

*First Assistant*  
CHRISTOPHER D. BECKER

*Chief-Civil Division*  
WILLIAM J. DANSO

*Chief-Criminal Division*  
CHARLES L. MORROW

*Senior Trial Attorney*  
MICHAEL A. BURNETT

*Chief Appellate Division*  
RYAN J. SANDERS

*Chief-Juvenile Division*  
STANLEY A. ELKINS

*Investigators*  
MICHAEL C. KRAFCIK  
ROY ANNE MALAK



**DENNIS WATKINS**  
*Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney*

4th FLOOR ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
160 HIGH STREET N.W. • WARREN, OHIO 44481-1092  
PHONE: 330-675-2426 • FAX 330-675-2431  
Prosecutor@co.trumbull.oh.us

*Civil Division*  
LYNN B. GRIFFITH, III  
SAMANTHA L. MONROE  
JASON M. TOTH

*Criminal Division*  
DEENA L. DeVICO  
GINA BUCCINO THOMAS  
KEVIN J. TRAPP

*Child Assault Division*  
DIANE L. BARBER, CHIEF  
GABRIEL M. WILDMAN

*Child Support Division*  
DAVID E. BOKER, CHIEF  
JAMES F. LEWIS

*Investigator/Public Information Officer*  
GUY M. VOGRIN

June 15, 2026

Attorney Lisa Hoying  
Parole Board Chair  
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation  
and Correction  
P.O. Box 430  
Columbus, OH 43216

IN RE: FRED E. JOSEPH, JR.

Inmate #A174221

Trumbull County Case #83-CR-37

Continued Hearing: July, 2026

Conviction: Aggravated Murder with  
Two Aggravating Circumstances  
Specifications

Sentence: Life imprisonment with parole

Eligibility after serving 30 full years

Time Served: 43 years

Dear Attorney Hoying:

On August 27, 2021 I wrote this Parole Board a seven page letter voicing my firm and total opposition to any release on parole of police killer, Fred E. Joseph, Jr. As an assistant Trumbull County Prosecutor in 1982 and 1983, I was the lead prosecutor who tried both the actual killer, Joseph and accomplice, Randy Fellows, before two different juries. Please review that letter which is attached and a previous

## DENNIS WATKINS

*Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney*

Attorney Lisa Hoying

June 15, 2026

Page | 2

letter written on September 26, 2012 which included an extensive package of materials for your review.

In our opinion, any fair individualized assessment of Fred Joseph's cold blooded murder of officer John A. Utlak (age 26) (as with inmate Fellows) and aftermath should shout out the absurdity and mockery of justice by having institutions and new laws coddle and pamper crazed, dangerous psychopaths by providing more parole hearings for victims of crimes to go through endlessly. (For example, multiple killer, Pompie Wade, who was sentenced to death by a Trumbull County judge in 1976 after a jury trial and received a commutation to a life sentence which has resulted in the victim's family reliving the murder many times, fighting Wade's application for release on parole from prison. As I wrote the Board last year, their mental anguish and suffering has continued for 50 years because of the laws allowing or requiring more parole hearings. Further, I would emphasize that my criticism is not directed to the parole board members themselves. They are just doing their jobs and always have shown courtesy and professionalism with this office. I thank you for your difficult work and service. The changes in the law and administrative rules often frustrates victims of crime.

Just looking at inmate Joseph's life history and record of violence, meanness, and criminal behavior, both outside and inside prison walls, should demonstrate that not only do you enforce the current rules but there is also a need to improve the justice system by providing for the changes in carrying out of the penalties given by juries and judges with more firmness and certainty in the most heinous crimes so society and victims can rest with some peace of mind.

Recently, Joanne Robbins, surviving sister of murder victim, officer John Utlak, has represented her now deceased parents, Joe and Irene Sudano, in carrying the torch for justice for John by meeting with the parole board whenever inmates Joseph and Fellows become eligible for release on parole. In the past, the parole board has allowed John Utlak's friend and partner in drug investigations in 1982 and

## DENNIS WATKINS

*Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney*

Attorney Lisa Hoying

June 15, 2026

Page | 3

also a possible target for elimination himself, retired police officer, Bob Ludt, to accompany Joanne to parole proceedings.

Attached is a copy of a front page Tribune Chronicle article of Warren, Ohio's daily newspaper covering a Joanne Robbins interview. In relevant part it reads:

Robbins says she also worries about Utlak's partner, Bob Ludt, Vienna's former police chief, who spent 35 years with Niles and was an undercover drug investigator for 18 years with them.

"He has met with me, or he has met with the parole board with me every single time; he's always been by us," Robbins said. "This is the first year now, this another thing that's kind of disheartening to me, is that I was told only immediate family can speak now."

It seems that today, in Ohio's prisons, often we are lessening the rights of victims and expanding the rights of prisoners. A murder victim's representative can't bring the best friend and partner of a dead police officer while at the same time convicted murderers and rapists are given new programs allowing for comfort animals to accompany them.

Moreover, this trend struck home with me and my staff at a full board parole hearing recently held in Columbus on February 11, 2026 in the Paul Czoka case. As the Board will recall, at the last moment, the Board denied the opportunity of a child rape victim to testify based on legal advice because one of two charges were dismissed (and she was not named in the convicted count). I strongly voiced my concern that she should be heard because of the victim's rights law. Thankfully, the full board denied this sex offender release and our victim was pleased with the outcome.

## DENNIS WATKINS

*Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney*

Attorney Lisa Hoying

June 15, 2026

Page | 4

Nevertheless, I believe our child rape victim (now an adult) should still be entitled to testify at inmate Czoka's next scheduled parole hearing in 2031 because Ohio Revised Code Section 5149.101(B) does not limit the board to consider any relevant matter to "an individual's fitness to be at liberty in society." See Arnold v Ohio Adult Parole Auth., 2011-Ohio-4928, 21 (10<sup>th</sup> Dist.). See also: Ohio Const. Art. 1, §10a(A)(3). Though I understand that officer Bob Ludt thankfully was not physically harmed or killed when his partner was premeditatively murdered—he still was proximately affected and suffered by this event and that suffering continues to this day—and, therefore, the law or administrative rules should be reconsidered or changed to accommodate both Ms. Robbins and Mr. Ludt in this regard. Please allow some discretion and go back to the way you accommodated victims in the past.

I wrote in relevant part on page eight of my August 27, 2021 letter to the Board about a conversation between then prison guard, Doug Sollitto, and Fred Joseph which occurred around 1994 at Trumbull Correctional, which speaks directly to the issue of Joseph's suitability for release on parole. It states that in that conversation Joseph acknowledged personally shooting officer Utlak and explained to Sollitto ... "that they already took my life away and when I get out I'm going to sit across from the Niles Police Department and shoot the first five cops that come out the door. He pointed his finger like he had a gun and pulled his finger like he was pulling the trigger of a gun and said bing, bing, bing. All they can do is bring me back here." (Emphasis added). (I would make this comment regarding Joseph's words that he could kill more cops and "all they can do is bring me back here," that it is obvious that Joseph, today, is most likely supporting those in favor of repealing Ohio's death penalty which provides capital punishment for murdering law enforcement officers and serial killers).

