



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

**EN BANC MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION—September 27, 2021**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on September 27, 2021, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following offenders:

<b>C77579</b>	<b>Michael Drabing</b>
<b>R92119</b>	<b>Latoya Baines</b>
<b>T76635</b>	<b>James Blottiaux*</b>
<b>C50335</b>	<b>Sydney Foster*</b>
<b>C01441</b>	<b>Dennis Pearson</b>

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Findley.

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Andrea Hegland.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Mr. Jared Bohland	<b>X</b>	
Mr. Max Cerda	<b>X</b>	
Ms. Edith Crigler	<b>X</b>	
Ms. Lisa Daniels	<b>X</b>	
Mr. Oreal James	<b>X</b>	
Ms. Virginia Martinez	<b>X</b>	
Mr. Jeff Mears	<b>X</b>	
Ms. LeAnn Miller	<b>X</b>	
Mrs. Aurthur Mae Perkins	<b>X</b>	
Mr. Joseph Ruggiero	<b>X</b>	
Mr. Donald Shelton	<b>X</b>	
Mr. Ken Tupy	<b>X</b>	
Ms. Eleanor Kaye Wilson		<b>X</b>
Chairman Craig Findley	<b>X</b>	

13 Members Present

The Board heard and voted upon the cases of Michael Drabing, Latoya Baines, James Blottiaux, Sydney Foster, Dennis Pearson as detailed in the individual case minutes.



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Meeting was adjourned (VM—DS). Leave.

***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION—September 27, 2021**

Inmate Name: **MICHAEL DRABING** IDOC Number: **C77579**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on September 27, 2021, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Michael Drabing C77579.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Cerda, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Mears, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Andrea Hegland

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

Wednesday August 11, 2021 the time is 9:30 am.

Although there were technical difficulties (e.g. Drabing could not see me), he wanted to proceed.

He was sworn in. His appearance and demeanor were normal, and his answers were responsive to questions and his questions were appropriate. He was very articulate, intelligent, as well as cooperative and appropriate throughout the interview.

Mr. Drabing's date of birth is June 7, 1955 and he is 66 years old. He is serving a sentence of 75 - 100 years for the triple murder of Lloyd and Phyllis Schneider and their teenage daughter Terri in Logan County (76 CF 66) and 30 years for Attempt (Murder) for stabbing an inmate multiple times in prison (81 CF 121977). Edward Drabing has been incarcerated for 45 years. His discharge date is May 18, 2032.

Mr. Drabing only has contact with one family member.

Page 6 of Memo by State's Attorney states,

"Although espousing a revolutionary philosophy of killing the rich, he never, at any time in his life, did a solitary thing that we have discovered to demonstrate his concern for the weak, the poor and the downtrodden. On the contrary, he wanted all the finer things in life, a new car,



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nice clothes, consumer goods, etc., but didn't want to work for them. He quit several good jobs and drew unemployment."

"In March of 1976, Mr. Drabing had seen the T.V. documentary movie "Helter Skelter" and was fascinated with it. He then read the book three or four times and the idea of tet Toristic killing jelled in his mind as a way to elevate himself from what he considered was his miserable life status."

When police searched his room, he had law books (Criminal Code) and psychology books. Notes related to not insane Dr. Report 1976 - **IM** knew it went against everything he was taught. Tried to avoid detection. Parked car miles away, cut phone lines, looked for gun, had law books and psych books, ran, refused to talk about it with police at hospital, dropped knife he bought, premeditated, wanted to emulate Manson, no delusions, no hallucinations. All friends and acquaintances interviewed.

On page 6 of a prior Psych report it states,

"He expresses regret only that he got caught before carrying out other killings. Whereas before August 19 he was uncertain he wanted to face the consequences of such killings, now he is not at all hesitant in wanting to kill again because he has little to lose and enjoys the attention he receives for his behavior." A few pages later, he said, "If released he plans to continue to kill rich people."

When offered the opportunity to tell the Board anything he wanted he indicated he has read pastrationales and he fully admits to his role in murders. He did want to address and clear up a few matters that were in past rationales.

He felt that at the last En Banc hearing there was misleading information provided. He indicated, prior to the murders he was at the house before, but it was a month in his estimation. He said it was one of his friends who had an argument with Mr. Schneider. He felt the Board was left with the impression that it was hours before and he wanted the Board to know it was at least a month before.

Next, he wanted to clarify a portion of the rationale that indicated the inmate's plan for one of these murders was "to skin one of the victim's alive on the pool table". He said that he only planned to "slice" one of them up on the pool table.

He wanted it clarified that regarding the Attempt (Murder) and Armed Violence case he had for stabbing another inmate, the Armed Violence count was vacated by the Appellate Court in 1982.



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He said the last two Board hearings required evaluations. He spoke of his participation in programs since being at Menard. He spoke of his involvement in several therapy groups. He continues to participate even though they only met a few times over the last year and a half because of COVID.

He indicated he has been involved with programs including C.O.R.C. coalition of religious communities to achieve peaceable solutions in IDOC.

He has been pretty stable since the mid 1980's. He felt that lack of sleep was a big issue before prison and early on in prison.

When asked about the 30 years in prison he received for stabbing Inmate Summers. He claimed that the other inmate had threatened him and pulled a knife on him. Mr. Drabing admitted cutting the other inmate 10 or so times. He said he went to trial and was found guilty by a jury.

He recognizes that what he did to the Schneider family was horrendous and inexcusable.

He stated he has seen the Prisoner Review Board parole men on death row, lifers, men involved in murders while doing time in Menard that killed 3 guards. He asked rhetorically, why he can't be paroled. He does not understand why some inmates can be paroled and he can't.

When asked about his parole plan, he stated that a family member is helping him find a place in or near Sherman, Illinois or else to live with in Texas.

When asked about the possibility of employment he stated he can't do what he did when he was young. He said he was a union electrician. He now has bad arthritis so he can't really do manual labor. He stated he would like to do volunteer work for the Catholic Church. He feels he could work in a supervisory capacity as he ran the Lifers group in prison and had 70 people he oversaw.

