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May 31, 2024

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

IN RE: SAMUEL PAUL TOTTS
Inmate #A311396
Continued Hearing: June 2024
Trumbull County Case #1994-CR-661
Convictions: Aggravated Murder w/
Gun Specification & Aggravated
Robbery
Sentence: 23 Years to Life
Time Served: 29 Years

Dear Attorney Hoying:

Please be advised that this office continues to oppose the above-captioned inmate's release on parole. Previously, I wrote the board on October 31, 2011, September 26, 2019 and July 29, 2022 stating our reasons for denying Totts release. Importantly, this inmate pled guilty to the most serious crime in Ohio law: Aggravated Murder. Additionally at the time he shot-down 24-year old Derrick Trimble, he was robbing the victim. Therefore, he pled guilty also to Aggravated Robbery and a Gun Specification and received a total sentence of 23 years to Life in prison. He also benefitted with his guilty plea of having a Death Penalty

DENNIS WATKINS
Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney

Attorney Lia Hoying, Parole Board Chair
May 31, 2024
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Specification dismissed. However, because of the nature of his crimes, his disciplinary history and the fact he has only served 29 years on a 23 to Life sentence (6 years beyond the minimum) this office continues to oppose his release on parole. At the young age of 49, the risk of committing another episode of violence is too great.

Please review our prior letters and materials which we again provided you today for review with my letter. As one witness to this cold-blooded murder said "Raat (aka Samuel Totts) had this look in his eyes like a wild look that would put fear in your heart."

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis Watkins".

DENNIS WATKINS
Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney

Enclosures

DW:fah



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July 29, 2022

Ms. Alicia Handwerk, Chair
Ohio Adult Parole Authority
4545 Fisher Road, Ste D
Columbus, OH 43228

IN RE: SAMUEL PAUL TOTTS

Inmate #A311396

Continued Hearing: August 2022

Trumbull County Case #1994-CR-661

Convictions: Aggravated Murder w/
Gun Specification & Aggravated
Robbery

Sentence: 23 Years to Life

Time Served: 27 years

Dear Ms. Handwerk:

This office wrote the Board on September 26, 2019 concerning the possible release on parole of inmate Totts. We strongly opposed his release then as we do now. Importantly, this man was sentenced August 8, 1995 to 23 years to life in prison for the aggravated murder and robbery of 24-year old Derrick Trimble of Warren, Ohio. Therefore, he had only served his minimum eligibility when he came up for a parole hearing in 2019 and was denied release and given the opportunity to have another eligibility hearing in August 2022. We still believe that it is not time for Totts (aka Raat) release.

DENNIS WATKINS
Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney

Ms. Alicia Handwerk, Chair
July 29, 2022
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After 27 years in prison, his records establish that rehabilitative programs have not seemed to work. Whether its completing programs, starting them, or following disciplinary rules, Totts fails to provide the necessary ingredients when comes to suitability for release on parole. His disciplinary records show repeated use of drugs while in prison. But even more alarming is his guilty infractions the past three years in prison. For example, on May 10, 2022, Totts was found guilty of violating Rules 21 and 54 and said to at least once correction officer regarding Totts not being properly dressed - "to hang this mother f...ing visit up." Also on June 24, 2021, he was vaping around-which corroborates prior drug violations.

In short, this office strongly opposes any release of inmate Totts at this time – he is not ready for prime time! And most importantly, any release now with only having served a minimum amount of time for such a brutal premeditated murder, would only diminish the seriousness of his violent crimes.

Thanking the Board for its consideration of our view.

Very truly yours,



DENNIS WATKINS
Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney

Enc.