I repeat Sollitto's quote because it supports the foundation of fact and history in my twelve page August, 27, 2021 letter which views inmate Joseph as a portrait of a natural born killer, a man who has, can and will spew out hatred and violence



## DENNIS WATKINS

*Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney*

Attorney Lisa Hoying

June 15, 2026

Page | 5

without a moment's notice. He has a lifetime anti-social personality disorder. Sadly, in my and the victim's opinion, Fred Joseph, Jr. has not changed and nothing has changed him for the good while in prison with all its programs. At age 60, he is not going to find a conscience. In my 2021 letter, pages 9 to 11, outlined Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Current Institutional Report Summary dated May 17, 2021 showing his outlandish bad behavior in prison. Sadly, at that time, I mentioned that it was factually supported that after over 30 years in prison, Joseph had not changed his habit of threatening officers. Incredibly, after over 40 years of rehabilitative efforts by DRC, the records show that he has even escalated his vicious attacks, both physically and verbally, against correction officers.

On June 8, 2026 I received a redacted copy of Fred Joseph, Jr.'s Current Institutional Report Summary which shows him being housed at Toledo Correctional Institute which is a high-security prison in Toledo, Ohio. Previously when I wrote the Board in 2021, inmate Joseph was imprisoned at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility, a maximum-security prison in Lucasville, Ohio. Interestingly, your records show today that at Toledo, Joseph has a Current Risk Score of 4 which is considered Low. While at Lucasville in 2021, Joseph had a Current Risk Score of 12, which is considered Moderate, at the high end of the scale. However, when looking at his documented behavioral history between May of 2021, when I last wrote, and June of 2026, there is nothing in the evidence supporting that Joseph is better in prison—let me make the case that he is worse and constantly dangerous to others (in other words, no way, in my opinion, could this guy go from a 12 to a 4 and put him on the cusp of suitability for release on parole). Additionally, unfortunately a great deal of Joseph's recent Program Participation, Assessments, and Interventions used have been excluded from my review. Please see attached June 2026 Report and previous Report Summary dated May 17, 2021. Everything regarding Interventions and treatment programs for him since 2022 has been blacked out.

Now going to inmate Joseph's most recent records involving his Disciplinary History and Rule Infraction Board (RIB). My August 2021 letter covers fully

## DENNIS WATKINS

*Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney*

Attorney Lisa Hoying

June 15, 2026

Page | 6

Joseph's past institutional which earned him a Current Risk Score of 12 at that time. With more violations of the rules at Toledo, his most current prison records show a dramatic lowering of his risk score to 4 (Low) and makes him presumably a better candidate for release from prison.

Let me count the ways that the math makes no sense. Between August 31, 2021 (I wrote the Board on August 27, 2021) and April 13, 2026, I count 27 separate reported infractions committed by inmate Joseph. In the records provided, Joseph only had 15 reported infractions between 2011 and 2021. Going further with an analysis of his bad prison behavior record between August 31, 2021 and today, Joseph, in these separate 27 incidents he was found guilty of 46 violations. Clearly this man, after 43 years in prison with many rehabilitative program options, has decided to increase his rule violations at a record pace. This 60 year-old man is not slowing down.

Here are some examples of his actions dealing with prison staff and other prisoners. His most recent disciplinary problems occurred on April 13, 2026 dealing with a corrections officer. This record reads:

On 4/13/26 at approximately 1440 hours, while returning Block A3/4 from rec, I, Officer Zbierajewski noticed Inmate Joseph Jr. grabbing the crash gate and pulling it back and forth hard enough to be heard over the loud chatter of the inmates around him. After multiple directives to stop, Inmate Joseph Jr. stated, "I'm gonna tear this bitch down if they don't open the gate!" and proceeded to continue thrashing the gate back and forth. For this, I'm charging this inmate with disobedience of a direct order, creating a disturbance and threatening state property.

....

On 9/16/25, I, Officer Huffman was getting people for rec's and shower's in B3/4 South when I was going down downstairs I/P JOSEPH JR (A174221) was looking out his door window and stated,

## DENNIS WATKINS

*Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney*

Attorney Lisa Hoying

June 15, 2026

Page | 7

“fuck you, you fat fuck, you a bitch.” That’s why I am charging him with a 5.7 (Disrespect towards another person, including instigation of, or perpetuating fighting) 16.3 (Any violation of any published institutional rules, regulations or procedures). EOR

....

On 7/25/25 at approximately 2:30 PM I Officer Bandura and my partner Officer Soto were performing our first security check and signing the 4118 s upon arriving at cell B4S4 belong to IP Joseph Jr #174221 and that’s when the disrespect started calling me a “gay fag” and other derogatory names. Then every round after that every time I Officer Bandura passed his cell IP Joseph Jr kept harassing me by call me gay slanders. Then when chow arrived and once Officer Soto and I Officer Bandura reached IP Joseph Jr’s cell he then threatened to spray me down, claiming that I am a “nasty gay fag.” My partner Officer Soto was able to pass IP Joseph Jr his chow with no issues. Then every round after that until approximately the end of shift calling me gay and even more slanders every time I Officer Bandura passed his cell. Due to this behavior, I, Officer Bandura am charging IP Joseph Jr. with a 2.1, 5.7 and a 16.3 EOR.

....

On 7/22/25 at approximately 3:00 PM I Officer Bandura and my partner Officer Hall went to go escort IP Joseph Jr #174221 to the shower, once I Officer Bandura gave him directive to strip out, he became very agitated and started calling me gay and other derogatory names. Once cuffed up my partner Hall started escorting IP Joseph Jr to the shower once out of his cell, he started threatening me by stating, “you know Bandura if it wasn’t for these cuffs I’d smash your glasses into your face you gay fag let me catch you in the streets I’ll beat the fuck out of you.” Officer Hall got him into the shower with no further issues an that’s why I Officer Bandura is charging IP Joseph Jr with a 2.1, 5.7, and a 16.3 EOR.

## DENNIS WATKINS

*Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney*

Attorney Lisa Hoying

June 15, 2026

Page | 8

....

On 5/11/2025, I officer Oladokun and Officer Bhadmus were passing out dinner tray inside the pod when we got to IP Bonner (A561438) cell in B1N15 he refuses his tray due to bodily fluid on his cuff port and stated that the porter IP Joseph Jr (A174221) came over to his door and spray bodily fluid inside his cell. After passing out the dinner tray I contacted shift office and report the incident to LT. Mullinix so he can help to review the security camera and after reviewing the camera LT. Mullinix come to the block and send IP Joseph Jr (A174221) to TPU for spraying inside IP Bonner (A561438) cell. EOR.

