

**Illinois Prisoner Review Board
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
MEETING OF September 25, 2014**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E. Madison,, Springfield, IL, on September 25, 2014, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

C50335 Sidney Foster
L01718 Ezra Upshaw
C82424 Jerome Zamp
T76635 James Blottiaux
C10180 Charles Smith

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

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

13 Present 1 absent

The Recording Secretary presented the following minutes for approval:
Open Session Minutes from May 29, 2014. (AM – CF) 13-0

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

Illinois Prisoner Review Board
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION SEPTEMBER 25, 2014

Inmate Name: Jerome Zamp IDOC Number & Institution: C82424

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL, on September 25, 2014, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, E. Gregg, C. Findley, V. Harris, T. Johnson, W. Norton, J. Parrack, D. Shelton, W. Simmons.

Members absent – Ms. Tyler

Other(s) present: Kim Morrison, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Johnson presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials. Present at the interview were Mr. Zamp's Attorney and also family members who spoke very highly in support of parole. Mr. Zamp is now sixty-five years old and has served 38 years. He is serving 200-300 years for murder. Past parole votes were reviewed as was his criminal history. He was on parole at the time of the instant offense. He was in the Marines and received an undesirable discharge.

Facts of the crime were reviewed. They indicate the Mr. Zamp was contracted to kill the victim. He was living out of state at the time and on probation. He recruited a codefendant and they stalked the victim for over forty days. They waited in the victim's driveway and codefendant Beto shot and killed the prominent doctor. Mr. Zamp drove the getaway car. Mr. Zamp does not dispute the facts of the crime and accepted his responsibility for the murder.

His institutional adjustment was reviewed. It has been very good, with only a couple of minor violations. He received a recent ticket in 2014 for having a hidden pocket in a coat. However, he purchased the winter coat in the commissary and this ticket is being grieved. He has accomplished a great deal and come a long way. He came in with an eighth grade education and now has college credits. His past job assignments were reviewed. He is now assigned to optical industries and has a good work record. He is involved with daily prayer and Bible studies.

His parole plans are good. He has good family support. He has placement at St. Leonard's and then he would transition with his family to Arizona. He has a job waiting for him and interstate parole has been approved.

Mr. Johnson noted that he has interviewed him more than once; he has seen him grow and firmly believes his remorse and faith are genuine. However, he feels the seriousness of the offense is substantial. This was a premeditated act that deprived not only his family but the community. The judge's remarks at sentencing should also be considered.

The Board members discussed the case. They mentioned his transformation, that Mr. Zamp came in a worthless drug-addict and is now a good man. The victim's family's grief is inexpressible, but if people can be redeemed/rehabilitated this is the case. Mr. Zamp has the ability to do something good with his life. Members noted that they have struggled with this case. They believe he has made a turnaround. Other members noted that he has served only 35 years and felt that was the minimum he would serve if convicted today.

Inmate Name: Jerome Zamp IDOC Number & Institution: C82424

Attorney Cooper – He spoke of what Mr. Zamp would do if paroled. He feels he would be a mentor/teacher to others. He noted his transformation and his parole plans. There was some discussion of his recruitment of Beto. He noted that he would have served the minimum.

State's Attorney – Noted the past criminal history and that he was on parole at the time of this offense. The victim was a pillar of the community. He also noted that since his last hearing Zamp has received a disciplinary ticket. He does not feel he would conform to the law.

Susan Levine – She stated that she was representing not only her family but the community as well. They experience a tremendous loss.

Motion to deny. (TJ - DS) Approved 9-4

Voting against the motion were members Crigler, Diaz, Findley, and Simmons.

Motion for a five year set. (AM - CF). Motion denied 4-9

Voting for the motion were members Blackman-Donovan, Gregg, Norton, and Monreal

Parole denied

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

Illinois Prisoner Review Board
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Inmate Name: Sidney Foster IDOC Number & Institution: C50335

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL, on September 25, 2014, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, E. Gregg, C. Findley, V. Harris, T. Johnson, W. Norton, J. Parrack, D. Shelton, W. Simmons.

Members absent – Ms. Tyler

Other(s) present: Kim Morrison, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Harris presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials. Mr. Foster is now 71 years old and serving 125-250 years for murder and 2-6 years for concealment of a homicide. His family history was reviewed and his last visit was in 1984. He has served 39 years and is coming off a three year set. The facts of the crime were discussed. They indicate that he shot and killed the victim, who was living with him along with her two children. He then got some men to help him dismember the body of the victim, part of which was stored in the truck of Mr. Foster's car. Mr. Foster was a bit emotional during his parole interview. He was pleasant, but his story flip-flopped and was inconsistent. He stated that the facts of the case were false and that he didn't commit the crime and stated that someone came into his home and murder the victim. His institutional adjustment has been good. In May 2014 a psychiatric report was requested and he was determined to be sane and moved off the psychiatric ward. His parole plans are with his brother in Chicago, whose last visit was in 1984. He is now 71 years old.

Mr. Monreal noted that he was present during the State's Attorney protest. It was noted that both children testified against Mr. Foster.

This was a heinous crime and to parole Mr. Foster would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law

Motion to deny. (VN - JP). Motion carries 13 – 0.