He stated he reads a lot in prison. He feels he is a historian. He likes reading about World War I history books and biographies about successful people.

He feels releasing him would not promote disrespect for the law or impair the functioning of the institution. And if it would deprecate the seriousness of the offense then that will never change. He has apologized to everyone, admits what he did was wrong.



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He finally stated that anyone that gets parole deserves it. He is just confused about why he is getting no consideration; he is working hard in IDOC to do the right thing. He is asking for mercy.

### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

On August 19, 1976, Mr. Drabing carried out a portion of his premeditated plan to murder the entire Schneider family in their home. Lloyd Schneider was 44 and lived there with his wife Phyllis, age 45. They had three daughters, Nancy, 21, a student at the University of Illinois, Terri, age 17, a high school senior and Sheryl, age 15, a high school sophomore. They were a relatively wealthy family who lived in a modern one-story home at the top of a hill facing the town of Lincoln. They ran a 400-acre hog-farm and were active in their community and their daughter's extracurricular activities.

After being kicked out of the home with some of his friends from a party being held at the victims' home, Mr. Drabing returned the evening of August 19, 1976 armed with rope, a .22cal handgun and a hunting knife with a 6-inch blade. When he forced his way in at gunpoint, the only people in the home were Schneider's teenage daughter Terri and her boyfriend Jeffrey Richardson. Mr. Drabing had bound the two when Terri's parents Lloyd and Phyllis Schneider returned to their home with their second daughter Sheryl. Mr. Drabing viciously attacked Lloyd and Phyllis as well as Terri. They all fought for their lives, but Mr. Drabing was able to kill them by using his large knife stabbing them each multiple times, over 90 in total, and many as deep as 6 inches. While this slaughter was occurring, Sheryl Schneider and Jeffrey Richardson were able to escape and contact the authorities. It should be noted, his plan was to kill all five people that evening. Mr. Drabing admitted to the murders but claimed insanity at the time of trial. That defense was rejected. His motive for the murders according to Mr. Drabing is related to his disdain for the family because of their wealth. Additionally, he may have been harboring anger for being kicked out of a party at the Schneider home prior to the murders.

His plan was to murder each person in the house in a different way. For example, one was to be murdered in the swimming pool and he wanted to put one on the pool table and skin them alive. This is supported by his binding the two teenagers before he began killing.

On February 10, 1981 while housed at Menard Correctional Center he was charged and ultimately convicted of Attempt (Murder) for stabbing a fellow inmate 9 times while in prison.





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**MR. DRABING’S VERSION OF THE OFFENSE**

Mr. Drabing sticks with his motive for this murder as him being a revolutionary and believing being rich was evil. He feels that was a delusion. He says it is hard for others to understand. Prior to the offense he told his mother that he could not tell her what he was thinking. His recollection was he did not see a doctor before the crime, and he saw a social worker and told the doctor what he was thinking of doing. He said he was put on medication which made his condition worse. He saw the mental health professional a few times and told him a few times he was thinking of killing someone. He said that the mental health professional was sued, and his mother got an undisclosed settlement (\$10K).

**CRIMINAL HISTORY**

Mr. Drabing used illegal drugs in college and stole frequently. He admitted to stealing several hundred phonograph records and a substantial sum of money from an employer. (See page 6 of State's Attorney Memorandum). After reaching 18 years of age he used drugs, "as much as I could get". He stated if he was not sleeping he was high on something." (See 1976 psych report). Criminal Damage to State Supported Property (Shot out school windows with BB gun).

**INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT**

Menard	1977-1981 (Psych unit until 1978) (stabbed inmate in 1981)
Stateville	1981 (sent because of stabbing then cut wrists)
Menard (Psych)	1981 (because he cut wrists at Stateville)
Pontiac	1982
Menard (Psych)	(90 days)
Stateville	1982
Pontiac	1982 – 1983 (witnessed a murder and was transferred.)
Menard	1983 – 2016
Lawrence	2016 - Present

Accomplishments:

Menard - Laundry repairman, 2010 - 2011, a housing unit janitor in 2010 - 2011, X house specialist 2010-2011, Healthcare Specialist in 2011, 2013, 2014, education engraver 2012-2013 educator instructor aid 2013, employee commissary 2013-2014, laundry worker 2014-2015, and Clinical Services Aid 2015, He has worked in the Barber shop, Inner Perimeter Grounds Crew, Vocational School Carpenter and HCU Specialist. Industry worker shipping clerk, Menard, Lifers Group (Charity Group), Catholic Parish Group.



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Programs: Lifestyle Redirection, Coping Skills, 2015 Reentry summit, Life Skills, And TRAC I, Critical Thinking in 2016, and Inner Circle.

Disciplinary: 28 tickets, 1981 ticket for stabbing inmate (30 years for Attempt Murder), Last ticket October 15, 2017.

**PAROLE PLANS**

In the past his mother had a place in Springfield. Niece has searched in Sherman, IL to find a place. He believed she narrowed it down to a few places in or near Sherman.

**OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE**

Letters in opposition were sent by the following:  
Sheriff Mark Landers and other community members.

Several oral protests were heard by Board Member Jaren Bohland.

**EN BANC HISTORY**

No votes in 8 hearings.

2018 - 3 yr. set

2017- 1 yr. set

2012 - 5 yr. set

2009 - 3 yr. set

2006 - 3 yr. set

2003 - 3 yr. set

2000 - 3 yr. set

1997 - 3 yr. set



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**DISCUSSION**

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Detective Robert Carnuff also spoke in protest. Mr. Carnuff stated that he was at the scene the day of the murders. He stated that it was the worst crime scene that he had ever worked, victims were stabbed over 30 times. Mr. Carnuff stated that Mr. Drabing went to that house to kill. He then asks why there is a chance for parole when Mr. Drabing was sentenced to life without parole. Mr. Sweat then clarifies. Mr. Carnuff then stated that there were many in the community that signed a petition and oppose Mr. Drabing's release.