....

On 11/5/24 at 7:58 am as I began my UAR for A ½ East, IP Joseph began yelling out disrespectful rants directed at myself. Things such as "I see you brought your dirty pussy ass to work bitch." "You dirty black bitch, your pussy stank bitch." "I see officer Rose sucking your dirty ass." "I would suck your dirty ass too." "You are a racist ass bitch." "You don't even like white people you dirty bitch." This continued as I did my complete round in the pod.

....

On 12/15/23 at approximately 1656 hours a signal 3 inmate on staff assault was called in Charlie 8/10/12 sallyport to Correctional Counselor Renee Carson. After review of milestone video footage it was observed that Incarcerated Person Joseph Jr. Fred #A174221 was entering the sally port of C8/10/12 when he uses a closed fist to strike Officer Frederick Rumberg in the facial region. Officer Rumberg escorts IP Joseph Jr to the floor and IP Joseph Jr continue to physically resist staff. Officer Liam Carver and CC Carson deployed a small controlled burst of OC Inflammatory agent to the facial region of IP Joseph Jr to regain compliance. Verbal directives were given to stop physically resisting in which IP Joseph Jr complied and was placed in hand restraints and escorted to medical for pre-confinement housing

## DENNIS WATKINS

*Thurmont County Prosecuting Attorney*

Attorney Lisa Hoying

June 15, 2026

Page | 9

pending a rule violation 1.3. Officer Rumberg sustained a swollen lower lip, no other injuries to report as this time. All notifications were made.

....

Had enough? There are more than 20 more to read just dealing with after mid-2021. Year after year he goes on with this stuff! Frankly, it is completely understandable why corrections officers, other prisoners, and police wouldn't want him around. He is a complete psychopath and an explanation for why society needs the death penalty for killing guards and police officers and why full life sentences should be carried out. And, moreover, he has said he would kill more officers once released from prison (and from his most recent outbursts, you can add minority groups on his "catch you in the streets list" to harm). In my decades of experience prosecuting violent offenders, I have never seen such year after year documentation of a prisoner acting out so much hate against others which goes far beyond being a police officer. He may be one of the worst of the worst bigots and killers I have ever prosecuted. This man probably deserves solitary confinement forever and should be denied parole forthwith and further. This office, the victim's family, officers and former officers of the Niles Police Department should, after a parole board decision, hopefully not have to worry about Fred Joseph, Jr. on the streets in any neighborhood in Ohio for at least 10 years as Senate Bill 288 provided for 17 year olds who kill police officers and others. Beyond that, this Prosecutor believes that the law and the rules regarding the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction should, in the future, be changed so that parole boards may say NO to future parole board hearings for the worst of the worst murderers who don't get executed. Our mission should be GIVE THE VICTIMS OF CRIME A BREAK TODAY!

In closing, I quote in relevant part Ohio Revised Code Section 2929.11(A)(Purposes of felony sentencing) which states:

A court that sentences an offender for a felony shall be guided by the overriding purposes of felony sentencing. The overriding purposes of felony sentencing are to protect the public from future crime by the



## DENNIS WATKINS

*Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney*

Attorney Lisa Hoying

June 15, 2026

Page | 10

offender and others, to punish the offender, and to promote the effective rehabilitation of the offender ... (Emphasis added)

Furthermore, as the Board members well know, its primary duties include determining the release suitability of parole-eligible incarcerated adults and ensuring the rights of crime victims and respected. In order for you (including prosecutors, defense attorneys and victims) to do our jobs, the information you receive from others involved in this process should be objective and transparent and given to the public in order for all in the criminal justice to make the best decisions. The public should be informed whenever public safety is involved. In the long term, it is also better for everyone to be open-minded to change—to take the next step forward or if necessary and wise, to stay the course or even turn around and go back to the old ways. In short, do the right thing!

Please consider the overwhelming evidence and guilt in this matter, the character of the inmate and his astounding record of not learning from past mistakes and his constant spewing of hateful epithets and violence to others no matter who you are! You know you don't recycle a cracked glass pop bottle nor does the grocery store give you 15 cents for its return and a refund. This is a safety hazard. Fred Joseph does not qualify to get in the return to society recycling bin of inmates—he is a safety hazard—he needs imprisonment until he dies because he has earned his punishment and society must be protected.

Lastly, on behalf of Joanne Robbins, Bob Ludt, the citizens of Trumbull County and my office, I request that this Parole Board, pursuant to Senate Bill 288, deny inmate Joseph release on parole and that the Board schedule his next review in 10 years, the maximum period allowed under current law. His accomplice, Randy Fellows, who did not pull the trigger, was continued in 2022, 10 years to 2032!



DENNIS WATKINS

*Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney*

Attorney Lisa Hoying

June 15, 2026

Page | 11

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis Watkins". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

DENNIS WATKINS

Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney

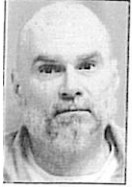
DW/fd

Enclosures

# Woman wants parole board to keep cop killer in jail

By **BRANDON CANTWELL**  
Staff writer

**NILES** — It's been 44 years since her brother's death, but Joanne Robbins still vividly remembers hearing the news for the first time, saying it's something she'll never forget.



Joseph

"I was in high school, I was 17 years old, and my guidance counselor came down to the band room to get me, and I didn't think too much of it because we started to talk about college and post-graduation life," Robbins said. "(I) came into the principal's office and there were detectives here from my brother's — the police department, Niles Police Department — and they told me something happened to my brother."

"They said, 'he didn't make it.' He was shot and murdered," she added.

Robbins said her family had to find a "new normal" after learning that her brother, Niles Police Officer John Utlak, 26 at the time, was shot and killed Dec. 8, 1982 — which is why she's urging a parole board to deny the parole of Fred Joseph Jr., who is up for parole again in July.

According to Block Parole Inc., which documented the case, Utlak told his partner he was scheduled to meet informants, Joseph, 17, and Randy Fellows, 18, in a Mineral Ridge parking lot.

The documentation states Joseph went to speak with Utlak, pulled a gun and shot the officer in the head as he approached him. He and Fellows robbed Utlak of \$400, a watch, his service revolver, a two-way radio and a shotgun, leaving him to die in the snowy parking lot.

The documentation states Joseph and Fellows were arrested in Wyoming, and a jury found Fellows guilty of aggravated murder that year.

"They said, 'he didn't make it.' He was shot and murdered," she added.

Robbins said her family had to find a "new normal" after learning that her brother, Niles Police Officer John Utlak, 26 at the time, was shot and killed Dec. 8, 1982

— which is why she's urging a parole board to deny the parole of Fred Joseph Jr., who is up for parole again in July.

According to Block Parole Inc., which documented the case, Utlak told his partner he was scheduled to meet informants, Joseph, 17, and Randy Fellows, 18, in a Mineral Ridge parking lot.

