

PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET: MEETING OF APRIL 30, 2015

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison,, Springfield, IL, on April 30, 2015, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for the following inmates:

C10727	RUBEN TAYLOR
L11109	PAUL BRIANT
C63915	LENNOX LAWRENCE
C64129	RICHARD BASKE
C01469	JAMES WILLIAMS
C81522	EVERETT BOWEN
L40686	HENRY HILLENBRAND
C01871	LEON BOLTON

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Findley
Roll call was taken by the Recording Secretary: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
<u>Mr. Ed Bowers</u>	X	
<u>Edith Crigler</u>	X	
<u>Salvador Diaz</u>	X	
<u>Mr. Gary Duncan</u>	X	
<u>Mr. Donald Wayne Dunn</u>	X	
Mr. Pete Fisher	X	
Mr. Eric Gregg	X	
Vonetta Harris	X	
Tom Johnson		X
Mr. Daryl Jones	X	
Mr. Adam Monreal	X	
Mr. William Norton	X	
Mrs. Aurthur Mae Perkins	X	
Mr. Donald Shelton	X	
Chairman Craig Findley	X	

14 Members Present

The Recording Secretary presented the following minutes for approval:
Open Session Minutes from **February** 2015. (CF - ADM) Leave.

Meeting was adjourned (CF – DS). Leave.

Submitted by: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, Recording Secretary

PLEASE NOTE: INMATE C16133 CHARLES ROBINSON HAS BEEN OMMITED FROM THIS RECORD
His hearing was held in error. His first hearing will be held on March 2016.

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EN BANC MINUTE SHEET OPEN SESSION—APRIL 30, 2015

Inmate Name: **RUBEN TAYLOR** IDOC Number & Institution: **C10727**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL, on April 30, 2015, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Ruben Taylor, IDOC # C10727.

Members present were: Chairman C. Findley, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, E. Gregg, V. Harris, D. Jones, A. Monreal W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Diaz presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

Mr. Diaz stated that a parole assessment interview was conducted with Mr. Ruben Taylor at the Dixon Correctional Center on February 10, 2015. Taylor is currently incarcerated for the murder and armed robbery of four members of the Corbett Family during a home invasion on August 4, 1972 in Barrington Hills, Illinois. He received concurrent sentences of concurrent sentences of 100-150 years each for the four counts of murder and 20-60 years each for the armed robbery. Mr. Taylor has been in DOC custody for 41 years, he has been residing at Dixon Correctional Center for over 27 years. He has an "A" grade classification, a low escape risk and minimum security status. This is the 31st time before the PRB. His projected out date is 2038.

Mr. Diaz proceeded to share facts about Ruben Taylor's life prior to incarceration. Ruben Taylor was a member of the United States Marine having been honorably discharged. He served a tour of duty in Vietnam. Mr. Diaz stated that Mr. Taylor shared with him some of the difficulties he encountered while a marine: racial tension, discrimination, and physical attacks from some of his fellow non-black marine corps members. Mr. Taylor shared with Mr. Diaz that there was not one isolated case; rather, this underlying tension followed him throughout his time with the military. As a result of this tension, some African American U.S. service members grouped together as a means to handle the stress. This bonding according to media reports was known as the De Mau Mau organization. History tells us that between 1952 and 1960 in Kenya, there occurred an anti-colonial uprising against the British colonizers by the Kikuyu Tribe. This uprising was known as the De May Mau Revolt.

Ruben Taylor returned to Chicago to find tension at home. He recalled that this country was going through a serious crisis in the early seventies, that Vietnam was a lightning rod for challenging our foreign policy and critiquing our returning veterans as complicit actors in a bad and intrusive military action in Vietnam. No doubt the Vietnam vets had a difficult re-entry.

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Ruben Taylor acknowledged some of these concerns but denied that the home invasion was racially motivated, that instead it was a robbery gone bad. Mr. Diaz shared that of the four home invasion offenders, three were U.S. Veterans.

