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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAHONING COUNTY PROSECUTOR GINA DEGENOVA OBJECTS TO THE RELEASE OF MICHAEL KERNS

Mahoning County Prosecutor Gina DeGenova, filed objections with the Ohio Parole Board regarding the upcoming parole hearing of Michael Kerns scheduled in May, 2023. Kerns was convicted of eight counts of rape, one count of kidnapping and one count of gross sexual imposition as a result of his brutal sexual assault of a Fitch High School student on March 7, 1990. Kerns was also convicted of attempted abduction of a second young women earlier that same day. He was sentenced to over 90 years for these crimes.

During the early morning hours of March 7, 1990, Kerns attempted to abduct a female. When this abduction failed, he offered to give another female a ride to school. However, when she entered his vehicle, he drove her to his apartment where he brutally raped her eight times. After he finished, he dropped the girl off at her school and threatened to hurt her if she told anyone.

To date, Kerns has served over 33 years in the penitentiary for his crimes. However, the brutal nature of these crimes along with his rampant recidivism demonstrates that the only way to keep society safe from Kerns is through his continued incarceration. Kerns has an extensive criminal history, including his commission of several serious crimes while he was on parole. In fact, when Kerns committed the brutal rapes for which he is currently incarcerated, he was on parole from two prior robbery convictions.



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According to Ohio Administrative Code §5120:1-1-07:

(A) An inmate may be released on or about the date of his eligibility for release, unless the parole board, acting pursuant to rule [5120:1-1-10](#) of the Administrative Code, determines that he should not be released on such date for one or more of the following reasons:

(2) There is substantial reason to believe that as the unique factors of the offense of conviction significantly outweigh the inmate's rehabilitative efforts, the release of the inmate into society would create undue risk to public safety and/or would not further the interest of justice nor be consistent with the welfare and security of society.

Kerns has been given several prior parole opportunities, yet each time he was released he continued to commit serious crimes. Moreover, his failure to adhere to rules continues in prison. Since being admitted to the DRC in 1990, Kerns participated in very few programs, earned zero coupons and certificates and has series of disciplinary infractions. Kerns is clearly a menace to society. He is dangerous and his release will cause an undue risk to the public.

For all of these reasons, the Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office, through its Prosecutor, Gina DeGenova, respectfully objected to parole for Michael Kerns as there is no "reasonable ground to believe that * * * paroling [Michael Kerns] would further the interests of justice and be consistent with the welfare and security of society." R.C. 2967.03.