The documentation states Joseph went to speak with Utlak, pulled a gun and shot the officer in the head as he approached him. He and Fellows robbed Utlak of \$400, a watch, his service revolver, a two-way radio and a shotgun, leaving him to die in the snowy parking lot.

The documentation states Joseph and Fellows were arrested in Wyoming, and a jury found Fellows guilty of aggravated murder that year.

A second jury found Joseph guilty of one count of aggravated murder, and both men were given a sentence of 30 years to life in prison.

Joseph, now 60, had an attempt at parole that was denied in 2021 by the Ohio Adult Parole Authority, with this year being his next opportunity at obtaining it, as he was a juvenile offender.

Joseph would be eligible for release Sept. 1 if the parole board looks favorably on his case.

His accomplice, Fellows, now 61, had an attempt denied in 2022; his next opportunity will come in 2032.

Niles City Council President Doug Sollitto, a high school classmate of Joseph who submitted an affidavit to the parole board asking it to keep Joseph in prison then, recalls the conversation he had with Joseph.

Sollitto said he ran into Joseph as a corrections officer at the Trumbull Correctional Institute, a medium-security prison in Leavittsburg, adding that Joseph became confrontational, but there was no real use of force — just idle threats.

"We were having a conversation, and he admitted, because I said, 'Fellows and, who did it?' and he said, 'Fellows didn't have the balls to do that,'" Sollitto said. "He said, 'I'm the one who took that b— out,' referring to Utlak."

"And he says, 'They can't keep me in here forever; and when they do, I'm going to sit across the

street from that police station and wait for them to walk out,' and he took his finger like, like I said in another interview — like a gun — ping, ping, ping, 'and then they can take me right back to where I left.'"

Robbins says she'll meet with the parole board on June 15, urging them to deny Joseph's parole yet again.

"He has not been rehabilitated. He hasn't even acknowledged what he has done, and so he's in maximum security — I know that he is," Robbins said.

Robbins says she also worries about Utlak's partner, Bob Ludt, Vienna's former police chief, who spent 35 years with Niles and was an undercover drug investigator for 18 years with them.

"He has met with me, or he has met with the parole board with me every single time; he's always been by us," Robbins said. "This is the first year now, this is another thing that's kind of disheartening to me, is that I was told only immediate family can speak now."

Trumbull County Prosecutor Dennis Watkins, who was part of the investigative and prosecution team that put both Joseph and Fellows behind bars, was one of two prosecutors who tried Joseph in a Trumbull County Common Pleas Court jury trial.

Watkins also wrote a letter in 2021 voicing his "firm and total opposition" of Joseph's release.

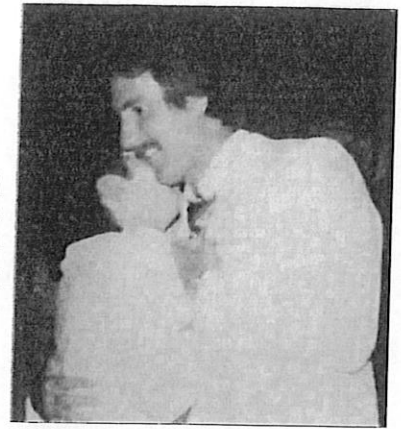
Watkins said Friday that he's writing another letter to the parole board expressing his strong belief that it's within the parole board's discretion, or that new rules need to be changed back, so Ludt can be heard in this matter.

"We're dealing with the savage murder of a police officer on duty, and it was a planned execution of a police officer — this is the worst of the worst murders of police, right?" Watkins said.

Watkins said the evidence in the case showed Ludt to be a possible target because they worked drugs together, so he should be heard and "definitely" be allowed to accompany Robbins.

Watkins noted Joseph's behavioral history, which he cited in his 2021 letter, noting him to be "very dangerous" and a sociopath.

"He stole from his father, the other guy (Fellows) takes his mother's car — they were going to



Submitted photo

Joanne Robbins, left, dances with her brother, the late John Utlak. Utlak was a Niles police officer when he was shot and killed Dec. 8, 1982, in an isolated parking lot near a steel mill off Hunter Street in Weathersfield. His killer, Fred Joseph Jr. — a juvenile at the time — has a parole hearing set in July.

go on a killing spree. By the grace of God, other people didn't die," Watkins said. "We need to wake up."

Watkins said he thanks Sollitto for adding to a record of misconduct and dangerous behavior from those who took Utlak's life.

"His family is not going to ever stop fighting for justice, but I'm here as the prosecutor, and the judges in this matter and the juries in this matter all said this guy shouldn't be on the streets," Watkins said.

Watkins said they couldn't get the death penalty for Joseph because of his age, but noted the law was what it is and continued to emphasize the importance of the victims being present, in any future changes to the law.

As for their "new normal," Robbins said Joseph and Fellows made her an only child because it was just the two of them, adding that it was hard on her mom, too, throughout the years.

"My wedding, even though it was a wonderful occasion, we had a void because my brother wasn't there," Robbins said. "When I had my children — same thing, I thought, 'Oh gosh, my brother's not here.'"

Robbins said her daughters know Utlak as "Uncle Johnny" and know so much about him, as if he were present throughout their entire lives.

"I am glad that I have so many cherished memories, but they're not enough, because I only had them for 17 years (of) my life," Robbins said. "And that's like nothing. I look at pictures and they're just so old, and they are, and they stop at him being 26 — and that's also a heartache."

*First Assistant*  
CHRISTOPHER D. BECKER

*Chief-Civil Division*  
WILLIAM J. DANSO

*Chief-Criminal Division*  
CHARLES L. MORROW

*Chief-Appellate Division*  
ASHLEIGH J. MUSICK

*Chief-Juvenile Division*  
STANLEY A. ELKINS

*Investigators*  
MICHAEL C. KRAFCIK  
ROY ANNE RUDOLPH



**DENNIS WATKINS**  
*Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney*

4th FLOOR ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
160 HIGH STREET N.W. • WARREN, OHIO 44481-1092  
PHONE: 330-675-2426 • FAX 330-675-2431  
Prosecutor@co.trumbull.oh.us

*Civil Division*  
MICHAEL J. FREDERICKA  
LYNN B. GRIFFITH, III  
RYAN J. SANDERS  
JASON M. TOTH

*Criminal Division*  
MICHAEL A. BURNETT  
DEENA L. DeVICO  
GINA BUCCINO THOMAS

*Child Assault Division*  
DIANE L. BARBER, CHIEF  
GABRIEL M. WILDMAN

*Child Support Division*  
DAVID E. BOKER, CHIEF  
JAMES F. LEWIS

August 27, 2021

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

IN RE: FRED E. JOSEPH, JR.  
INMATE #A174221  
Trumbull County Case #83-CR-37  
Continued Hearing: September 2021  
Conviction: Aggravated Murder with  
Two Aggravating Circumstances  
Specifications  
Sentence: Life imprisonment with parole  
Eligibility after serving 30 full years  
Time Served: 38 years 2 months

Dear Ms. Handwerk:

I am writing you today to voice my firm and total opposition to any release on parole of police killer Fred E. Joseph, Jr. In 1982/1983 I was part of the investigative and prosecution team which prosecuted both inmate Joseph (age 17) and inmate Randy Fellows (age 19) (Institution No. A173423) for the premeditated and brutal murder of Niles City Police Officer John A. Utlak (age 26) on December 8, 1982. In the summer of 1983 I was one of two Trumbull County prosecutors who tried Defendant Joseph in a Trumbull County Common Pleas Court jury trial which

was held in the courtroom of the late Judge David F. McLain. Inmate Joseph was found guilty as charged in count 1 of his indictment and was sentenced for his role in the crime to life imprisonment with parole eligibility after serving 30 full years in prison.