Mr. Diaz then recounted the facts of the case. On August 04th Ruben Taylor, Donald Taylor, Michael Clark, and Nathaniel Burse decided to drive from a public housing project on the south side of Chicago to the up-scale community of Barrington Hills approximately 45 miles away. They selected a house at random. Donald Taylor knocked on the door which was answered by Mrs. Marion Corbett. Donald Taylor pointed a pistol at Mrs. Corbett and entered the home along with his companions. The invaders gathered the four family members (67 yr. old retired insurance executive Paul Corbett, his 58 year old wife Marion Corbett, her 22 year old daughter Barbara Boad, and Mrs. Corbett's 60 year old sister Dorothy Derry) and herded them into the kitchen. They took money and jewelry from the Corbetts and ordered them to lie on the floor in the pantry.

Burse and Clark went through the home as the Taylor brothers guarded the hostages. The family dachshund was apparently barking and annoying Donald Taylor which prompted him to throw a knife at the dog injuring him. Barbara Boad responded in the dog's defense prompting Ruben Taylor to open fire with the .30 caliber rifle he was holding, shooting her in the chest and killing her. Mr. Taylor has consistently stated that he acted reflexively and that he was startled. Mr. Diaz read a report where he shared that he thought she was attempting to escape.

Mr. Taylor shared that shortly after shooting Ms. Boad he left the Corbett home, waiting outside for his brother. Shortly thereafter, Donald Taylor exited the home stating he had shot the rest of the family. Barrington Hills police found that the Mr. Corbett, Mrs. Corbett, and Mrs. Derry had all been shot in the head by a 25 caliber weapon, execution style. The offenders fled the scene. Family members came to the home that same evening and discovered the crime scene. Mr. and Mrs. Corbett, were still alive but died later at the hospital.

As a result of an on-going investigation related to several murders connected to the De Mau Mau gang, on October 12, 1972, The Taylor brothers and Mr. Clark were arrested and subsequently charged with for the Barrington Hills Murders. Ruben Taylor was on Probation for Battery at the time of the murders.

Mr. Taylor confessed to participating in the Corbett murders and to specifically shooting the Boad daughter. All four offenders were convicted of the Corbett family murders. Donald Taylor died while in prison, Nathaniel Burse was strangled to death while in custody in the Lake County jail for another Mau Mau related murder. Michael Clark is serving a 200 year sentence. He had been at Dixon and is now in Lawrence Correctional Center.

Mr. Diaz stated that the State's Attorney's protest letter relates that RT, DT, MC, NB were charged by the Will County SA w/the murders of three members of the Hawtree family. The three victims were found shot to death in the basement of their rural Monee Illinois home.

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Because the defendants were pending prosecution in Cook County, Will County issued a warrant for their arrest. On July 20, 1994, the Will County case was dismissed after the conviction of RT, DT, and MC in Cook County.

Mr. Diaz proceeded to tell the Board that Ruben Taylor has done very well institutionally. His early years in DOC were stormy. His transfer to Dixon in 1988 began a significant change in behavior, focus, and accomplishments. Diaz also shared that Taylor has had seven tickets since 1988, one major in for standing when he was supposed to be sitting in the dietary. For this major ticket he received 15 days gym restriction.

Taylor has an AA in Electronics, a BA in General Studies (SIU, 2007), Paralegal Diploma from Kaplan University (2007), in 2009 completed a Personal Finance Course. He is certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology, extended his certification to three years by passing 12 recertification exams. Diaz also stated that Mr. Taylor has advanced computer skills. He is learning computer programming languages (Java, Python), and Microsoft Word.

Mr. Taylor has been employed for 25 years as an optical technician employed by the Optical Industries. Supervisors rave about him, can't say enough about his positive work ethic, his teaching skills, his striving to improve his skills, suffice to say that clearly an asset to the work environment.

Mr. Diaz stated that Mr. Taylor has developed talents that he believes add to his strengths: leadership positions in the Jaycees, proficient at playing the tenor sax in jazz and Latin bands, and disciplined and physically fit and healthy. Mr. Diaz finds these components of his person as strengths that define the individual as multifaceted. To him, he shared, this is very important because it defines the individual as positively expressive, able to enjoy himself, even in a restrictive environment. He states that this is quite healthy.