Mr. Shelton stated that Mr. Drabing has never had any votes. This heinous crime occurred in a close-knit community that the family was very much a part of.

Mr. Ruggiero stated that Mr. Drabing is an intelligent man. He made a "hit-list" that included law enforcement and Schneider family members. Mr. Drabing has stated in the past that he wanted to get out and kill.

Ms. Crigler asked if Mr. Drabing had any relationship with any of the Schneider family and if he had any childhood trauma. It was discussed that he did not have any relationship with the family, nor did he have any childhood trauma.

**DECISION AND RATIONALE**

Motion to deny parole (JR—DS). Motion prevails by a unanimous vote 13-0.

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

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





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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION—September 27, 2021**

Inmate Name: **LATOYA BAINES**

IDOC Number: **R92119**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on September 27, 2021, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Latoya Baines R92119.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Cerda, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Mears, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Andrea Hegland.

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

The interview of Ms. Latoya Baines R92119 took place on July 15, 2021 at Decatur Correctional Center. In attendance for this interview were Ms. Baines, Ms. Sharon Knight (mother), Darrell Baines (father), Darrius Baines (Son), and board member, Mr. Max Cerda. Ms. Baines projected release date is July 10, 2024 and maximum release date is July 10, 2026.

Ms. Baines is currently serving a 25-year sentence at 50% for a plea deal for 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder and burglary to run concurrently, at Decatur Correctional Center. Kane County State's Attorney opposes the petition and states "State's Attorney took into account mitigating evidence presented by the defense when we agreed to a plea on the lesser charge of Second-degree Murder consecutive to a count of Burglary". Ms. Baines agreed to serve a sentence of 25 years in the IDOC to be served at 50% which would result in her serving 12 and ½ years. She informed the State prior to this agreement of many instances of domestic violence which previously occurred between her and her boyfriend. Ms. Baines "lack of criminal history and her future responsibilities as a parent were also taken into account..."

Ms. Baines also has 33 support letters from immediate family members, friends, church members and pastors.

Ms. Baines is currently 33 years old and was 24 years old at the time of the offense. She is a mother of two minor children. She has a healthy relationship with both of her kids and family. She is a



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devoted Christian. She is enrolled in ABE and Lakeland College Custodial Maintenance and is working with Industries {ICI}. Ms. Baines has been incarcerated for 9 years

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

Ms. Baines and victim were both in a relationship and had a child in common. Both were at a party at a neighbor's house. Ms. Baines left and then came back to the party and got jealous when she saw the victim and a female neighbor coming out the bathroom together. Ms. Baines left the home and came back with knives and argues with victim. Ms. Baines then stabbed the victim once in the chest causing his death.

Ms. Baines has never appealed her plea deal sentence, and this is the first time Ms. Baines has ever filed a petition for clemency for commutation of sentence

**MS. BAINES' VERSION AS TO THE OFFENSE**

Ms. Latoya M. Baines says that on April 29, 2012 her and Mr. Gerald Jackson were living together and that they had went to a neighbor's party. They were drinking, smoking, and having a good time. She had to leave to go to the store and check on the kids, and when she returned, she observed Mr. Jackson and a female coming out of the bathroom. She said that she got very upset and went to leave but that Mr. Jackson grabbed her and threw her the couch and choked her until she was unconscious. As she regained consciousness, according to her, Mr. Jackson was standing over her, screaming at her and wiping his nose.

When she finally managed to break away, she said that she ran home, but when she got home, she realized she didn't have the house keys. She returned to the house where the party was and rang the doorbell, the neighbor answered the intercom and Ms. Baines was buzzed in. The neighbor asked her if she wanted to come upstairs, but she refused. According to Ms. Baines, Mr. Jackson got very mad and ran downstairs at her. Ms. Baines said that she was really scared of him because of his past physical abuse towards her. According to Ms. Baines the police were called to their apartment a few times prior, because of domestic abuse. Because of that fear and panic, she swung a knife, that she kept for protection, at Mr. Jackson not realizing what damage she had done or how serious it was. About the same time, the police were arriving. Someone must have called the police.



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According to Ms. Baines, she loved Mr. Jackson and never had any intention of hurting or killing him. Ms. Baines said that she was young and broken when she made that mistake, and that she will carry that for the rest of her life. Ms. Baines also said that "I'm going to have to explain that to my daughter one day, which will be the hardest thing I'll ever have to do".

Ms. Baines was asked, why did the States Attorney state, "you had 3 knives" and she stated that she didn't know, because she only had one knife, and that's the knife that she carried for protection. She was also asked "where did the burglary charge stem from" to which she answered that she wasn't sure, because she was buzzed in and waited by the entrance.

### **CRIMINAL HISTORY**

Ms. Baines does not have any criminal history prior to this incident.

### **INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT**

Ms. Latoya M Baines was born on September 6, 1987 in Chicago, Illinois. She grew up in a single-family home with just her and her mother. Ms. Baines's mother worked a lot, so she spent most her time with grandparents. Her mother was over-protective, so her life was very sheltered. At a young age her mother put her into therapy because she began to act out, as she struggled with not having her father. As a result, she started spending weekends with her father.

At the age of 5, her father got involved with a woman that would eventually become her stepmom. Ms. Baines and her soon to be stepmom did not get along. The stepmom had 2 children of her own. When they moved in with each other, Ms. Baines felt that her father had disregarded her for his new family, and she started to feel as if she was a burden. Ms. Baines stated that it went from, "I can't see my dad" to "not wanting be around her dad". Ms. Baines mother reached out to her dad to explain what was going on. Her dad then started spending time with her. Ms. Baines attended Bogan HS. Her freshman year she tried, in her words "to escape from her home life...". She started ditching school, hanging with the wrong crowd, smoking, and drinking. In 2004, she ended up moving in with her dad and his new family. She started to attend Bolingbrook HS.

According to Latoya, there was no connection between her and her stepmom. To keep herself busy and out of the house she started working at the age of 16 at Land's End clothing store, there she



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met her son's father. In her junior year, Ms. Baines started dating her son's father and in her senior year she became pregnant.

