

April 20, 2023

Attorney Lisa Hoying, Parole Board Chair  
Ohio Adult Parole Authority  
4545 Fisher Road Suite D  
Columbus, OH 43228

IN RE: SHELDON JACKSON

Inmate #A293657

Trumbull County Case No. 93-CR-458

Continued Hearing: May 2023

Convictions: Aggravated Murder with  
Aggravating Circumstances; Aggravated  
Burglary; Aggravated Robbery and  
Robbery

SENTENCE: 20 Full Years to Life with  
concurrent maximum sentences on all  
other felonies

TIME SERVED: 28 Years 9 Months

Dear Attorney Hoying:

Sheldon Jackson, along with Warren Cromety and Carvin Clemmons, on August 30, 1993 conspired to commit multiple vicious crimes with weapons against two elderly citizens, Theodore (age 78) and Cathryn Emerson (age 72) in their southwest Warren, Ohio home. Largely in part due to the unavailability of the only surviving witness (other than assailants), severely injured Mrs. Emerson,

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both Jackson and Cromety pled guilty before a three-judge panel to the indictment and both inmates Jackson and Cromety were found guilty of all charges and after a mitigation hearing successfully avoided the death penalty, receiving indeterminate life sentences along with other major felony crimes sentences. I am attaching with this letter our prior letters written to the board involving both of these inmates. Also I am providing the board copies of relevant case file materials since there are many new board members since I last wrote the board in 2013 concerning Sheldon Jackson's possible release on parole.

Though inmate Jackson's Disciplinary History of infractions in prison has gone down since I last wrote the board in 2013 (and when the board ruled he would not get another parole hearing for 10 years, the maximum period provided by law), I would observe, however, that Jackson has been a "Steady Eddie" in that regard! (6 violations listed between 2013 and 2020). As with long ago rules infractions cited in our prior letter, Jackson still seems to find illicit drugs to use—tested positive for T.H.C. (and made admission in case-see infractions summary dated May 8, 2015). As with inmate Warren Cromety, it is the state's concern that this duo of inmates may be playing the system and appear to be more rehabilitated as they spend more time in prison when in fact they are not any better (otherwise known as one portraying "Learned Remorse Syndrome"). As we wrote in our October 25, 2016 letter opposing Cromety's parole—"This guy's pretending could result in dire consequences on society. "Sleeper cell" inmates are recognizable—just look at what happened to the Emerson couple. This office's concern, as I know it is the board's also, is that violent offenders like Jackson who are eligible for release on parole should wisely be denied release when administrative rules and guidelines as applied under the totality of circumstances establish good cause to believe that it is in the public interest, and the safety of the community, to continue an inmate's imprisonment.

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Respectfully, the Facts in this Case are What They Are and have been succinctly and clearly expressed in the last two (2) paragraphs of my June 13, 2013 letter to the board:

“Since being imprisoned Sheldon Jackson has also managed to be written up over the years by prison staff for serious infractions including “unauthorized possession or consumption of illegal drugs”; “stealing or embezzlement”; “establishing and having an inappropriate relationship with a staff member”; and “threats to officer.” (See Institutional Summary included for complete list of conduct violations). To be sure Jackson is at least an ambidextrous violator.

Also it is noted that Mrs. Emerson has passed away since the Defendant’s incarceration in 1993. However, she has a daughter who lives out of state and has been a victim’s representative in these cases who strongly opposes Jackson’s and Cromety’s release. Society cannot afford the likes of Jackson and Cromety on the streets. Sheldon Jackson plunged a screw driver in a seventy-eight (78) year old man and then unmercifully beat and kicked the victim to death. This sociopath should never ever be released. Please extend his next parole eligibility hearing to the maximum period allowed by law.

In conclusion, it is our hope that this board will find after due consideration of everything presented to it at the May 2023 hearing that inmate Jackson’s stay in prison, needs to be extended again another 10 years to protect the public and serve the interests of justice in this matter. Once out, nothing will prevent Jackson from going to Ace...the place with the helpful hardware man...and get another screwdriver...!

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Thank you for your kind consideration of our position in this case.

Very truly yours,

DENNIS WATKINS,  
Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney

Enclosure

DW:fah