In the fall of 2012 the Parole Board held a hearing regarding the possibility of parole for both Joseph and Fellows. He was turned down for 10 years. Since that time the Ohio Legislature decided with the passage of Senate Bill 256 to provide violent juvenile offenders with a panoply of additional rights including one retroactive provision which has provided Joseph with an earlier parole hearing than co-defendant Fellows solely because he was 17 years old in 1982 when he personally executed Officer Utlak. Furthermore, I understand from this point on Joseph will get a parole hearing every 5 years. Therefore, I am now writing this letter to you since his Parole Board hearing is scheduled in September 2021.

Previously on September 26, 2012, I wrote a 5-page letter to the Parole Board which included an extensive package of materials for your review. Thankfully and wisely in my opinion the board denied both Joseph and Fellows parole and maxed their next eligibility hearing date to 2022. I am including copies of my prior letter and materials with this letter. Though in recent years the DRC has changed its administrative rules regarding how and when full board hearings are granted to inmates who are granted parole and given the privilege to re-enter society. It is my hope that on the merits Inmate Joseph will not now or in the future be released from prison. But as long as I am Trumbull County Prosecutor this office will always do its duty to represent the citizens of Trumbull County and Ohio to vigorously oppose Joseph's and Fellows' parole. We will take every step and make every suggestion to you in a respectful and professional manner. Through the years I have had the privilege to represent Trumbull County in the most serious cases and appreciate the courtesies the board, victim services, and DRC has given this office.

Most importantly, all of us should remember the victims of crime and representatives and their long journey to be heard. From victim's statutory rights to their newly enacted constitutional rights, victims such as the parents of John Utlak and his sister, have not forgotten young John and December 8, 1982 and make their demands for justice known. People who knew John Utlak back then still remember



him as he was. That memory will never change. And the public institutions by law are responsible for making sure justice has a memory too and is not forgotten and thereby guaranteeing that no victim of crime becomes faceless. Therefore, today inmate Joseph is alive and able to present himself in person and give reasons why he has earned a release date. John Utlak is not here today personally but his life and his legal rights lost are through us. Both sides now! Officer Utlak's parents, Joe and Irene Sudano, for years, actively did everything they could while they were alive to make sure justice was done for their son. They took part in many organizational events to honor him and other fallen officers. Officer Utlak's sister, Joanne Robbins now carries the torch for the family. They all understood well that every police officer's oath of office means that the law must be properly and fairly enforced by them even if it may bring danger or possible death to them when they went to work each day and investigated wrong-doers including defendants like Fred Joseph and Randy Fellows. Therefore, inmate Joseph's present rights to an impartial board hearing deciding his parole release must be fully accorded because it is part of the law Officer Utlak swore to uphold and did every day he put his uniform on and went to work. Frankly, there are no winners in this case and tragedy.

But as prosecutor in the Fred Joseph trial, I believe I have gained a great deal of insight about inmate Joseph because of my long experience and knowledge in this matter and therefore would like to review key pieces of evidence about him and why I firmly believe he should never be released from prison. If fairly judged by all the historical evidence before, during, and after his gratuitous and vicious taking of human life, in my opinion, there is only one reasonable conclusion regarding inmate Joseph that can be made-to release him now or in his lifetime would "neither further the interests of justice, nor be consistent with welfare and security of society."

What I would like to provide the Board now is the state's perspective of a portrait of a natural born killer, a man who has, can and will spew out hatred and violence without a moment's notice. That man is Fred E. Joseph, Jr. who has lifetime anti-social personality disorder. That is why today and since 2014 inmate Joseph is housed in a maximum security prison (Southern Ohio Correctional Facility). As prosecuting attorney for Trumbull County for over 30 years, this is the first letter I remember writing to any parole board where a violent offender has become such a



greater security risk as each year goes by in serving their sentence. Usually defendants go to prison, improve their behavior and end up in minimum or medium security facilities prior to being paroled. (I would further note, however, that good behavior does not necessarily equate with good behavior once outside of prison.) However, Joseph's bad behavior in prison only confirms that what we saw from him as a juvenile in society-a dangerous psychopath with little or no conscience.

The portrait of Joseph compliments and expands the factual rendition of events found in my September 26, 2012 letter. I will go through some of the actual trial testimony and witnesses' statements and other evidence to show the board the planning, premeditation, and explosiveness of trigger man Joseph and accomplice Randy Fellows which is chilling. Truman Capote's novel titled "In Cold Blood" fits to a tee the killers of Officer Utlak as it did to the killer in Capote's non-fictional novel. The facts are different but the character of both sets of killers are made of the same stuff-pure evil.

Let's look at different times of Joseph's criminal mind and behavior.

First witnesses and trial evidence established:

(1) Fred Joseph and Randy Fellows were planning to kill Niles police officers John Utlak and Bob Ludt.

(2) These bumbling criminals even kept the murder weapon (Joseph had it on his person when arrested) because they believed by biting on the lead bullets of .22 caliber ammunition the expended rounds hitting and killing a victim could not be traced to the weapon by a ballistics expert. Wrong! The BCI ballistics expert at Joseph's trial said it doesn't make a difference and identified the gun in Joseph's possession as the murder weapon.

(3) They were also planning to rob the police officers.

(4) They were also planning to leave Ohio by stealing Randy Fellows' mother's automobile and stealing Fred Joseph's father's jewelry (converting it for cash).

(5) They were planning to go on a crime spree, and if need be, kill more police officers. They had a variety of weapons including the murder weapon-Officer Utlak's .357 revolver and pump shotgun.

(6) They decided to flee Ohio and drove west on Interstate 80 and in Illinois picked up a hitchhiker named Arthur Krause who testified at trial and said the following:

"...After Fred had shot the officer, Fred told me that he took the officers shot-gun and put it in Randy's car

...

After they told me about killing the officer, they told me that they had called the officer and told him to bring money so that they could buy drugs. They both stated that they set him up because they were mad about his spreading their names on the street. From the conversation that I had with them, they indicated they had planned to kill the officer and to take his money.