The first year of her son's life was very hard for her. Ms. Baines was a single mother with no stability or home. By 2007 she was working two jobs, Land's End and Coach Department Store. She started to attend the University of Phoenix, majoring in criminal justice. She was eventually able to get an apartment in Batavia, Illinois. In 2009, she met Mr. Gerald Jackson. At first, things seemed to be good for them. In her mind, she felt that she had finally found the attention that she had been looking for. Ms. Baines said that after they started getting intimate, Mr. Jackson began getting very possessive. Mr. Jackson was working for a short time, when he lost his job they started struggling financially. They relied on her family for support. Mr. Jackson started drinking more heavily and became more destructive. This went on for a year.

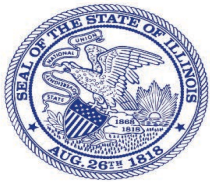
When she found out that she was pregnant she thought that this would change things for the best, but in fact, things got worst. Mr. Jackson became more possessive and aggressive. He became more mentally, emotionally, and physically abusive. Trying to keep her family together, she felt that if she loved him enough that he would love her more.

She recalls an incident that really affected her. One day Mr. Jackson's employer called the house asking why Mr. Jackson didn't show up to work. When Mr. Jackson returned home, Ms. Baines told him about the phone call and asked why he didn't go to work. That fueled a heated argument between them. Mr. Jackson started hitting Ms. Baines while she held their 1-year old daughter in her arms. Ms. Baines stated that she tried calling the police but, Mr. Jackson grabbed her phone and broke it as she ran out the house holding her baby. Mr. Jackson then pursued, screaming, and hitting her. A neighbor had witnessed the abuse and called the police. DCFS eventually got involved. No charges were filed against Mr. Jackson. Ms. Baines stated that every time they got into a fight, he would threaten her with DCFS, especially when he would hit her, so she kept quiet. This situation continued until the day of incident.

Ms. Latoya Baines has been incarcerated 9 years. In 2015 she entered IDOC. From 2015 to 2019 she received 3 minor tickets and has not received any since. One ticket was for arguing with another inmate and the other two were for unauthorized movement.

Since her incarceration, she has participated in self-help groups such as:

Houses of Healing, which taught her how heal from her past and how to cope and let go in order to move forward and forgive.



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Lifestyle Redirection, which taught her how to redirect her thinking-changing her mindset and learning how to develop life skills in any situation and to acknowledge unhealthy situations and learned to set boundaries for herself.

Parenting, which taught her how to become a better parent to her children, and the right approach to have with them. Communication skills.

Understanding and coping with depression, which helped her to recognize the signs/triggers before it gets worst.

In her file there are copies of Certificate of Completion for Houses of Healing and Understanding and Coping with Depression. She also submitted 3 different copies of her TABE Test results from 2017-19, which shows her progressions in education. Also, there is a support letter from an inmate that states how helpful Ms. Baines is with other inmates that have been through domestic violence. She has helped them to manage their emotions and gain confidence.

## **PAROLE PLANS**

Ms. Baines has a strong Christian family support system and the support of the congregation of the church of Greater Revelation M.B. Church of Chicago. Her family has vowed to provide Ms. Baines with full financial support and the stability she will need to transition successfully. One of her plans is to uplift her children through her personal experiences and to share all with her children that she has learned in life and in prison.

She also plans on opening an Outreach Center for abused women or to work for an agency that supports such women. She wants to share her story, to help other women that are going through what she went through. Ms. Baines wants to teach other women to speak up and not hide or excuse the abuse.

## **DISCUSSION**

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Shelton asked for clarification on Ms. Baines's sentencing and Clemency. There was a discussion on parole eligibility and release date. It was noted that Ms. Baines would get out in 2 years on MSR.





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Mr. Bohland then asked if there was any documentation on the domestic violence between Ms. Baines and Mr. Jackson. Mr. Cerda stated that there was nothing in the file, but that the police had been to their house a couple of times.

Clergy appeared on behalf of Ms. Baines. It was stated that Ms. Baines will have support from the church and the community. He stated that she is contrite for what she did. He went on to state that she served her debt to society. He then discussed Ms. Baines' children needing their mother and that she would not be a threat to society.

Family appeared on her behalf. It was stated that Ms. Baines' children are suffering. The children have lost time with their mother and that they need to be able to know her.

Members discuss Ms. Baines leaving the party and then returning with knives. Also discussed was the domestic violence that occurred the day of the incident and prior to that day. Mr. Cerda states that Ms. Baines went to the store and came back when she witnessed Mr. Jackson and a woman coming out of the bathroom. She then leaves again. Mr. Cerda stated that, that is when Ms. Baines had forgotten her keys, she went back, and the domestic violence occurred.

Ms. Martinez asked if Ms. Baines had taken any classes while incarcerated to ensure that this does not happen again. Mr. Cerda then explains the multiple classes that Ms. Baines has completed and is currently enrolled in.

### **DECISION AND RATIONALE**

Motion to grant parole (MC—DS). Motion prevails by a vote of 12–1. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Cerda, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Mears, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, and Chairman Findley. Mr. Ruggiero dissented.

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

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





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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION—September 27, 2021**

Inmate Name: **JAMES BLOTTIAUX**

IDOC Number: **T76635**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on September 27, 2021, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for James Blottiaux T76635.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Cerda, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Mears, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Andrea Hegland.

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

James Blottiaux T76635 was interviewed live via WebEx virtual platform from Dixon Correctional Center on August 12, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Blottiaux's attorney, Jennifer Soble, along with his daughter, Yvette Blottiaux, were also present and participated in the interview. Mr. Blottiaux was dressed in prison issued uniform, and well put together. Mr. Blottiaux was well spoken, very respectful in his interactions and delivery, and communicated clearly throughout the interview. Mr. Blottiaux was stated to have significant hearing loss at the time of the interview, however, there were no issues with communication during the interview process despite being virtual as well. He spoke freely throughout the interview and answered questions that were presented without issue.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

Mr. Blottiaux, at the age of 21, was working for a man named Silas Jayne, who owned Idle Hours Stables in Chicago's northwest suburbs. Silas Jayne had a brother named George Jayne. The two brothers, and their stables, were in competition, and Silas Jayne maintained a bitter feud against his brother George.