DW:fah

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September 26, 2019

Ms, Trayce Thalheimer, Parole Board Chair
Ohio Adult Parole Authority
Operation Support Center
4545 Fisher Road, Ste. D
Columbus, OH 43228

IN RE: SAMUEL PAUL TOTTS
INMATE #A311396
CONTINUED HEARING: OCTOBER, 2019
TRUMBULL COUNTY CASE NO. 1994-CR-661
CONVICTIONS: AGGRAVATED MURDER
W/GUN SPECIFICATION & AGGRAVATED
ROBBERY
SENTENCE: 23 YEARS TO LIFE
TIME SERVED: 24 YEARS

Dear Ms. Thalheimer:

This office wrote the Board on October 31, 2011 strongly opposing Inmate Totts release on parole for the September 16, 1994 aggravated murder and robbery of 24-year-old Derrick Trimble of Warren, Ohio. We continue with our opposition to parole in this case, as does the victim's daughter, and are including with this letter our package of materials sent to you in 2011 along with additional statements taken by Warren City police officers. Importantly, Totts has barely served his minimum sentence (23 years) and has not shown the best behavior during the past 10 years in prison with 11 guilty rules infractions.

We believe that Totts (aka Raat), at the age 44, would be a continuing danger to the community with a propensity for violence. Additionally, the minimum amount of time he has served on the sentence given by the Trumbull County Common Pleas Court diminishes the meaning of fair punishment under the circumstances of this case.

DENNIS WATKINS

Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney

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The victim, Derrick Trimble (aka Dink), was with friends playing dice in Warren around 9:00 p.m. when Totts (aka "Raat") from Akron, Ohio, and another man, Roosevelt Hamlett, of Youngstown, joined in the game. Afterwards, for no reason, Totts decides to rob the victim of his gold necklace. Several witnesses observed the whole situation.

One witness, who watched Totts kill the victim, stated she saw "the black male in the red shirt (Totts) with the gun tell Trimble to remove his necklace and I saw Dink put both of his hands up around his neck to remove his necklace" and "I heard Dink say 'I'm taking it off, please don't shoot me.' I saw Dink turn and try to run and he took one or two steps and the dude in the red shirt turned the gun sideways and fired one shot." (emphasis added) (see Jacqueline Croff statement included in materials). Trimble was shot in the back which was fatal (see autopsy report).

Clearly this vicious crime was a cold blooded murder committed after an unarmed victim was robbed and running away. The individual who drove Totts from the crime scene in his escape, who also pled guilty to obstruction of justice, stated in her statement to police that "Raat had this look in his eyes like a wild look that would put fear in your heart." (See Duetta Nurse statement).

In conclusion the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office firmly believes these types of offenders are the most dangerous to society. Please deny parole to Inmate Totts.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,



DENNIS WATKINS
Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney

Enc.

DW:jah

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MATTHEW J. BLAIR

October 31, 2011

Cynthia Mausser, Parole Board Chair
Ohio Adult Parole Authority
770 West Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43222

Dear Attorney Mausser:

In re: SAMUEL PAUL TOTTS
Institution #A311396
Convictions: Aggravated Murder w/Gun Specification
& Aggravated Robbery
Sentence: Twenty-three (23) years to Life
Time Served: 16 years, 1 month +

Please be advised that this office strongly opposes the parole of Samuel Paul Totts for the September 16, 1994 aggravated murder and robbery of Derrick Trimble, age 24. The victim was shot down in cold blood and robbed. Under the circumstances and evidence in the case, the defendant Totts was given appropriate consideration in this case when the State dismissed the death penalty specification in the indictment and the defendant was given a life sentence with a twenty-three (23) year minimum.

Totts has only served a little over 16 years on his life sentence and the total twenty-three year minimum sentence; therefore, it is our position that he should definitely not be released at this time. At age 37 and with his psychological profile, he would be a danger to the community if he were paroled now. Additionally, a

DENNIS WATKINS
Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney

Cynthia Mausser, Parole Board Chair
October 31, 2011
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sufficient penalty under the law has not been served.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis Watkins", written in dark ink.

DENNIS WATKINS
Prosecuting Attorney

Enc.

DW:fah