Mr. Diaz shared that Mr. Taylor has on-going contact with his mother, cousins, aunt, and several friends. There are several realistic options for Mr. Taylor's parole. They are St. Leonard's Ministries and the Safer Foundation, who have indicated a willingness to house Ruben Taylor and assist his re-entry into society. He could also live with his mother Stella, or relocate to Georgia to live with his friend Danny Swinney.

Mr. Diaz told the Board that he finds Ruben Taylor to be articulate, peaceful, with no anger in the air. He was insightful, expressing his remorse and guilt and shame over the deaths of the Corbett family. Yet he expressed that he is troubled due to the State's Attorney's statements saying that Mr. Taylor and the other three subjects were charged with the Monee, Illinois murders of the Hawtree family. Because Cook County had three of the subjects including Ruben Taylor, the Will County Sheriff quashed the warrant that had been issued. This case adds an additional dimension to Ruben Taylor. Very little has been addressed with regards to this connection. But because it has very similar qualities to the Barrington murders, more facts need to be flushed out. Mr. Diaz ultimately cannot recommend Mr. Taylor while the Will County case remains an issue. Several other members agreed. Until there is enough information about the Will County case, they stated, it is likely that Ruben Taylor will not be recommended for parole.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR

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Motion to Deny Parole. (SD-EB). Motion carries 11-3. Members Dissenting were Mrs. Crigler, Mr. Jones, and Chairman Findley.

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

PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET OPEN SESSION—APRIL 30, 2015

Inmate Name: **PAUL BRIANT** IDOC Number & Institution: **C10727**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL, on April 30, 2015, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Paul Briant, IDOC #L11109.

Members present were: Chairman C. Findley, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, E. Gregg, V. Harris, D. Jones, A. Monreal W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Monreal presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

Mr. Monreal stated that inmate Paul Bryant was interviewed for parole consideration on March 10, 2015 at the Dixon Correctional Facility. The interview for parole consideration had been postponed numerous times in order to allow Mr. Bryant an opportunity to prepare for the interview. The Prisoner Review Board did request one continuance because of scheduling difficulties.

The consideration for parole before the Prisoner Review Board for Mr. Paul Bryant was held on April 30, 2015. The following factors were considered; the facts and circumstances of the offenses, sentences, case procedural history, prior criminal history, institutional adjustment, family history and parole plans.

Mr. Monreal shared with the Board that the original conviction for Mr. Bryant resulted in a sentence of 500 to 1500 for murder, consecutive to 6 and 8 months to 20 years for burglary. Mr. Bryant was convicted of second murder, rape and robbery. He received 90 to 100 years for the murder conviction and 5 to 15 years for the robbery conviction. Mr. Bryant was subsequently convicted of multiple counts of rape, home invasion, robbery, burglary, armed violence and deviate sexual assault. Mr. Bryant pled guilty to all these offenses. In total, there were seven incidences of criminal behavior and 6 victims. His convictions and sentences have been affirmed by the Illinois Appellate Court. Subsequent post-convictions motions and proceedings and Habeas Corpus petitions have been dismissed. Mr. Bryant has exhausted all legal motions and proceedings and is seeking an actual innocence claim.

The Board determined that to parole Mr. Paul Bryant would not only deprecate the seriousness of the offenses for which he was convicted but would also promote disrespect for the law.

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Motion to Deny Parole (AM-EG).Leave.

Motion for a three year set (AM-DS). Motion carries 11-3. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bowers, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Gregg, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Jones, Mr. Monreal, Mr. Norton, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Shelton, and Chairman Findley.

“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—APRIL 30, 2015

Inmate Name: **LENNOX LAWRENCE** IDOC Number & Institution: **C10727**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL, on April 30, 2015, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Lennox Lawrence, IDOC#C10727.