Silas Jayne offered Mr. Blottiaux \$10,000 to kill his brother George Jayne. It should be noted that Silas Jayne has been implicated in multiple attempts to have his brother George killed, and that George Jayne was in fact murdered on October 28, 1970. Mr. Blottiaux had a 1963 prior conviction for possession of explosives and agreed to plant a bomb in George Jayne's car. Prior to the murder, Blottiaux obtained dynamite and blasting caps, and practiced with the devices to make sure that they worked.



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On June 13, 1965, Mr. Blottiaux planted the bomb in his intended victim's car, which was located at George Jayne's Tri Color Stables in Palatine. The next day, June 14, 1965, Cheryl "Cherie" Rude, a 22-year old Championship Equestrian, was working at the Tri Color Stables. George Jayne asked Ms. Rude to take his Cadillac to compete an errand. When she attempted to start the car, it exploded, ending her life in a horrifying manner.

Mr. Blottiaux avoided being caught and lived free for approximately 32 years after this offense. Witnesses came forward in 1994 leading to his arrest and charge of both Murder and Arson, due a follow up attack with a Molotov cocktail toward another victim within a year of the car bombing. Ultimately Mr. Blottiaux was found guilty of both and convicted of Murder in 1999 with a sentence of 100 to 300 years.

**MR. BLOTTIAUX'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE**

Mr. Blottiaux acknowledges the facts of the crime and does take responsibility for his actions. The only fact he disputes is that he was never actually present at the time that the car bomb exploded, but rather that he found out via radio that he killed the wrong person. Mr. Blottiaux recognizes the damage he caused and feels remorse stating that he feels terrible and that it was the most terrible thing he has done.

Mr. Blottiaux was asked why he was propositioned for the murder for hire. Mr. Blottiaux clarified that the offer was made to Silas Jayne's inner circle, of which he was a part. Mr. Blottiaux stated he really needed the money and reached out to Silas to accept the contract.

Arguments were made that he was influenced as a young man by a very powerful and dangerous gangster in Silas Jayne. This influence created fear for years to come after the murder was committed.

Mr. Blottiaux was asked what he meant by the recorded statement from victim testimony that "sometimes the innocent have to suffer with the guilty." He simply stated that he didn't recall making that statement at any time.

When asked why he never turned himself in during the 32 years prior to his arrest, Mr. Blottiaux stated he didn't turn himself in because he didn't want to be prosecuted and leave a young family. Once time had passed, he didn't want to ruin his or his family's reputation.



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At one point during the interview, an argument was made that he didn't have a life free of consequence as suggested, but rather that it affected him and his family every day. When asked to clarify whether his family knew about the crime, Mr. Blottiaux stated that his family didn't know about the crime until his arrest. He also stated that he was a withdrawn father and husband because of the secret that he kept for decades. His daughter, who is present, stated that things just weren't right with her father throughout the time before his arrest. She stated that Mr. Blottiaux was unable to love his family, that he provided for them but was not present emotionally. She also stated that he changed dramatically since being incarcerated and being free of the secret.

### **CRIMINAL HISTORY**

Mr. Blottiaux has some notable criminal offenses both prior to the car bombing, as well as during the 32 years following the car bombing.

In 1961, Mr. Blottiaux was convicted of Petty Larceny and sentenced to 30 days in county jail and \$50.

In 1963, he was convicted of Unlawful Use of Weapons for being in possession of a sawed-off shotgun and explosives including a black powder pipe bomb. He was sentenced to three years of probation. It should be noted that this offense included the same co-offender, Haldane Cleminson, and was confirmed that they were en route to perform a car bombing.

The holding conviction for Murder due to the car bombing took place on June 14, 1965; and in hindsight was both a new criminal offense as well as a violation of his probation from 1963.

One month later, Mr. Blottiaux was arrested for being in possession of explosives on July 13, 1965 but was released per the Sgt.

Testimony came out during prosecution for the car bombing that in 1966 Mr. Blottiaux committed Arson by throwing a Molotov Cocktail at a victim's home while her and the kids were present. The conviction for this offense was rolled into the Murder conviction.

Also, in 1966, Mr. Blottiaux was convicted of Interstate Transport of Falsely made Securities (money orders) and was sentenced to five years of probation.

In 1995, a year after witnesses began coming forward for the 1965 car bombing and only two years prior to his arrest, Mr. Blottiaux was convicted of possession of a weapon by a felon and sentenced to two years of probation.



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### **INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT**

Mr. Blottiaux has a complicated institutional adjustment in that due to his being free of conviction for 32 years, many of the typical factors were also affected by spending 32 years as a free man prior to incarceration.

Prior to the offense, Mr. Blottiaux lost his father at the age of 15 leading to his dropping out of school and beginning to work for Silas Jayne. During his time as a free man, Mr. Blottiaux continued to be involved in providing for his family. To this day, three of his children are still supportive of him, one of whom is involved in his parole plan.

Mr. Blottiaux has not yet engaged in any anger management or cognitive behavior health services while incarcerated.

Mr. Blottiaux maintains a spotless disciplinary record with zero incidents in 22 years of incarceration.

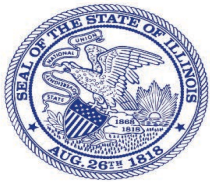
Mr. Blottiaux completed construction trades and occupational vocation certificates while at Menard. He has maintained a noteworthy employment history holding jobs at Menard, Hill, and Dixon including positions in carpentry, being an assistant student teacher, working inside grounds, the commissary, and as a sanitation specialist. It should be noted that during his 32 years prior to arrest, he also had a long and respectable work history.