...

Fred stated that he could plead insanity if he was caught (in fact at his trial Joseph's attorney filed a Motion of Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity and was evaluated by a Cleveland, Ohio psychiatrist and then prior to the jury hearing the evidence his attorney withdrew the plea of not guilty by reason of insanity), and that the authorities would go easier on him because he was a juvenile (that's true, the Ohio Legislature had removed the death penalty provision for 17 year olds and younger before the United States Supreme Court proclaimed that it was unconstitutional to execute persons younger than 18 years old and moreover in 2021 Joseph's age at the time of his crime still to this day gives him new benefits with Senate Bill 256-he now gets a parole hearing sooner by having this one with possibly others set every 5 years)

...

Fred Joseph also said according to Krause... "Fred then told me that this was the gun (displaying the .22 caliber revolver) that he 'wasted the cop with'. (See full Arthur Krause statement dated December 25, 1982 attached).

Importantly, Joseph's criminal behavior during the planning and execution of Officer Utlak was not an aberration in his behavior but only a continuation and escalation of long standing delinquent conduct. In fact he stated to Cheyenne Wyoming police officers in his recorded statement on December 11, 1982 the following:

DETECTIVE: Sgt. Allsop has the Waiver of Extradition now. He'll read it to you. It's going to be what you do when you waive extradition in other words. You are willing to accompanying any officer from the State of Ohio back to Ohio to face the charges which will be brought against you. Like I said I don't know what the charges are going to be but to face any charges back in Ohio.

F. JOSEPH: I know the charges now, they have me for discharge here plus breaking parole, I know that.

DETECTIVE: What are you on parole for Fred?

F. JOSEPH: I was on parole for a year for Breaking & Entering and Robbery, but I had it reduced down to one (1) count of Aggravated Breaking & Entering, and that was it.

DETECTIVE: How old are you Fred?

F. JOSEPH: Seventeen (17).

DETECTIVE: You are 17, when did you turn 17?  
(See full transcript of Fred Joseph's December 11, 1982 statement attached).

Further it is noteworthy to mention that Joseph stated in his police interview that his friend Randy Fellows shot Officer Utlak but upon his arrest Joseph was personally carrying the murder weapon! Both defendants in this case pointed to each other as the actual trigger man.

Going further, I would like to refer the Board to the January 20, 1983 Journal Entry of Juvenile Court Judge Peter J. Panagis Relinquishment of Jurisdiction for purposes of Criminal Prosecution which said in relevant part... "Further, the Court finds that the above child's age, mental and physical health, his prior juvenile record, the many previous efforts made to treat and rehabilitate him, and poor school record require that Fred E. Joseph, Jr. be transferred from juvenile court to adult court for prosecution..." (Emphasis added). (See attached full entry of Judge Panagis).

After Fred Joseph was convicted in 1983, he went to prison to begin to serve his life sentence (which was the most severe and longest sentence provided under Ohio law at the time for a juvenile offender at age 17-Joseph missed by less than one year of being eligible for the death penalty). The total prison records of inmate Joseph (some of which the prosecution does not have access to) will in our opinion show the parole board that Joseph has not changed and has remained a dangerous criminal psychopath. His anti-social personality with little or no moral compass which could inhibit control of his behavior or outburst is a life-time condition. In short, any fair reading of all available evidence that we see proves to the Trumbull County prosecutor's office that Fred Joseph will likely reoffend in a violent manner if released on parole today especially at the relatively young age of 55 years old.

His disciplinary record over the years, some of which we have had access to establish a pattern of bad behavior and disrespect for authority and afterwards showing no remorse for what he did. Instead his past criminal actions and record of violence has for him become a badge of honor. He has no shame and never will.

Some new information I offer the board is the attached Affidavit of fellow high school classmate of inmate Joseph and career corrections officer Doug Sollitto who came into contact with Joseph on a few occasions in prison. One of those contacts resulted in a conversation between the two which Sollitto will never forget.

In relevant part, Sollitto recalls a conversation with Joseph acknowledging personally shooting Officer Utlak and telling him "that they already took my life away and when I get out I'm going to sit across from the Niles Police Department and shoot the first five cops that come out the door. He pointed his finger like he had a gun and pulled his finger like he was pulling the trigger of a gun and said bing, bing, bing. All they can do is bring me back here." (Emphasis added). (See two-page Affidavit of Doug Sollitto attached). (See also Niles City Council Resoluton No, 2021 approved by Mr. Sollito which is attached)

Sadly, Joseph's talking about killing cops to friends, associates, strangers (like Arthur Krause) and even other law enforcement officers seems more like an obsession or his personal past-time activity than anything else. Even when he was arrested in December 1982 by Cheyenne, Wyoming police he gave a recorded statement talking about killing Niles police officers before he even killed Officer Utlak. (See attached 10-page transcript of Detective Leo Pando interview of Fred Joseph dated December 11, 1982). Please read the entire interview. However, this part really shows Joseph's unabashed thinking. Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction!

At page 6 the following conversation takes place between Detective Pando and Joseph:

DETECTIVE: You were talking about school, you guys got out of school early, what school to you guys go to?

F. JOSEPH: I go to Gordon E. James Career Center. Randy and Rich Fife they were skipping school or something.

DETECTIVE: They go to the same school you go to?

F. JOSEPH: Right, and we were all upstairs talking nuts, we were going to kill every fucking cop in Niles and shit like that, you know. You know, it was more or less, it wasn't the first time we talked like that. It was more or less like in one ear and out the other.



DETECTIVE: Are you willing Fred to testify in court what you just told Sgt. Allsop and myself as the truth as to what happened?

F. JOSEPH: Yes.

DETECTIVE: We didn't threaten you, harass you, force your, or coerce you to talk to us, did we?

F. JOSEPH: No.

Now building on Joseph's self-created theme of hatred and disrespect of law enforcement officials, records of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Current Institutional Report Summary dated May 17, 2021 and attached clearly show a disciplinary history with rules infractions of a man imprisoned over 30 years not changing his habit of threatening officers. Let's read some of what Joseph said and did while in prison between 2012 and 2016. Here are a few samples:

1) ...I, Officer Kleoudis and Officer Ellis did complete a random cell search of Inmate Joseph cell. During the entire time we were in his cell he observed us from the outside of his cell. He was angry because his cell was being searched and he was verbally disrespecting this officer the entire time we were in his cell. He was found to be in possession numerous altered items (copper wire, razor blade, cable cord connectors). He then made a verbal threat of physical harm by stating, "Your not going to getting out of cell" He refused directives to step away from the cell. (Emphasis added).

