

DATE TYPED: February 4, 2009
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IN RE: JEFFREY D. HILL, OSP #A261-876

**STATE OF OHIO
ADULT PAROLE AUTHORITY
COLUMBUS, OHIO**

Date of Meeting: January 29, 2009

Minutes of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the
Adult Parole Authority held at 770 West Broad Street,
Columbus, Ohio 43222 on the above date.

IN RE: JEFFREY D. HILL, OSP # A261-876

SUBJECT: Death Sentence Clemency

CRIME, CONVICTION: Aggravated Murder with death penalty specification, Aggravated Robbery, Aggravated Burglary, Theft (motor vehicle)

DATE, PLACE OF CRIME: March 23, 1991 in Cincinnati, Ohio

COUNTY: Hamilton

CASE NUMBER: B912352

VICTIM: Emma Hill, (age 61)

INDICTMENT: 4/30/1991: Count 1: Aggravated Murder with death penalty specification; Count 2: Aggravated Robbery; Count 3: Aggravated Burglary; Count 4: Grand Theft (Motor Vehicle) with physical harm specification.

TRIAL: Jury

VERDICT: 6/1/1992: Counts 1-3: Found guilty as indicted; Count 4: Guilty of lesser include offense, Theft.

SENTENCE: 6/19/1992: Count 1: Aggravated Murder: Sentenced to Death; Count 2: Aggravated Robbery: 10-25 years; Count 3: Aggravated Burglary: 10-25 years; Count 4: Theft: 3-5 years

ADMITTED TO INSTITUTION: July 17, 1992

JAIL TIME CREDIT: 323 days

TIME SERVED: 209 months (includes jail time credit)

AGE AT ADMISSION: 27 years old

CURRENT AGE: 44 years old

DATE OF BIRTH: April 7, 1964

PRESIDING JUDGE: Honorable J. Howard Sunderman, Jr.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY: Joseph T. Deters

FOREWORD:

Clemency in the case of Jeffrey D. Hill #A261-876 was initiated by the Ohio Parole Board, pursuant to Section 2967.03 and 2967.07 of the Ohio Revised Code and Parole Board Policy #105-PBD-01.

On January 21, 2009, the Parole Board interviewed Jeffrey Hill via video-conference at the Ohio State Penitentiary. His attorney, Justin Thompson of the Ohio Public Defenders Office, was present at the interview. Board members participating in the interview included Chairperson Ms. Mausser and Parole Board Members Mr. Bedra, Mr. Bogan, Ms. Kovach, Mr. Maszczyński, Mr. Rauschenberg, and Ms. Venters.

A Clemency Hearing was then held on January 29, 2009 with all eight (8) members of the Ohio Parole Board participating. Jeffrey Hill was represented by Pamela Prude-Smithers and Justin Thompson of the Ohio Public Defender's Office at this hearing. Testimony was also provided by Dr. James Reardon (Psychologist), Tim Payne (Oklahoma Federal Public Defender's Office/ Former attorney), and Richard Ranalli (Volunteer for program at Ohio State Penitentiary). The inmate's family, Eddie Sanders (brother of victim Emma Hill) and George Sanders (brother of victim Emma Hill), also provided testimony in support of clemency, followed by testimony from a friend of the family Prudence Freeman. Arguments in opposition to clemency were presented by Assistant Hamilton County Prosecutor Phil Cummings and Principal Assistant Attorney General Charles Wille.

The Parole Board considered all of the testimony, the information disseminated by presenters at the hearing, prior investigative findings as well as judicial decisions. With these, the Board deliberated upon the propriety of clemency in this case. With eight (8) members participating, the Board came to unanimous agreement and voted to provide a favorable recommendation for clemency to the Honorable Ted Strickland, Governor of the State of Ohio.

