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Prosecutor's Office Successfully Opposes Parole of Convicted Murderer

COLUMBUS, Ohio (Thursday, April 13, 2023) - The Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office successfully opposed the parole of David Jacobs during a Full Board Hearing held before the Ohio Parole Board on April 12, 2023.

David Jacobs is serving a 15-years-to-life sentence for the aggravated murder, rape, kidnapping, and aggravated robbery of Helene Elaine Poullas on June 3, 1979.

Because the Defendant was 17 years old at the time of the offenses, newly enacted R.C. 2967.132 required the Parole Board to convene a hearing.

Mahoning County Prosecutor Gina DeGenova and Criminal Chief Ralph Rivera appeared before the Parole Board in Columbus, and presented the State's arguments in support of denying David Jacobs' release. The Board also heard from Assistant Prosecutor Nicholas Modarelli, who worked on this case as a member of the Youngstown Police Department's Crime Lab, and several family members of the victim Ms. Poullas.

On June 3, 1979, Youngstown Police found Helene Elaine Poullas, age 20, dead near Slippery Rock Pavilion in Mill Creek Park. The subsequent autopsy revealed that Ms. Poullas died from two gunshot wounds; one to the head and one to her right thigh.

Through its investigation, Youngstown police learned that on June 2, 1979, Ms. Poullas went to the Beachcomber Bar on Market Street in Youngstown's Uptown. Once inside the bar, Ms. Poullas began to feel ill, and told her friends that she was going to lay down in the car. Ms. Poullas left the Beachcomber and fell asleep inside her friend's 1978 red Thunderbird parked in the nearby lot. About 30 minutes later, her friends left the Beachcomber and discovered that the Thunderbird and Ms. Poullas were missing.



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Youngstown police interviewed both Jacobs and Teague regarding Ms. Poullas' homicide. Jacobs and Teague went to the Uptown area looking for to steal a car. They approached the red Thunderbird and saw Ms. Poullas in the back seat and keys on the front seat. Jacobs reached inside the passenger's window and unlocked the door; both Jacobs and Teague got into the vehicle, with Ms. Poullas still in the back seat. The car's interior light awakened Ms. Poullas. Jacobs told police that Teague put a gun in Ms. Poullas' face and told her not to get up. Jacobs then drove the three around the south side of Youngstown for about 30 minutes, then into Mill Creek Park. Jacobs parked the Thunderbird in a vacant lot, where both Jacobs and Teague sexually assaulted Ms. Poullas.

Afterwards, Jacobs drove to the parking lot near Slippery Rock Pavilion. Once there, they ordered Ms. Poullas out of the car, and shot her twice, once in the head and once in her right thigh. Both Jacobs and Teague recalled that Ms. Poullas begged them not to kill her.

Charles Teague, who was also 17 years old when these crimes occurred, was denied parole in July 2022.

The sheer brutality and callousness of Jacobs' actions supported the State's argument that David Jacobs was not entitled to rejoin society. The Parole Board agreed with the State's position, and voted 7 to 1 in favor of Denying David Jacobs' parole. The Parole Board cited the aggravating facts and circumstances that surrounded Ms. Poullas' rape and murder, as well as the community support that was outlined by her family members that spoke on her behalf, in their reasoning for denying David Jacobs' parole. The Parole Board found that the aggravating facts and circumstances of the offense significantly outweighed Mr. Jacobs' rehabilitative efforts. On June 22, 1979, Hubbard Police Officers apprehended David Jacobs and Charles Teague after they were involved in a pursuit while driving a stolen car. Hubbard police found a .357 revolver inside. Jacobs admitted to Hubbard police that the .357 revolver belonged to him, and subsequent testing on the revolver revealed that the bullets removed from Ms. Poullas's body were fired from the .357 revolver. In addition, the revolver bore fingerprints from both Jacobs and Teague.