### **PAROLE PLANS**

Mr. Blottiaux's current parole plan includes intentions of moving back into his home. He is currently eligible for social security, particularly having paid into it for 30 years or so. He would also qualify for Medicare. While he doesn't have any employment opportunities lined up now, Mr. Blottiaux does intend on seeking employment, preferably in a clerical/administrative role within an autobody line of work. His supports are largely centered around his children. Mr. Blottiaux also intends on taking part in soft re-entry services and case management services with St. Leonard's despite a lack of need for housing assistance.

### **OPPOSITION TO PAROLE RELEASE**

There are multiple letters in opposition to release from private citizens. The last letter of opposition from the State's Attorney was in 2020.



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**EN BANC HISTORY**

Mr. Blottiaux's first year of parole consideration was in 2008. This hearing marks his 6<sup>th</sup> time being up for parole release. 3-year sets were approved unanimously in 2008, 2011, and 2014. A 3-year set was approved in 2017 with 4 opposed. In 2020, there were 6 dissenting votes for his parole denial.

**DISCUSSION**

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Ms. Crigler asked how old Mr. Blottiaux was at the time of the offense and how is he different today. Mr. Bohland replies that Mr. Blottiaux was 21 years old at the time of the offense and that he now just works and keeps to himself.

Mr. Ruggiero notes that he presented this case last year and that Mr. Blottiaux has zero tickets, with a good parole plan. Mr. Ruggiero also stated that Mr. Blottiaux was a 21-year old man that just had a baby when he started working for Mr. Silas Jayne and Mr. Jayne is evil and manipulated Mr. Blottiaux to commit this crime.

Members discuss if Mr. Blottiaux was at the scene when the bomb went off. Mr. Bohland states that Mr. Blottiaux is adamant that he was not there and there is no mention of it in the file.

Mr. Mears then asked if Mr. Blottiaux had military training and how did he know how to make bombs. Mr. Bohland stated that Mr. Blottiaux was self-taught and practiced making bombs.

Mr. Thomas Hannah appeared on behalf of Mr. Blottiaux. Mr. Hannah describes the complex at which the incident occurred. He stated that it was a large complex with many horse stables. Mr. Hannah describes the complex as being well maintained and there would have been no where to hide if Mr. Blottiaux had been there when the bomb went off. Mr. Hannah stated that immediately after the bomb there were dogs let out onto the property. He also discusses that the feud between the Jayne brothers had been going on for a long time and Mr. Blottiaux had learned about bombs from Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Blottiaux's family appeared on his behalf. Since he has been incarcerated, Mr. Blottiaux had become a kind, smiling, and funny man. He is a changed man and that they want him to come home.



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Mr. Bohland questions if parole would deprecate the serious nature of the offense and promote a lack of respect for the law.

Ms. Crigler stated that Mr. Blottiaux is 78-years old and that he was manipulated by an evil man.

**DECISION AND RATIONALE**

Motion to deny parole (JB—CF). Motion fails by a vote of 4–9. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Mears, Ms. Miller, Mr. Tupy. Mr. Cerda, Ms. Crigler, Ms., Daniels, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton dissented.

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

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





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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION—September 27, 2021**

Inmate Name: **SYDNEY FOSTER**                      IDOC Number: **C50335**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on September 27, 2021, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Sydney Foster C50335.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Cerda, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Mears, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Andrea Hegland.

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

First interview with Mr. Sydney Foster was conducted via WebEx on August 17, 2021. Present on the video call were Mr. Foster, Attorney Bridget Geraghty, and board member Mr. Mears. Mr. Foster was present in a wheelchair for the meeting and from the start of the interview it was obvious that Mr. Foster did not comprehend the questions that were being asked by Mr. Mears or by his attorney, Bridget Geraghty. The meeting was not very productive and after a short discussion with his attorney it was decided it would be best to visit him in person at Big Muddy River Correctional Center in the next few weeks. On September 17, 2021 at 8:00am at Big Muddy Correctional Center inside the video visit room, Mr. Foster was brought into the interview in his wheelchair with assistance from a female correctional officer, his attorney Bridget Geraghty was present via WebEx for the meeting. Mr. Foster was born December 3, 1942 and is now 78 years old. Foster has been incarcerated since July 9, 1974, 47 years has past, he was 32 at the time of the crime. Mr. Foster was attentive and very polite and did his best to answer any questions that were asked of him. Mr. Mears began by talking to him about his business that he owned and operated at the time of the crime in 1976, Mr. Foster was only able to acknowledge that he did have a business and it was a long time ago. When asked about the victim, Mr. Foster responded he thought he remembered her, and she was dead but did not remember how she died. At that point it was once again apparent that Mr. Foster in his current condition is not able to remember past events very well and did not have the ability to comprehend what was going on.



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### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

Mr. Foster and the victim, Ms. Vivian Patterson, had been living together about two and a half years prior to her murder; they knew each other through the music business. Ms. Patterson also had four children who resided with her and Mr. Foster. The twelve-year-old son testified at trial that Mr. Foster insisted that he refer to him as “Mama” and that Mr. Foster forced him to engage in abnormal sexual conduct and to observe Mr. Foster engage in sexual acts. Mr. Foster learned that Ms. Patterson was planning to move to California and was fearful that this would end his relationship with the child.

On or about December 18, 1974, the defendant Sydney Foster borrowed a .38 caliber revolver and six .38 caliber bullets from Edward Thomas a fellow musician, telling Thomas he needed the gun for self-protection in connection with his music recording business. Foster refused to handle the gun in the presence of Thomas but instead placed the gun in an empty camera bag that he had brought with him for that sole purpose. It was with this handgun that he used to shoot Vivian Patterson to death. Mr. Foster returned the gun to Thomas on or about December 31, 1974. When Mr. Foster returned the gun, it contained two bullets and four empty chambers. During the trial a medical examiner testified that Ms. Patterson was shot in the head four times, additionally a firearm expert testified that a recovered bullet fragment had the characteristics consistent with being fired from the same type of .38 caliber revolver as he one Mr. Foster borrowed from Mr. Thomas. Wilbur Richburg and Marvin Morgan are two individuals that testified at the trial that Mr. Foster offered to pay them \$5,000 to dismember the body of the victim Ms. Patterson. And once this task was complete, they wrapped her body parts in sheets and put them in the trunk of the car. On or about January 23, 1974, the Chicago police departments officers after detecting a strong odor and smell, discovered the badly decomposed, dismembered body of 33 year old Vivian Patterson in the trunk of a car located in a parking lot at 2030 State Street in Chicago, Illinois. Inside the trunk the police found the torso, arms and legs of Ms. Patterson wrapped in bed sheets. Also noted Ms. Patterson was shot multiple times in the head. It was discovered after an investigation that Mr. Foster owned the car. After more investigations, Mr. Foster was arrested on January 27, 1974 and charged with the murder of Ms. Patterson. According to the file record, Mr. Foster is serving a sentence of 25-250 years for Murder, and a sentence of 2-6 years for Concealment of Homicidal Death, these sentences are to run concurrently.