DETAILS OF THE INSTANT OFFENSE (B912352): The following account of the instant offense was obtained from the Ohio Supreme Court opinion:

“In March 1991, the applicant, Jeffrey Hill, stabbed to death his mother, Emma Hill, in her Cincinnati apartment. Then, he ransacked her apartment and took money to buy cocaine. Three days later, Hill confessed to killing his mother. A jury convicted Hill of his mother's aggravated murder, and he was sentenced to death.

According to his confession, Hill went to visit his mother around 6:30 a.m., Saturday, March 23, 1991, because she had promised to help find him an apartment. When he arrived, he had been smoking cocaine. She gave him \$20, and he left for thirty to sixty minutes. After he came back, she complained he did not visit her often enough, and they argued. She "was talkin' to me" and "[t]he next thing I know she's layin' on the floor." Hill "stabbed" her "more than once" with a kitchen knife.

As Emma lay on her bed, she looked up at him and said, "Why? Why did you do this?" Hill did not bother to reply, but instead he kept "goin' through 'er stuff" looking for "money to get some more crack." He found \$20 and left, locking the apartment door behind him. Then he drove around in her Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera, threw away the knife, smoked more cocaine, and met a new friend, Charlotte Jones.

Around 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. that evening, Hill, along with Jones, returned to the area near Emma's apartment. Hill told Jones he was going to get some money from his mother, and Jones waited in the car. Hill later said he went back "to see if she [his mother] was all right." He used a jack handle to force the apartment door open because he had forgotten to take her apartment key. When detectives asked if his mother was alive then, Hill replied, "she didn' say nothin'. So I went in 'er closet an' got the rest of the money." Hill admitted taking \$80 and putting \$40 in the car trunk so Jones would not get it.

Later that evening, police officer Paul Fangman noticed a 1985 Oldsmobile being driven without lights. After following the car, Fangman observed the driver make "quick definite movements" as if he was "trying to hide something." In the car, Fangman found a crack cocaine pipe next to the driver's seat. Hill, the driver, had no license, and was wanted on an unrelated outstanding warrant, so Fangman took him into custody. Fangman verified that the Oldsmobile was registered to Emma Hill and left it, secured, at a nearby parking lot. Fangman established Jones' identity and released her.

On March 25, while in custody, Hill called and asked a friend to check on his mother. The friend checked Emma's apartment, but got no response. That evening, police entered the ransacked apartment and found Emma's body next to her bed. On a living room stool, police found a blood-soaked brown cloth purse. On a bathroom faucet, police found Hill's fingerprints, suggesting he may have last used that faucet.

The coroner testified that Emma had been dead for at least thirty-six hours at the time of the March 26 autopsy. Emma died as a result of ten stab wounds to her chest and back. Some were inflicted with "considerable force." One knife wound perforated the heart and nicked a lung; two others punctured a lung and broke ribs. Another wound perforated the scapula or "wing bone." No defensive-type wounds were evident. Emma, sixty-one years old, had been partly paralyzed from a stroke she had suffered several years before.

On March 26, homicide detectives interviewed Hill and advised him of his *Miranda* rights. Hill signed a written waiver of those rights. Hill told detectives that around March 23 he had been driving in his mother's car, using cocaine, but he denied knowing about his mother's death. Detectives talked with Jones and Vernon Hill, Hill's brother. Police further learned Emma never let either son drive her car without her being present.

Then, detectives readvised Hill of his rights and confronted him about inconsistencies in his statement. After ten or fifteen minutes, Hill "admitted that he stabbed his mother to death." Then police readvised Hill of his rights and tape recorded his confession. After

that, Hill asked to see Vernon and told his brother, "he killed mama but he didn't mean to."

That evening, at a location pointed out by Hill, police found a bloodstained knife. Hill identified that as the murder weapon. The coroner confirmed this knife could have caused Emma's wounds.

Pursuant to a warrant, police searched Emma's Oldsmobile and found a tire tool, two \$20 bills, and two \$1 bills in the trunk. One \$1 bill was stained with type A blood, which was Emma's blood type. Forensic examination of the tire tool revealed microscopic brass flakes matching the composition of a brass door protector on Emma's apartment door. That brass protector appeared to have "fresh jimmy marks," and black paint on that protector matched the painted tire tool.