Members present were: Chairman C. Findley, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, E. Gregg, V. Harris, D. Jones, A. Monreal W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Crigler presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

On March 10, 2015 at Dixon Correctional Center, Lennox Lawrence appeared before Member Crigler of the Prisoner Review Board for Parole Consideration. Factors considered included, but are not limited to; his testimony, a review of the file, parole plans and institutional adjustment.

Present at the hearing were Mr. Lennox Lawrence, his sister Carol Lawrence, his sister Patrice Lawrence-Shaw, his niece Marcia Milton and Board member Edith L. Crigler.

Mrs. Crigler shared that Mr. Lawrence is serving a sentence of 100-200 years on two counts of murder and 50-100 years for attempted murder.

Offense facts indicate that on June 13, 1975, inmate Lawrence and two co-defendants pre-arranged a party at the home of one of the co-defendants Wayne Lindsay in Chicago. Inmate Lawrence and three co-defendants in an attempt to silence witness in a murder investigation, shot and killed two men and seriously wounded another man, who despite being shot between the eyes survived and implicated Mr. Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence maintains his innocence.

Mrs. Crigler also stated that Mr. Lawrence's institutional adjustment has been an overall positive adjustment. He has not received a IDR since 2005, however Mr. Lawrence has not taken advantage of educational and vocational training opportunities.

Mrs. Crigler mentioned that Mr. Lawrence's parole plan is to live with this mother or if deported to return to Jamaica.

The Board expressed the opinion that parole would deprecate the seriousness of this crime and promote disrespect for the law. It is of great concern to the Board that Mr. Lawrence does not take responsibility for the crimes. Mrs. Crigler agreed. She stated this was a brutal and senseless string of murders.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR

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Motion to deny parole (EC-DS). Leave.

“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—APRIL 30, 2015

Inmate Name: **RICHARD BASKE** IDOC Number & Institution: **C64129**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL, on April 30, 2015, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Richard Baske, IDOC#C64129.

Members present were: Chairman C. Findley, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, E. Gregg, V. Harris, D. Jones, A. Monreal W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Crigler presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

On February 10 2015 Mr. Richard Baske appeared before Board Member Edith L. Crigler at Dixon Correctional Center for parole consideration. Factors considered for parole include, but are not limited to, testimony of the inmate review of the file, parole plans, institutional adjustment and the nature of the sentence for the offense.

Mrs. Crigler shared that Mr. Baske is a 64-year-old male who appears to be in good health and very articulate. Mr. Baske is serving 100-300 years for murder. Facts indicate on March 23, 1974 he forced his way into the victim's home for the purpose of committing a burglary. Upon entering, he began to stab the 84-year-old victim numerous times with a hunting knife and set the home on fire. He claimed he did not commit the crime and he blames others for the crime claiming that there is no proof to connect him to the crime.

Mrs. Crigler believes that Mr. Baske's institutional adjustment has been good. Per Offender Overview dated October 2014 he has not received a disciplinary report since February 2005. His educational accomplishments are an AA degree in computer technology, a bachelor's degree in business management, a master's degree in psychology. While at Pontiac Correctional Center he states he was a Peer Educator in the Substance Abuse Program from 1983-1995. He has maintained an excellent institutional adjustment. His parole plans are to apply to go to St. Leonard's House.

Mrs. Crigler stated that after review of the case, she does not deem it appropriate to recommend Mr. Baske for parole. To do so would deprecate the seriousness of the offense and promote disrespect for the law.

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BRUCE RAUNER, GOVERNOR

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Motion to deny parole. (EC-AMP). Leave.

Motion for a three year set. (WN-PF). Motion passes 11-3. Voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bowers, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Gregg, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Jones, Mr. Monreal, Mr. Norton, Mrs. Perkins, and Mr. Shelton.

“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—APRIL 30, 2015

Inmate Name: **JAMES WILLIAMS** IDOC Number & Institution: **C01469**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL, on April 30, 2015, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for James Williams, IDOC#C64129.