2) ...When officer Graham approached the cell with his dinner tray in a Styrofoam container, inmate Joseph #174-221 stated I'm not taking this tray, you need to give me a regular tray because I'm not taking the one you got. Please be advised that food service had several Styrofoam trays on the cart and they were the exact same portions as the regular trays. This reporting officer advised inmate Joseph of this, and he refused the tray several more times, therefore refusing his tray. Inmate Joseph began to yell several obscenities, once myself and officer Graham began to exit the pod. Inmate

Joseph began yelling, "open this cuff port so I can throw piss on you, I promise ill throw it on one of you bitches if you open this shoot." (Emphasis added).

3) ...I c/o W.gross gave inmate joseph 174221 a direct oerder to cuff up and come out of the rec cage. His time was up at 9:40 am and he said fuck off hoe, I'm coming out when I'm ready to come out. I gave him another direct order and he still refused. (Emphasis added).

4) ...I responded to a disturbance in the chow hall where I witnessed C/O Terrazas had inmate Joseph on the wall. Inmate Joseph came off the wall and C/O Terrazas put him back on the wall, but once again Joseph came off and was taken to the ground by C/O Terrazas. Inmate Joseph was given several direct orders to stop resisting and cuff up but did not comply. At this time I administered a short burst of OC to the eyes of inmate Joseph. Inmate Joseph then started biting on the arm of C/O Terrazas. I used a series of closed fist strikes to attempt to get inmate Joseph to stop biting C/O Terrazas and he stopped but then bit down again. I then utilized pressure points under the jaw and behind the ear of inmate Joseph at which time he stopped biting C/O Terrazas and complied with the orders to cuff up. Inmate Joseph was taken out of area by responding staff. (Emphasis added).

5) ...The bottom range was locked down which is where inmate Joseph's cell is. His cuff port was open. When I was on the top range opening doors and addressing inmates Inmate Joseph was hollering out of his cuff port, Hey Bitch open the door, this was the first of two disrespectful comments by Inmate Joseph. It was later that evening when he was out on the bottom range that he "told me" to open the door so he could get some soup and a pop. It was then that I opened it that he said give her a pop she would take a bribe. Therefore, Inmate Joseph should be charged with two counts of disrespecting an officer. (Emphasis added).

And (6) ...I officer B Danhoff was closing cuff ports in D4E after passing our chow when i came to cell 12 of inmate Joseph 174-221. Joseph had his arm hanging out of the cuff port and i gave him a direct order to put his arm back into his cell so i could secure the port. He said no im not putting it back in i

still have something coming from the porter. I said put your arm back in and if you have something i will open it to let you have it. He then attempted to reach out and grab me and I pushed his hand away from myself and administered a short burst of OC from the one pound can marked FS3. I then asked him if he wanted to cuff up and come out for decontamination and he said "fuck you bitch, suck my dick" i moved away from the area and waited for the OC to take affect and after a short period went back to see if he wanted to come out and he a made a sound like he was going to spit on me through the port. I administered another short burst of OC and he moved his face away from the port. I contacted seg control to call for a supervisor and left the area. Inmate was seen by medical and anitomicals were completed. Inmate refused to come out for decontamination. (Emphasis added).

Enough-I would hope so. From what the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office understands that has been the positon of some of the folks in corrections since 2014 because on February 20, 2014 he was transferred from Trumbull Correction to Youngstown's maximum security (OSP) and then on August 27, 2015 he was sent to another maximum security prison in Lucasville (SOCF). Obviously and for good cause he has been under better scrutiny the past 7 years, which in my view, probably results in fewer RIB violations.

In conclusion, frankly all of us in Trumbull County and Ohio need a longer break from the likes of Fred Joseph and Randy Fellows. Meanness and violence exudes from their very beings. Please keep Joseph locked up and protect our police and everyone else. Remember these characters capped off their evening after murdering a police officer and by stealing from their own parents. NO SHAME! INCORRIGIBLE AND SENTENCED FOR LIFE. CASE CLOSED!

Thank you for your kind 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

First Assistant  
CHRISTOPHER D. BECKER

Chief — Civil Division  
JAMES T. SAKER

Chief — Criminal Division  
CHARLES L. MORROW

Chief — Appellate Division  
LUWAYNE ANNOS

Chief — Juvenile Division  
STANLEY A. ELKINS

Investigators  
GARY S. HETZEL  
ROY ANNE RUDOLPH



DENNIS WATKINS

*Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney*

4th FLOOR ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
160 HIGH STREET N.W. WARREN, OHIO 44481-1092  
PHONE: (330) 675-2426 • FAX: (330) 675-2431  
Prosecutor@co.trumbull.oh.us

Civil Division  
JAMES M. BRUTZ  
WILLIAM J. DANSO  
LYNN B. GRIFFITH, III

Criminal Division  
GINA BUCCINO ARNAUT  
MICHAEL A. BURNETT  
DEENA L. DEVICO

Child Assault Division  
DIANE L. BARBER, CHIEF  
GABRIEL M. WILDMAN

Child Support Division  
DAVID E. BOKER, CHIEF  
MATTHEW J. BLAIR

September 26, 2012

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

Dear Attorney Mausser:

IN RE: RANDY FELLOWS - Institution No. A173423  
Conviction: Aggravated Murder with Two Aggravating  
Circumstance Specifications  
Sentence: Life imprisonment with parole eligibility after serving full  
30 years  
Time Served: 29 years and 5 months  
And  
FRED E. JOSEPH, JR. - Institution No. A174221  
Conviction: Aggravated Murder with Two Aggravating  
Circumstance Specifications  
Sentence: Life imprisonment with parole eligibility after serving full  
30 years  
Time Served: 29 years and 3 months

I am enclosing with this letter in opposition to any parole of convicted police killers Randy Fellows and Fred E. Joseph, Jr., a package of materials for your review. On December 8, 1982, Fellows and Joseph brutally and premeditatedly murdered and robbed, with a firearm, Niles City Policeman John A. Utlak, age 26. Both these individuals fled Ohio with the intent to commit other crimes and kill others. They were apprehended in Cheyenne, Wyoming on December 11, 1982. Both were tried



Attorney Cynthia Mausser, Parole Board Chair

September 26, 2012

Page Two

before juries in 1983 and both were convicted of Aggravated Murder with Aggravating Circumstances and received life sentences. Randy Fellows, the adult (age 19) was tried first. The juvenile, Fred E. Joseph, Jr., was tried second after being bound over to the grand jury and indicted.

As chief counsel of the criminal division at the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office at that time, I was the only prosecutor who participated in both trials as trial counsel for the State. Therefore, I believe I am in a position to give you insight into the facts and trials that occurred. Importantly, I know from talking to jurors in the Fellows case that the jury did not impose the death penalty because they knew the actual killer could not receive the death sentence since he was a juvenile at the time of the offense. Also I am firmly convinced that if these offenders were tried today, they would receive a life without parole sentence which was not provided in the law in 1982.