A grand jury indicted Hill on four counts. Count I charged aggravated murder during an aggravated robbery. The single felony-murder death-penalty specification charged murder during aggravated robbery. Count II charged aggravated robbery; Count III charged aggravated burglary; and Count IV, theft of a motor vehicle. Following competency evaluations by experts, the court found Hill mentally competent to stand trial. After further evaluations, experts found Hill mentally responsible for his acts. At trial, Hill did not pursue his insanity pleas. Despite not guilty pleas, the jury convicted Hill as charged.

At the sentencing hearing, Hill testified, under oath, consistent with his earlier confession. When he went to see his mother at 6:30 a.m., he "had been up all night smoking [\$400 worth of] crack." After she gave him \$20 to buy cigarettes, he took her car and bought more cocaine. After he came back, he recalled talking with her and then seeing her "laying [*sic*] on the floor." When asked if he remembered stabbing her, Hill replied "[n]ot really." After he went "through everything," he left to buy more crack. He loved his mother "[m]ore than anything" and stated it "[a]in't like I meant to" stab her."

PRIOR RECORD:

Juvenile:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
3/9/1979 (Age 14)	Agg. Robbery	Hamilton County, Ohio	Adjudged
3/9/1979 (Age 14)	Att. Felony	Hamilton County, Ohio	Permanent Commitment to OYC

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6/17/1981 (Age 17)	Assault	Hamilton County, Ohio	Permanent Commitment to OYC
3/12/1982 (Age 17)	Theft	Hamilton County, Ohio	Restitution, Returned to DYS

Other Adjudications:

On 10/30/1980 the subject was found guilty of mischief, and tampering without privilege. He was adjudged delinquent and ordered to perform community service. On 2/16/1982, he was found to be incorrigible, and was returned to DYS.

Adult:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
11/24/1984 (Age 20)	Theft under \$300.00	Cincinnati, Ohio	7/11/1985: 6 Months Jail, 6 Months Probation

Details: The subject broke into a vehicle and removed the stereo.

9/8/1985 (Age 21)	RSP	Cincinnati, Ohio	1/21/1986: 2 Years Probation
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Details: The subject did trespass into an occupied structure with the purpose to commit a theft offense.

2/3/1987 (Age 22)	Drug Abuse Not to be Distributed	Cincinnati, Ohio	2/17/1987: \$100.00 Fine and Costs
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Details: The subject did knowingly possess less than 100 grams of marijuana.

10/18/1990 (Age 26)	CCW	Cincinnati, Ohio	12/14/1990: 1 Month Jail, 2 Years Probation, Costs Remitted
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Details: The subject did conceal a 9 inch switch blade knife.

10/18/1990 (Age 26)	Drug Abuse Not to be Distributed	Cincinnati, Ohio	11/14/1990: Costs Remitted
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Details: The subject did knowingly possess less than 100 grams of marijuana.

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3/23/1991 (Age 26)	Possessing a Manufactured Drug	Cincinnati, Ohio	4/18/1991: 3 months Jail, Costs Remitted
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Details: The subject did knowingly possess drug paraphernalia.

3/26/1991 (Age 26)	Agg. Murder, Agg. Robbery, Agg. Burglary, Theft	Cincinnati, Ohio	6/19/1992: Sentenced to Death cc/w 10-25 cc/w 10-25 cc/w 3-5 Instant Offense
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Other Convictions:

6/5/1984 - Pedestrian Violation, costs remitted; 11/8/1984 - No Driver's License, costs; 6/29/1986 - No Driver's License and Improper Lights, \$70.00 fine and costs; 2/3/1987 - Unroadworthy Vehicle, \$25.00 fine and costs remitted; Fictitious License Plate, \$25.00 fine and costs remitted; No Driver's License, \$100.00 fine and costs remitted; Disorderly Conduct, \$100.00 fine, 1 year probation; 5/31/1988 - No Driver's License, \$524.00 fine and costs; 6/27/1988 - No Driver's License and License Plate Violation, \$999.00 fine and 2 years probation; 8/3/1988 - No Driver's License and Other Operator Violation, confinement and costs remitted; 8/11/1988 - Speed Pace Car Control, costs remitted; 6/15/1989 - Driving under Suspension, 3 month confinement, \$250.00 fine, and 1 year probation; 3/23/1991 - Safety Restraint Violation, costs remitted; Driving under Suspension, costs remitted; Driving under Suspension and Improper Lights, costs remitted .