Members present were: Chairman C. Findley, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, E. Gregg, V. Harris, D. Jones, A. Monreal W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Findley presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

Inmate James Williams was interviewed for parole consideration 2/4/15 at Hill CC. Present for the interview and sworn in were petitioner and his pro-bono counsel Leesa Haspel.

Mr. Findley stated that James Williams was one of three defendants convicted of the murder of a CTA bus passenger and several counts of armed robbery and attempt robbery. A fourth man was implicated but not prosecuted.

The incident occurred on November 22, 1968 when three men entered a CTA bus at the intersection of Dame Ave. and Roosevelt Road in Chicago. As the bus drove north, an offender identified as Williams produced a short barreled rifle from beneath a long coat and pointed the weapon at the driver. A co-offender took the driver's moneychanger, and a third offender, identified as Herman Ray Lockett, drew a pistol and pointed it toward a passenger as a fourth offender removed his wallet. Lockett then attempted to take the purse of Mrs. Mary Zielinski. She refused and he shot and killed her. Another passenger was robbed without incident and the four offenders fled on foot.

Three men were tried separately and convicted. The fourth testified for the prosecution and was not charged. Williams testified in his own defense and was found guilty in a bench trial.

On appeal, the 60-100 year sentences for murder and armed robbery were reduced to 30-100. Mr. Findley said that the appellate court wrote, " the lesser minimum sentences are justified and the maximum imposed by the court remain intact. In that way, the justices continued, the parole board will have adequate latitude within which to determine whether defendant has been sufficiently rehabilitated to reenter society."

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The Chairman stressed that Mr. Williams did not fire a gunshot that day. Only Mr. Lockett. And despite evidence to the contrary--- five of eight witnesses placed Mr. Williams on the bus, gun in hand, petitioner has long maintained that he did not participate in the planning or execution of the robbery and that witnesses were in error. He further points out that the bus driver was unable to identify him as the man who pointed a rifle at him from the front of the bus.

Over the years, and at trial petitioner has offered differing versions of the reason he was found in possession of the rifle and wearing clothing of the type identified by some witnesses.

Regardless of his inconsistent claims, Mr. Williams was released from prison in 1999 and returned to custody three times as a parole violator. Two AWOL charges were sustained and the third was dismissed for no probable cause.

His only additional criminal charge was for the unlawful possession of a knife in 1965 for which he was fined \$100.

Mr. Findley said that during his interview Mr. Williams stated, "I can assure you through my life experiences that my good deeds will outweigh my bad." He points out that in the 17 years after he walked away from the prison farm, his conduct demonstrates that he is capable of living in free society.

In 2014 his SPCR includes these comments: He is a good candidate for parole. He has a tidy appearance, is polite in demeanor to staff and inmates and completes his work timely. In fact, different counselors have in every report since 2009 written their belief, supported by the clinical services supervisor that Mr. Williams is a good candidate for parole.

The Chairman asks, is Mr. Williams a victim of circumstance? Five witnesses say no, and an appellate court has affirmed his conviction. He stated, "I make no assertion of innocence. But I believe that Mr. Williams' life history, both in and out of prison, are sufficient evidence of rehabilitation. And with close supervision I believe his likelihood of reoffending is sufficiently remote that he would be welcome to live on my block in Jacksonville."

Motion to grant parole (CF-EC). Motion carries 8-6. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mrs. Crigler, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Duncan, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Jones, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Shelton, and Chairman Findley.

"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—APRIL 30, 2015

Inmate Name: **EVERETT BOWEN**

IDOC Number & Institution: **C81522**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL, on April 30, 2015, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Everett Bowen, IDOC # C81522.

Members present were: Chairman C. Findley, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, E. Gregg, V. Harris, D. Jones, A. Monreal W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, 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. Bowers stated that Inmate Bowen was sentenced in July, 1977, to 100 to 150 years for three counts of murder and a one year to twenty year sentence for arson. He has been in IDOC for 37 years. He has been at Illinois River since July, 2012. Prior to that, he was at Logan for fifteen years, Shawnee eleven years and Pontiac. He stated he has never had a disciplinary transfer. He has been A grade since 2008. He is currently does not have a job. He stated his last job was in dietary, but that job ended in September, 2014, do to cut backs in the number of inmate jobs. He said the entire time he was a Logan he worked in the tool crib. He transferred from Logan when it became a female institution.