Motion for a three year set. (DS – JP). Motion carries 13– 0.

Member felt that they would not vote favorable in the next three years.

Parole denied for three years

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

Illinois Prisoner Review Board
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OPEN SESSION SEPTEMBER 25, 2014

Inmate Name: Ezra Upshaw IDOC Number & Institution: L01718

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL, on September 25, 2014, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, E. Gregg, C. Findley, V. Harris, T. Johnson, W. Norton, J. Parrack, D. Shelton, W. Simmons.

Members absent – Ms. Tyler

Other(s) present: Kim Morrison, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Simmons presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials. Mr. Upshaw was interviewed for parole consideration on August 12, 2014. He is 65 years old and has served 31 years. He is serving 300-900 years for six counts of murder.

His institutional has been adequate. He stated that he has an associate's degree.

Facts of the crime were reviewed. They indicate that Mr. Upshaw shot the victims over an argument involving a gun. A three year old child was present. Mr. Upshaw indicated that he put his hand over her face and she died. He dismembered the bodies of the victims and disposed of them at various locations. The female victim had over 27 stab wounds and the child died of apparent strangulation. He gave a signed confession. He did not return from furlough and escape from the psychiatric unit. In November 1976, he was found incompetent and committed to a mental health facility. In April 1980, he was found competent and stood trial. His criminal history, which is horrendous, was reviewed. Past disciplinary tickets and mental health issues were noted. He stated that he did not know what to do to get out. His parole plans are with a brother in Las Vegas.

He is a danger to society and parole would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law

Motion to deny. (WS Tj). Motion carries 13 – 0.

Motion for a five year set. (WS – EB). Motion carries 14 – 0.

Members felt that they would not vote favorable in the next five years.

Parole denied for five years

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Illinois Prisoner Review Board
EN BANC MINUTE SHEET
OPEN SESSION SEPTEMBER 25, 2014

Inmate Name: James Blottiaux

IDOC Number & Institution: T76635

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL, on September 25, 2014, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, E. Gregg, C. Findley, V. Harris, T. Johnson, W. Norton, J. Parrack, D. Shelton, W. Simmons.

Members absent – Ms. Tyler

Other(s) present: Kim Morrison, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Bowers presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials. Mr. Blottiaux is now 70 years old and serving 100-300 years for murder. The crime was in 1965 and he was not arrested until 1999. He was at large for 35 years. He was 22 at the time of the offense and has served 15 years. He is coming off a two year set. Facts of the crime indicate that he was hired to kill a man by the victim's brother. He joined forces with another man to make a bomb and he took the bomb and placed it under the car of the intended victim. However, the intended victim sent a 22 year old worker to pick up supplies with this car and she died in the bomb. It was noted that Mr. Blottiaux watched her walk to the car and didn't stop her. She drowned in her own blood. He was on probation at the time of the offense. During the time before he was apprehended, he married has children and was employed. His institutional adjustment has been good. He attends vocational school and is assigned to the commissary. His parole plans are to the home he currently owns or he would live with a daughter. He has friends in the auto body field and they would help him with employment. Several letters of behalf are noted. He expressed remorse, but it was not felt it was genuine.

Letters of protest are also noted. Mr. Monreal attended the State's Attorney protest hearings. Present were two ATF agents. They noted that this was a heinous crime and that he observed the victim walking to the car. He was also investigated for other crimes.

Board members felt that he has not served sufficient time and that parole would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law

Motion to deny. (EB – CF). Motion carries 13 – 0.

Motion for a three year set. (EB - AM). Motion carries 12-1 (Ms. Crigler voting against)
Members felt that they would not vote favorably in the next three years.

Parole denied for three years

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Inmate Name: Charles Smith IDOC Number & Institution: C10180

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open En Banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL, on September 25, 2014, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

Members present were: Chairman A. Monreal, A. Blackman-Donovan, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, E. Gregg, C. Findley, V. Harris, T. Johnson, W. Norton, J. Parrack, D. Shelton, W. Simmons.

Members absent – Ms. Tyler

Other(s) present: Kim Morrison, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Norton presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials. Mr. Smith is 68 years old and has served 42 years. He was sentenced to 40-100 years for murder and received an additional 10 years aggravated battery sentence while incarcerated. Facts of the crime indicate that he was a member of a Chicago street gang. He went out of the area for a while and when he returned he had lost his leadership and was trying to gain it back. He had a disagreement with the new leader and shot and killed him.

During the interview he was very calm, cooperative and patient. He did not deny it but said that he didn't want to talk about it. His prior criminal history was reviewed. He served 14 years when he attacked a correctional officer with a baseball bat. He was eventually subdued. His institutional adjustment has not been stellar and he has received 12 major tickets since 2001. He has his GED and is assigned to laundry detail. His family history was reviewed. His parole plans are with his son in Chicago. He stated that he is fine with his outdate and does not want to be bugged by the Board.

Strong State's Attorney protest is noted.

Parole would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law

Motion to deny. (EN EB). Motion carries 13 – 0.

Motion to deny parole to max. (EN - CF). Motion carries 11-2 (Harris and Findley voting against)

Parole denied to MAX

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