Dismissed, Nolled and Unknown Dispositions:

11/30/1982 - Forcible Rape, ignored; 12/2/1983 Domestic Violence, acquitted by court; 12/29/1984 - Obstructing Official Business, acquitted by court; 6/3/1985 - Assaulting a Law Officer, dismissed.

Prior Supervision Adjustment:

The subject successfully completed a period of municipal probation in 1986 for Receiving Stolen Property (Case B853259). The subject has also served four other periods of municipal probation between 1987 and 1990. He was on probation for Carrying a Concealed Weapon when he committed the instant offense. That period of supervision was unsuccessfully terminated as a result of his conviction.

Institutional Adjustment:

Jeffrey D. Hill was admitted to the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction on July 17, 1992. His work assignments while incarcerated at the Mansfield Correctional Institution included Porter, Food Service Worker and Recreation Worker. He was also enrolled in a GED course, but that course was cancelled. Since his transfer to the Ohio State Penitentiary in 2005,

Jeffrey Hill's work assignment has been as a porter. He also obtained his GED in November 2006.

Since his admission, Jeffrey Hill accumulated the following disciplinary record which resulted in placement in disciplinary control:

- 2/14/2006 – Fighting - Hill punched another inmate one time during a verbal altercation between the two. He received 15 days in disciplinary control for this rules infraction.
- 11/29/2006 – Intentionally grabbing, or touching a person without the consent of such person in a way likely to harass, annoy or impede movement - Hill grabbed another inmate for the purpose of forcing that inmate to take a shower. He received 8 days in disciplinary control for this rules infraction.
- 6/30/2007– Fighting - Hill was involved in a fight with another inmate. He received 15 days in disciplinary control for this rules infraction.

Jeffrey Hill has received approximately 3 additional conduct reports since he was admitted to the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction in 1992. These conduct reports did not result in Disciplinary Control. These offenses included Possession of Contraband (2) and Refusing a Staff Member's Order.

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT:

In his interview with the Parole Board Jeffrey Hill did not dispute any of the facts of the case, saying that he stabbed his mother "from what I know". But he said that he does not remember any of the details. He last recalled before the murder going to work. He remembers waking up in jail, knowing that something was very wrong. He displayed remorse, saying that he loved his mother, and would have done anything for her. He said he spoke to her daily, and helped take care of her.

He admits that this is not the first time that he has been in trouble. He said that he became addicted to crack cocaine after his father became ill and ultimately died. But he does not use that as an excuse.

He said that he did not feel that his trial was unfair, because he knows that he killed his mother. He said he hates himself so much for what he did that at one time he felt he deserved to die for it. Now, he is not so sure, as he has been working to forgive himself.

He has obtained his GED, and said that he is now trying to be the best person that he can be, and trying to learn from the whole experience. He said that his family loves him, and doesn't want to see him die, although he did not want to speak for them.

His interview was very emotional and tearful. He said that he remembers everyday that he took the life of his mother, and wishes that he could take it back. He said that he will never get over it. He apologized to the Parole Board for being put in the position of making a recommendation regarding clemency.

In his letter to the Parole Board, Jeffrey Hill emphasizes that he does not want to escape any responsibility for what he has done. He describes the pain that he feels everyday. He fears that because of what he has done, his execution will hurt his family all over again.