His projected maximum discharge date is September 28, 2051. Inmate Bowen is coming off a three year set and has had continuous three year sets since 2002. He has never received a favorable vote.

With regards to the facts of the case, Mr. Bowers stated that Inmate Bowen was convicted of setting fire to his brother-in-law's home, where inmate Bowen's wife and four children were living when Bowen's wife separated from him. The fire killed three of the children. The mother and one child were able to escape the fire. The mother had a restraining order against Inmate Bowen at the time of the incident.

Inmate Bowen denies being responsible for setting the fire. He admits he went to the house and kicked in the door. He denied going into the house and said he simply left candy for his children and left the area. He said he was home asleep when the fire occurred, but stated he has no witnesses to support his statement. He said a babysitter testified at his trial that he had told her he was going to set the house on fire, and kill his family. Inmate Bowen stated the witness lied. He claims he had been involve sexually with the babysitter's sister and the

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babysitter was seeking revenge against him. Inmate Bowen admits he gave a written statement to authorities admitting he set the fire. He claims he gave the statement because authorities had threatened him with the death penalty. He said he had a jury trial and was found guilty. All appeals have been exhausted and his conviction has been upheld.

Mr. Bowers recognized that Inmate Bowen has had a good institutional adjustment. He did get an IDR in December, 2014, for a hot pot. Prior to that, his last IDR was in 2008. He states he has never been in segregation. He has not been involved in any counseling. He said he tried to go for a GED while in Pontiac, but said he has difficulty retaining things. He said he has not participated in any educational opportunities. He said he simply tries to work and keep himself busy. He stated he did not see much use in furthering his education or doing counseling, as he did not see himself ever leaving IDOC.

Inmate Bowen said if he were to be paroled, he would return to Maryland, where he was born and raised. He said he has a brother living in Maryland. He stated he has a letter from his brother, Paul, stating he would allow Inmate Bowen to live with him. Inmate Bowen said his brother is in his eighties. Inmate Bowen said he would try to get social security. He stated his health is failing. He stated he has heart problems and takes medication, is a diabetic and has arthritis. However, Inmate Bowen stated he does not expect to ever be paroled.

In conclusion, Mr. Bowers stated that Inmate Bowen has a very good institutional adjustment, but he has made no attempt to improve himself either through counseling or education. He fails to take any responsibility for the death of his three children. He did not appear to show remorse, as he denies any involvement in setting the fire, even though he gave a written statement admitting to setting the fire. He maintains the witness at his trial lied when she testified he had told her he was going to set fire to the house and kill his family.

Mr. Bowers said, "I find it very difficult to support Inmate Bowen for parole based on his lack of remorse, failure to take responsibility for his actions, and total lack of attempting to improve himself". The Board agreed. Mr Bowers also stated, "I believe to grant parole would deprecate the very serious nature of this crime, which took the lives of three small children ages 13, 8 and 5".

Motion to Deny Parole (EB-EG). Leave.

Motion for a 5 year set (EB-DS). Motion carries 13-1. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. Bowers, Mrs. Crigler, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Gregg, Mr. Jones, Mr. Monreal, Mr. Norton, Mrs. Perkins, Mr. Shelton, and Chairman Findley.

"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—APRIL 30, 2015

Inmate Name: **HENRY CARTER HILLENBRAND** IDOC Number & Institution: **L40686**

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL, on April 30, 2015, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Henry Hillenbrand, IDOC # L40686.

