favor of granting his release on parole.

DISCUSSION

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Ms. Daniels stated that, after taking into consideration Mr. Lamb's inability to accept any responsibility for the Murder of Denise Stahlhut, as well as his not having a viable parole plan, Ms. Daniels did not view Mr. Lamb as an appropriate candidate for parole release.

Ms. Crigler asked if the crimes in Oklahoma were of a sexual nature. Ms. Daniels informed the Board that the offenses involved rape and assault.

Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss victim statements (DS—CF). Leave.

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

DECISION AND RATIONALE

Motion to deny parole (LD—DWD). Motion prevails by a vote of 13–0.

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