### **INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT**

Mr. Foster has been unassigned since 2013. Mr. Foster has not received any disciplinary tickets recently; last one was in May 2016. Mr. Foster is a permanent residence in the health care unit at Big Muddy Correctional Center and is only mobile using a wheelchair and assistance from staff or fellow inmates.



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### **PAROLE PLANS**

Mr. Foster is incapable of living alone, and if paroled, he would be released to a nursing home. A law student advocate has directly spoken with three nursing homes in the Chicago area that reported they would admit a patient with Mr. Foster's medical and criminal history. In addition, Field Services at Big Muddy Correctional Center indicated to counsel that if Mr. Foster was granted release, they would be able to find an adequate nursing home placement for him. This Board can make placement in a nursing facility a condition of his release. Field Services specifically indicated that they often work with Autumn Meadows of Cahokia, Illinois, which corroborated to counsel via phone that they have admitted patients from Big Muddy in the past and would be willing to take a patient with Mr. Foster's background.

### **OPPOSITON TO PAROLE RELEASE**

A personal letter from a former Assistant State's Attorney that was part of Mr. Foster's trial was issued in opposition. And, multiple protest letters from the Cook County State's Attorney's office were issued in opposition.

### **ENBANC HISTORY**

Mr. Foster has been denied parole more than 24 times beginning in 1985, most recent last year 2020. He has received a three-year set in 2014 and 2017. I found no votes in favor of parole for Mr. Foster.

### **DISCUSSION**

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Foster's medical conditions were discussed.

Ms. Daniels heard the protests and states that the victim's family has been represented for 20 years.

Ms. Crigler and Mr. Mears discuss the parole plan and that Mr. Foster would have to go to a nursing home.



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Ms. Bridget Geraghty, Mr. Foster's attorney, stated that she must use an aide to communicate. This aide has lived with him for three years. Ms. Geraghty notes that Mr. Foster likes to watch movies and that he is a kind and gentle man. He does not act out when he is confused, and he is not a risk or danger to anyone. Ms. Geraghty discussed the nursing placement. She stated that Autumn Meadows in Cahokia, Illinois regularly takes former inmates and patients with the same conditions as Mr. Foster.

The quality of care that is given at the nursing home versus the care that is received in IDOC is discussed. As well as, if transferring Mr. Foster would worsen his condition.

**DECISION AND RATIONALE**

Motion to grant parole (JM—DS). Motion prevails by a unanimous vote 13-0.

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

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



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***EN BANC* MINUTE SHEET**  
**OPEN SESSION—September 27, 2021**

Inmate Name: **DENNIS PEARSON**      IDOC Number: **C01441**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open *en banc* session at 3000 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois, on September 27, 2021, at the 9:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Dennis Pearson C01441.

Members present were Mr. Bohland, Mr. Cerda, Ms. Crigler, Ms. Daniels, Mr. James, Ms. Martinez, Mr. Mears, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Ruggiero, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Tupy, and Chairman Findley.

Recording Secretary: Andrea Hegland.

**PRESENTATION OF INTERVIEW AND FILE**

Mr. Person is a 79-year-old male who has been incarcerated for 52 years. He is currently housed at Vienna Correctional Center. He is an elderly male who appeared alert and well groomed. He was pleasant and eager to talk. According to the file, Mr. Pearson was found guilty of the following offenses and received the following sentences: Aggravated Kidnapping (100-125 years), Rape (100-125 years), to be served Concurrent, and Attempt Murder (10-15 Years to be served consecutive. Mr. Pearson convictions were affirmed by the Illinois Supreme Court on September 20, 1972. Factors considered by the Board included, but are not limited to, testimony of Mr. Pearson, a review of the file and record, the nature of the crimes and offenses, institutional adjustment and parole plan.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

Taken from Assistant State Attorney letter dated October 24, 2018. On October 22, 1968, Mrs. Sally Heaton, the mother of three children, left work at the Michigan Bell Telephone Company in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and went to the Capri Restaurant and Lounge in Kalamazoo with a group of friends, who asked her to drive two men west towards, Mattawan, Michigan. These two men were Dennis Pearson, then age 26 and his co-offender Nelson Weaver, then age 28.





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Mrs. Heaton agreed to give the men a lift. Mr. Dennis Pearson had been released from the Jackson penitentiary in Michigan just three weeks earlier. He had been in the Michigan penitentiary intermittently from 1960 until October 6, 1968, for various offenses, including breaking and entering at night. just three weeks earlier. He had been in the Michigan penitentiary intermittently from 1960 until October 6, 1968, for various offenses, including breaking and entering at night.

Near Mattawan, Michigan, Mr. Pearson and Mr. Weaver directed Mrs. Heaton to drive down a dead-end road. Mr. Weaver produced a revolver and told Mrs. Heaton that they were going to rob her and take her car, a 1965 Chevrolet. She gave them her purse and pleaded with them to let her go. Mr. Pearson then dragged her out of the car, put her in the rear seat of her car, hit her numerous times and raped her. Mr. Weaver got into the driver's seat of the car. Pearson and Mr. Weaver told Mrs. Heaton they were going to take her to Chicago. Mr. Weaver drove the car while Mr. Pearson sat in the back seat with Mrs. Heaton.