Members present were: Chairman C. Findley, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, E. Gregg, V. Harris, D. Jones, A. Monreal W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, 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. Norton stated that a parole assessment interview was conducted with Henry C. Hillenbrand on March 19, 2015. Rosemary Anderson, the sister of Mr. Hillenbrand, and Richard Anderson, the brother-in-law of Mr. Hillenbrand, were also present at the interview. Mr. Hillenbrand, was born on November 23, 1947, is currently sixty-seven years of age, and was a resident of Menard Correctional Center on the date of the interview. According to the file, Mr. Hillenbrand is serving a sentence for two counts of Murder, one involving victim George Evans (LaSalle County, 70-7-10124, 50-100 years), and one involving victim Patricia Pence (LaSalle County, 70-7-10125, 80-240 years). The above are concurrent sentences.

The file and record would indicate that the two separate Murder offenses of Mr. Hillenbrand took place on or about June 29, 1970 when Mr. Hillenbrand was 22 years of age in Streator, Illinois. About 4 months prior to this date Mr. Hillenbrand and his former girlfriend, Patricia Pence, had separated due to the fact that Ms. Pence had started a relationship with George Evans, a veteran who had just returned from Vietnam after receiving a Purple Heart. Mr. Hillenbrand and Ms. Pence had one child, Dawn Jean Hillenbrand, born July 17, 1968.

Mr. Norton shared that in the early morning on June 29, 1970, Mr. Hillenbrand, armed with a .22 cal. rifle, went to the home of the mother of George Evans, and after gaining entry through a window found George Evans and Patricia Pence in bed together. Mr. Hillenbrand shot George Evans in the head causing his immediate death and then struck Patricia Pence in the head with the stock of the rifle with such force that the stock of the rifle was broken. Patricia Pence made an attempt to get away and flee and ultimately she was shot three times in the back by Mr. Hillenbrand which caused her death.

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Mr. Hillenbrand entered a plea of guilty to both of these murder offenses on October 19, 1970. While awaiting his sentencing hearing, Mr. Hillenbrand and two other prisoners escaped from the LaSalle County Jail on November 17, 1970. Following the escape, the prisoners committed a vehicular hijacking and kidnapping of a young woman who was forced to drive the prisoners to Chicago. Ultimately, Mr. Hillenbrand settled in Anderson County, Missouri working in the logging business under the alias name of Thomas Charles Elliot. While in Missouri, Mr. Hillenbrand was married to Hope Elliot. They were divorced and remarried and as a result of their relationship had two children, Thomas Elliot (now 37) and Jeremy Elliot (now 33). Mr. Hillenbrand was finally apprehended and arrested as a fugitive in Anderson County, Missouri on May 2, 1983 after being at large for about 13 years. His ultimate apprehension resulted from the fact that his fingerprints were taken as he attempted to cross the Canada - United States border following a hunting trip and stay in Canada. Following his extradition back to Illinois, Mr. Hillenbrand was given his sentences for the two Murder convictions on February 24, 1984. Mr. Hillenbrand was admitted to the Illinois Department of Corrections on February 27, 1984. Mr. Hillenbrand did not dispute the basic facts of the case, but stated that this was a crime of passion as he was jealous of the relationship between Mr. Evans and his former girlfriend who was the mother of his only child. Mr. Hillenbrand also stated that he had been drinking quite heavily the night before this incident, that he shot Mr. Evans after Mr. Evans had made a lunge toward him, and that he shot Patricia Pence after she escaped from his car when he was attempting to take her to the hospital to receive treatment for her head wounds.

Mr. Norton shared that the parole assessment as completed by the Illinois Department of Corrections would report that Mr. Hillenbrand has had a positive adjustment during his past thirty-one years of incarceration. Mr. Hillenbrand has only received three IDR tickets since his admission and has not received any IDR ticket since January 1983. Mr. Hillenbrand is a high school graduate, he has been a resident at Menard Correctional Center since November 25, 1987, and since 1997 he has worked in the broom shop. Mr. Hillenbrand advised that he was in good health with the exception of high blood pressure.