ARGUMENT ADVANCED IN SUPPORT OF CLEMENCY:

Assistant State Public Defenders Pamela Prude-Smithers and Justin Thompson appeared at the clemency hearing on Jeffrey Hill's behalf and advanced the following arguments in support of a commutation:

- **Remorse.** Jeffrey Hill has shown profound remorse for what he did, starting with some of his first interviews with police, and continuing to this day.
- **Mental State.** Counsel contends that this offense would not have occurred if it were not for Jeffrey Hill's addiction to cocaine. In addition, counsel also argues that Hill's offense was committed while he was in a dissociative state, which explanation was never presented to the jury. Hill's supporters also point out that he is deeply remorseful and has returned to the person he was before he became addicted to crack cocaine.
- **Legal System Failed.** While Jeffrey Hill himself did not claim that he received an unfair trial, counsel argued that he did. They point particularly to the failures of his defense attorneys during his trial. Counsel stated that Hill's trial attorneys prepared an extremely weak mitigation case, even though they knew that guilt was not the issue and that mitigation would be critical to receiving a sentence other than death. Counsel also point out that the jury did not have the opportunity to consider the lesser included offense of Murder or Manslaughter, nor was Hill given an opportunity for a plea agreement. Counsel contends that other cases in Hamilton County with similar fact patterns were given these opportunities and those defendants received Life sentences. Counsel contends that Jeffrey Hill's case was unfairly treated in the prosecution stage. In addition, an investigator from the Ohio Public Defender's office interviewed the jury foreman who indicated that at least one juror was willing to vote for life imprisonment, but did not realize that a unanimous decision was not required and that one dissenting vote could result in a life sentence.
- **Victim's Family.** Counsel argues that perhaps the strongest argument for clemency is the fact that the victim's family does not support the death penalty in this case. Emma Hill's sister and brothers do not want to see their nephew executed. Counsel contends that family members were unaware that they could speak out on his behalf at the time of the court proceedings. Counsel point to affidavits from several other friends and relatives of the victim, including her mother (the inmate's grandmother, who has since died) who oppose Jeffrey Hill's execution.

- **Murder Out of Character.** Counsel argued that Hill loved his mother very much and helped her often. They point out that this crime shocked his relatives, and occurred under very unusual circumstances. They go on to point out that he has been a good inmate since his incarceration.

INMATE'S/ VICTIM'S REPRESENTATIVES:

Psychologist Dr. James Reardon testified that he has examined Jeffrey Hill, and concluded that Hill committed the offense during a dissociative state. One of the features of the dissociative state is amnesia, which could explain his lack of memory of the details of the crime. He went on to say that he was in a post-traumatic state at the time of his court evaluations which could have affected the results and caused the other psychologists to report that he was malingering. Dr. Reardon explained that given the childhood abuse inflicted by Emma Hill onto her children, Jeffrey Hill was more prone to experience a dissociative state. Dr. Reardon stated that dissociation occurs when the mind cannot tolerate a traumatic event. Dr. Reardon stated that Jeffrey Hill loved his mother and had no reason to kill her. He opined that at the time of the offense, something triggered rage in Hill, and he committed the offense which was an act that he would normally never do or contemplate. Hill cannot remember the event because it is too traumatic. Dr. Reardon stated that Jeffrey Hill loved his mother and he is tortured daily by the thought of what he has done. Dr. Reardon went on to say that in his 30+ years of practice, he has never met someone as genuinely remorseful as Jeff Hill.

Timothy Payne, an attorney who represented Jeffrey Hill during the federal habeas proceeding spoke on Hill's behalf. Mr. Payne stated that he cannot imagine Hill being executed as his remorse has been consistent since the trial phase. Mr. Payne stated that the treating psychiatrist at the county jail indicated that Hill was remorseful while confined there. Mr. Payne further stated that he has been troubled by Jeffrey Hill's case, and felt compelled to speak on his behalf at the clemency hearing. Mr. Payne stated that ABA guidelines require that counsel begin preparing for mitigation from the onset of representing a client facing the death penalty, not the day before the mitigation phase as was done in Hill's case. The federal decisions in Hill's case defy logic in that prejudice has been found in other cases where counsel did not hire experts until 3-4 weeks prior to trial, as opposed to Hill's case where the expert was hired only one day prior to trial and prejudice was not found. Finally, Mr. Payne argues that there is no point in executing Hill, as the time Hill has already served and the burden he has to carry daily for killing his own mother is punishment enough. Mr. Payne stated that carrying out an execution is generally done for retribution purposes to satisfy the victim's family. In this case, the victim's family is asking that the execution not occur, and to grant clemency is to avoid further grief for the victim's family.