The car stopped again at Benton Harbor, Michigan. Where Mrs. Heaton was repeatedly raped by both offenders. Mr. Pearson raped Mrs. Heaton again. When she resisted, he struck her numerous times about the face and body. Mr. Weaver raped Mrs. Heaton after Mr. Pearson was through. The two offenders then drove Mrs. Heaton to the northwest side of Cook County, Illinois. Mr. Weaver was driving, and Mr. Pearson remained in the back seat with Mrs. Heaton. Mr. Weaver drove the car off the Northwest Tollway onto a deserted farm road. Again, both offenders raped Mrs. Heaton. When Mr. Weaver stopped the car, Mr. Pearson again raped Mrs. Heaton after striking and beating her. When Mr. Pearson was through Mr. Weaver again raped Mrs. Heaton.

When the two attackers had completed their sexual assaults of Mrs. Heaton, Mr. Weaver tried to strangle her. She resisted. Mr. Weaver then dragged her out of the car and produced the revolver again. Mrs. Heaton begged the two attackers to let her go because she had a husband and a family whom she loved, and she wanted to go home to them. Mr. Pearson and Mr. Weaver told her that they could not let her go, that they would rather shoot it out with the police on the street than return to prison. Mr. Weaver put the revolver to Mrs. Heaton's head. Mr. Pearson told Mr. Weaver, "Well you know what has to be done." Mr. Weaver then shot Mrs. Heaton in the back of the head. She lost consciousness and later learned that she had been shot four times. She was shot twice in the head and bullet fragments remained in her head. One bullet entered the right side of her neck and passed completely through to the left side. She was also shot in the right hand. Mr. Pearson and Mr. Weaver covered her body with straw and left her for dead. Driving off in her car.

Mrs. Heaton regained consciousness and began to make her way towards the highway. A passing motorist stopped, put her in his car and took her to Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights.





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Miraculously, Mrs. Heaton survived and was able to come to court and testify against her two assailants.

Mr. Pearson and Mr. Weaver were caught by FBI agents in Battle Creek, Michigan on October 26, 1968. Mr. Pearson and Mr. Weaver made two attempts to escape from custody. First, they attempted to tear out the ceiling of the cell they were confined in the Niles, Illinois jail Facilities. Second, they attempted to escape from Cook County Jail by getting out of their cells and attempting to kick out an exit window. Their efforts were thwarted, and they were returned to custody.

During the trial, Mr. Pearson began shouting obscene and insulting language at the judge and jury. The defense motion, the trial court ordered a psychiatric examination of Mr. Person prior to resuming the trial. The doctor who examined Mr. Person reported to the judge that Mr. Pearson told him that he was deliberately trying to force the judge to give him a mistrial.

The trial continued, and Mr. Pearson was allowed to testify, and he admitted that he had been at the Capri Lounge with Mr. Weaver, but denied the crimes. After his testimony, the judge excluded him from the courtroom for the rest of the proceedings based on the conclusion that he would continue to engage in disruptive behavior.

The jury found Mr. Pearson guilty and the Judge sentenced him to 100 to 125 years for aggravated kidnapping, 100 to 125 years for rape, and 5 to 10 years for theft, the sentences to be served concurrently. He was also sentence to 10 to 15 years for attempt murder. Weaver was found guilty by a separate jury of the same offenses and sentenced to 100 -150 years for aggravated kidnapping, 100 -150 years for rape, 5 - 10 years for theft, the sentences to be served concurrently, and to a consecutive sentence of 10 - 15 years for attempt murder. Mr. Weaver died in custody in 2008.

**MR. DENNIS PEARSON'S STATEMENTS AS TO THE OFFENSE**

Mr. Pearson denies that he committed the crime. He claims he never came to Chicago with Mr. Weaver. He states it was another man named Jimmy Johnson who was with Mr. Weaver. He stated he was with another woman that night at the Capri Lounge and left with her.



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### **CRIMINAL HISTORY**

From 1960 to 1964 he was arrested four times for Breaking and entering in Michigan. In 1965 he was arrested for investigation of burglary out of Missouri. He was on parole prior to the attach on Mrs. Heaton.

### **INSTITUTIONAL ADJUSTMENT**

Mr. Pearson was convicted after a jury trial and sentenced on July 29, 1969 to a term of 100 to 125 years for Aggravated Kidnapping and 100 to 125 years for rape. He was also sentenced to 5 to 10 years for theft and 10 to 15 years for attempted murder, which is to run consecutive to the previous sentences.

His conviction was affirmed on September 20, 1972 by the Illinois Supreme Court. Mr. Pearson filed a pro se petition for relief from judgment and for habeas corpus relief that were denied. In 2011 Pearson filed a pro se petition for post-conviction relief alleging that he was denied effective assistance of counsel by trial counsel's failure to present the testimony of certain alibi witnesses. The petition also raised a claim of actual innocence. The circuit court dismissed the petition as frivolous and patently without merit. He appealed and the State Appellate Defender filed a motion for leave to withdraw as appellate counsel, indicated that no issues of merit existed. The Appellate Court agreed, granted leave to withdraw, and affirmed the trial court dismissal. In 2015 and 2016, Mr. Pearson filed additional post-conviction petitions that were denied by the circuit court.

Mr. Pearson has been in custody for the last 52 years. And has shown improvement in recent years. His last tickets were in 2002 when he made threats to an employee and the President. He states he has earned his GED and has a strong interest in astronomy. He has not worked due to his health. He has had heart bypass surgery, a stroke and was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2001. He also stated he has recently had COVID-19.

Mr. Pearson does not have any family and has never been married.

### **PAROLE PLAN**

No parole plans.



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**DISCUSSION**

Summary of discussion for parole consideration:

Mr. Shelton asks if Mr. Pearson has always had the same statements as to the offense.

Ms. Crigler states that Mr. Pearson has always denied the crime.

**DECISION AND RATIONALE**

Motion to deny parole (EC—JM). Motion prevails by a unanimous vote 13-0.

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

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