Mr. Hillenbrand reported that his parents are deceased but that he has two living sisters, Gloria Gonzalez and Rosemary Anderson. He also has three living adult children, Dawn Jean Hillenbrand, Thomas Elliot and Jeremy Elliot. Mr. Hillenbrand receives excellent family support from his sister, Rosemary Anderson, who has visited with Mr. Hillenbrand on more than fifty separate occasions.

Mr. Norton stated that Mr. Hillenbrand was pleasant, polite, courteous and attentive during the interview. He shared with the Board that Mr. Hillenbrand also expressed deep remorse for his crimes and prior actions stating that his actions were out of character and as a result of jealousy and passion. Mr. Hillenbrand advised that if granted parole he would plan to return to Anderson County, Missouri, reside with one of his sons, and again become an active part of his community.

Mr. Norton feels that a release at this time would deprecate the serious nature of these crimes and offenses and would promote a lack of respect for the law. Members Shelton and Diaz agreed.

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Motion to deny parole (WN-DS). Motion passes 13-1. Members voting in favor of the motion are Mr. Bowers, Mrs. Crigler, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Gregg, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Jones, Mr. Monreal, Mr. Norton, Mrs. Perkins, and Mr. Shelton.

Motion for a 2-year set. (WN-EG). Motion does not carry. Voting against the motion are Mr. Bowers, Mrs. Crigler, Mr. Diaz, Mr. Duncan, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Monreal, and Chairman Findley.

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

PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

EN BANC MINUTE SHEET OPEN SESSION—APRIL 30, 2015

Inmate Name: LEON BOLTON IDOC Number & Institution: L40686

The Illinois Prisoner Review Board met in open en banc session at 319 E. Madison Street, Springfield, IL, on April 30, 2015, at the 8:00 a.m. session to discuss and deliberate parole eligibility for Henry Hillenbrand, IDOC # L40686.

Members present were: Chairman C. Findley, E. Bowers, E. Crigler, S. Diaz, G. Duncan, D.W. Dunn, P. Fisher, E. Gregg, V. Harris, D. Jones, A. Monreal W. Norton, A.M. Perkins, and D. Shelton.

Other(s) present: Gabriela Chavez Barrientos, Recording Secretary

Summary of discussion for parole consideration: Member Shelton presented a summary of the parole interview and a review of all file materials.

Mr. Shelton shared that Leon Bolton was heard for parole consideration at Western Illinois Correctional Center on February 25, 2015.

Mr. Shelton proceeded to recount the facts of the case. Mr. Bolton and several co-offenders walked to the rural home of Mrs. Bernice VanZant in rural Pembroke Township in Kankakee County where they raped her, bound and gagged her, then took her into a nearby field and shot her six times using two different guns. The offenders left her in the field, where she died, before returning to the apartment to steal food stamps that they cashed the following day at a grocery store. The victim's children were in the home at the time of the rapes but in another room. Mrs. VanZant's husband was serving in the military in Viet Nam at the time of the crimes. Members of Mrs. VanZant's family found her frozen body five days after her death.

On the afternoon following Mrs. VanZant's death Mr. Bolton and co-offenders robbed Orville Asher, a bread truck driver in the Pembroke Township area. After robbing and beating Mr. Asher, someone in the group shot Mr. Asher in the head. He survived. The bullet was removed from his head and later determined to have come from one of the guns that was used to kill Mrs. VanZant.

Mr. Shelton shared that Mr. Bolton does not dispute the aforementioned facts and has, for many years, taken responsibility for his actions. Mr. Bolton's disciplinary record reflects 62 discipline infractions. It is much improved in the last fifteen years, although his most recent assault was in 2013. He was a high-ranking member of the Gangster Disciples but claims to have left the gang life as long ago as 2000 or 2001.

Mr. Shelton also shared that Mr. Bolton has secured a host site with a relative in the Chicago area.

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Mr. Shelton recounted that prior to the commencement of En Banc this date there have been 316 votes cast by members of this Board since 1983 without a single vote being cast in his favor. Mr. Shelton continues to be disturbed about the brutal nature of these crimes and finds that release at this time would deprecate the seriousness of these crimes.

Motion to deny parole (DS-PF). Leave.

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