Video statements were presented in which various friends and family of Jeffrey Hill (and the victim Emma Hill) spoke on his behalf. Included in the video was a statement from the victim's sister who points out that her mother (the mother of the victim, and grandmother of the inmate) favored commutation. The victim's niece also spoke in favor of clemency and stated that executing Hill would cause the family more pain and suffering.

Two brothers of Emma Hill, Eddie and George Sanders appeared at the hearing and spoke on his behalf and as representatives of the victim's family. Eddie Sanders relayed that the victim

was the eldest sibling and acted in a parental role toward the other siblings when their mother was not at home. Eddie Sanders indicated that she was a strict disciplinarian with her siblings, and utilized that same disciplinary approach later with her own children. Eddie Sanders indicated that he personally saw locks on the kitchen cabinets and refrigerator in Emma Hill's home, and believes that the children suffered abuse. However, the children loved their mother and were always respectful and Emma Hill did the best she could raising them. He reiterated that without cocaine, this murder would not have happened. He said his sister would not want her son to die for this. He also said that the victim's mother "did not want her grandson to die." He said that he would like the Governor to grant clemency and allow the possibility of parole. Eddie Sanders stated that the family supports Jeffrey Hill receiving a second chance. George Sanders reiterated what his brother said and also asked that clemency be granted.

Ohio State Penitentiary volunteer Richard Ranalli who works with inmate Hill on Death Row spoke on his behalf, as did Prudence Freeman who spoke about Hill's remorse and the nature of forgiveness. A letter from Chaplain Robin Rader was read saying that Hill is "remorseful, compassionate, patient, wise, and transformed."

STATE'S POSITION REGARDING CLEMENCY:

Arguments in opposition to clemency were presented by Assistant Hamilton County Prosecutor Phil Cummings and Principal Assistant Attorney General Charles Wille. Mr. Cummings stated that the Hamilton County Prosecutor's office has deep respect and understanding of the views of the victim's family. However, they oppose clemency in this case for the following reasons:

- **Not an Extraordinary Case.** Mr. Cummings argued that this is not an extraordinary case for which clemency would be in order. The conviction is reliable, as there is no doubt that Jeffrey Hill committed the offense.
- **Fair Trial.** Mr. Wille noted that the federal courts in particular have looked very carefully at the issue of Jeffrey Hill's trial, most notably the effectiveness of his trial attorneys. The federal courts have consistently held that any deficiency in trial counsel's representation did not prejudice Hill because it is not reasonable that the outcome of the trial would have been different. They point out that even though his attorneys hired an expert to testify in mitigation only a day before the mitigation hearing, extensive psychological examinations of Hill had already been performed, and both the jury and the court had information before them in those reports of the type Hill later argued was not presented.
- **Addiction to Cocaine.** Counsel argued that the inmate's mental state and intoxication do not sufficiently mitigate the case. In Ohio, Hill's impairment due to voluntary intoxication is not a defense and does not mitigate against the aggravating factors. In addition, they question the validity of Dr. Reardon's statement, and cautioned the Board from relying heavily on his diagnosis. Mr. Wille argued that Dr. Reardon's statement was not subject to cross-examination as it would be in court. In addition, other expert witnesses would likely disagree with Dr. Reardon's diagnosis and would offer an alternative explanation for Jeffrey Hill's offense behavior.

- **Victim.** Counsel argued that the case is aggravated by the fact that the victim was 61, partially paralyzed, and therefore very vulnerable. They point out that there were 10 stab wounds, with some inflicted with considerable force. There were no defensive wounds. They argued that although Emma Hill was a family member of the inmate, she was also a citizen of the state of Ohio worthy of protection under the law, and the sentence imposed at trial should be upheld.
- **Jury Verdict.** Counsel contend that the jury should express the “conscience of the community”, despite the opinion of the victim’s family. Clemency in this case would override a jury verdict that has been upheld throughout the many years of appellate review. To grant clemency would be acting against the interest of the community in maintaining the sanctity of a jury verdict.
- **Sentence Proportionality.** Counsel further argued that the state courts have reviewed this case for proportionality, and found that the aggravating factors outweighed the mitigating factors and that the death sentence was appropriate. Decisions in these cases should be based on a particular offender and his crimes, and not on comparison with other crimes.

PAROLE BOARD'S POSITION AND CONCLUSION:

Following careful examination of all available factors in the case of Jeffrey Hill, including a hearing conducted on January 29, 2009, the Parole Board has determined that a recommendation for a commutation to a life sentence with parole eligibility after 25 years served is warranted for the following reasons:

- The compelling and unanimous opinion of victim Emma Hill’s family who favor clemency in this case. They have suffered tremendous loss, and execution would add further to their suffering. The victim’s family favors the possibility of parole release.
- The minimal mitigation preparation and presentation in this case, despite the courts’ review and determination that Hill received a fair trial, should not be tolerated as acceptable conduct by counsel in a case where the death penalty is a potential sentence. Clemency is appropriate to address this deficiency.
- The inmate has shown genuine remorse to many who have come in contact with him, including the Parole Board during its interview on January 21, 2009. He has also maintained a positive institutional adjustment.
- The death sentence in this case is disproportionate to other sentences imposed in matricides and patricides where offenders receive life sentences. Similar offenders with often more heinous offenses have received life sentences with parole eligibility and are reviewed by the Parole Board for parole release consideration. The Board does not consider this offense and offender the “worst of the worse” as in other death penalty cases.

- Two Ohio Supreme Court justices felt that the death sentence was inappropriate in this case on the facts alone, without considering the views of the victim's family.

RECOMMENDATION:

On January 29, 2009, the Ohio Parole Board with eight (8) members participating, by a vote of eight (8) to zero (0), recommends to the Honorable Ted Strickland, Governor of the State of Ohio, that clemency in the form of a commutation to a life sentence with parole eligibility after 25 years served be granted to Jeffrey Hill #A261876.

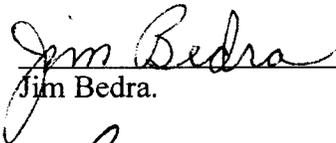
Jeffrey D. Hill - OSP #A261-876
Death Sentence Clemency

Ohio Parole Board Members
Voting **FAVORABLE**

Ohio Parole Board Members
Voting **UNFAVORABLE**



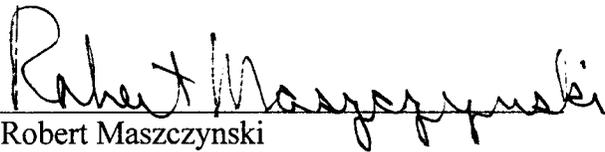
Cynthia Mausser, Chairperson



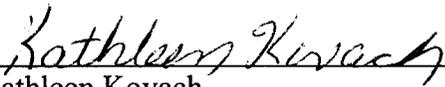
Jim Bedra.



Sandra Mack, Ph.D.



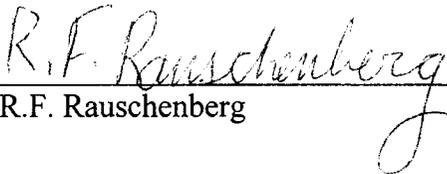
Robert Maszczyński



Kathleen Kovach



Ellen Venters



R.F. Rauschenberg



Bobby J. Bogan, Jr.