At the time of the murder, both Fellows and Joseph had criminal histories and in fact had a working relationship with the Niles Police Department especially with Officers John Utlak and Robert Ludt as undercover informants in the area of drug trafficking. There was trust between these police officers and the pair which was taken advantage of by them on December 8th, when Fellows telephoned Utlak requesting Utlak to bring a lot of money with him so they could make some drug buys. Then in an "in cold blood" like scenario, Officer Utlak working late that night, gathered at least two hundred dollars and told a local municipal judge that he might need a search warrant later to search the homes of local drug traffickers once buys were made, went to a prearranged isolated parking lot, located near a steel factory off Hunter Street in Weathersfield Township, Trumbull County, Ohio, and was approached by Fred Joseph after Randy Fellows, driving his mother's car, had dropped him off. Joseph was let in the car and pursuant to their plan, ambushed and shot the helpless officer twice in the head.

Joseph then robbed the fallen officer of his money, his department issued .357 handgun, a pump 12 gauge shotgun, and a portable radio. And according to the evidence, Fellows drove back and wanting to see if Utlak was really dead, had Joseph

Attorney Cynthia Mausser, Parole Board Chair

September 26, 2012

Page Three

open the driver's side door, at which time John Utlak, mortally wounded, fell from the car on the cold snowy ground. Officer Utlak was last seen alive on December 8, 1982 at 8:00 p.m. at the Niles Police Department by fellow officers and a dispatcher. At approximately 6:30 a.m. December 9, 1982, Utlak was found dead by a Gibraltar Steel Corporation employee.

As part of their planned conspiracy to kill Utlak, these evil-doers committed other crimes. Randy Fellows stole his mother's automobile, a 1982 AMC Ambassador, maroon with a black top bearing Ohio license plate No. ATT700. According to Martie Collins, Randy's sister, Randy Fellows left home at approximately 4:30 p.m. on December 8, 1982 in the said above described vehicle. On the same day, Fred Joseph, Jr., according to his father Fred Joseph, Sr., had stolen jewelry from him worth approximately \$10,000. Mr. Joseph told Niles City officers shortly after the homicide that he had not seen his son since 5:00 p.m. on December 8, 1982. He further was concerned about the fact he had been gone overnight and was with Randy Fellows.

Later on that same day (December 8<sup>th</sup>) Lorraine Fellows told police officers that her brother and Fred Joseph told her that they were going to Florida and that Randy had his luggage packed. See also saw her brother with a .22 revolver and other guns including a shotgun. Further on December 9, 1982, a Patricia Sigley of 1229 Ohltown Road, Mineral Ridge, Ohio, girlfriend of Randy Fellows, gave a statement to police saying that on the evening of December 8, 1982, Randy Fellows and Fred Joseph, Jr. came over to her house. Randy was carrying a handgun in the belt of his pants and Fred Joseph had a shotgun. They told her that they were leaving the area and going to Florida. Randy was driving his mother's car. Fred Joseph told Sigley that he had gotten \$1,000 for his father's jewelry. Randy Fellows added as leaving that "if a cop had tried to stop him, he would shoot him to get away." See generally the 6 page affidavit of Sgt. Dan D'Annunzio of the Trumbull County Sheriff's Department given to Trumbull County Common Pleas Judge Honorable Donald R. Ford on December 10, 1982.

Attorney Cynthia Mausser, Parole Board Chair

September 26, 2012

Page Four

It then turns out that these two psychopathic killers instead of fleeing and going South, instead went West and on December 10, 1982 both Fellows and Joseph were arrested in Cheyenne, Wyoming by the Cheyenne Police Department. Initially Joseph was arrested for driving erratically and shortly thereafter Fellows was arrested at a Cheyenne Motel. Both subsequently waived their Miranda Rights and gave incriminating statements to police admitting to the murder of Officer John Utlak. As a result of excellent police work done by the Cheyenne Police Department and lead detective, Leo Pando, the murder weapon which was being carried by Fred Joseph was recovered. (Ballistic's evidence was presented at both trials establishing the forensic connection between the .22 caliber weapon recovered from Joseph and the bullets which killed Officer Utlak).

Additionally Officer Utlak's weapons along with other evidence was recovered in Wyoming. Eventually both Defendants were returned to Ohio and had jury trials. Also another important witness who testified at the trials was discovered by the Cheyenne Police. This person Arthur "Skip" Krause was a hitch hiker who was picked up by Fellows and Joseph in Illinois on their way West and led the pair West to where he lived in Cheyenne, Wyoming. His statement to the Trumbull County Sheriff's Deputies is quite chilling, a part of it reads:...

"From the conversation that I had with them, they indicated they had planned to kill the officer and to take his money. During the course of the conversation, they told me that if they got caught, they would be facing life in prison, or possibly even the electric chair. Both said that if they got caught, they would have a shoot-out before they would go back. As the discussion went on, Fred stated that he would plead insanity if he was caught, and that the authorities would go easier on him because he was a juvenile. They asked me not to mention anything about the murder.

While I was in the car, Randy showed me a .22 cal. revolver, older, dull silver, with one black grip, the other side was missing. Randy commented on how he had carved off the ends of the bullets so they

DENNIS WATKINS

*Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney*

Attorney Cynthia Mausser, Parole Board Chair

September 26, 2012

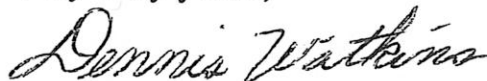
Page Five

couldn't be traced. There were four live rounds in the gun, and two spent casings. Fred then told me that this was the gun that he, "wasted the cop with." He even went as far to say that after he shot him the first time, he, "Reached for his revolver (the officer), so I shot him again." He then told me again that he had shot the officer because of the money that he had on him and because he had told people on the streets about their "narc-ing". While they were telling me about this, neither one of them showed any emotion or felt sorry about this. They didn't even seem scared; I didn't really believe them."

Sadly this happened and Officer John Utlak, age 26, was brutally taken from those who loved and knew him. John's mother and father, Joe and Irene Sudano along with his sister Joanne, have carried the torch for justice through the years. More sadly, deaths of police officers on duty have increased recently in the United States. They bravely protect us all. These cases surely from any review of the circumstances of the crime and the overwhelming guilt of the offenders proves Randy Fellows and Fred Joseph, Jr. are in the highest category of the worst of worst offenders.

It is not reasonable in my opinion from the facts established in this tragedy that these police killers get paroled, after only serving their minimum eligibility time. It would demean the seriousness of their crime. Punishment must be severe and certain in this matter and the maximum period of time provided by law should be considered before any further eligibility. In my view these offenders should never be released.

Very truly yours,



DENNIS WATKINS

Prosecuting Attorney

Enc.

*Joseph F. Julius, D.D.S.*

4433 LOGAN WAY  
LOGAN WAY PLAZA

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO 44505

TELEPHONE 759-0409

General Dentistry

March 3, 1983

To: Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office  
Attorneys; Walter Dragelevich  
Dennis Watkins

Reference: State Of Ohio vs. Randy Fellows 82 CR 470  
State of Ohio vs. Fred Joseph Jr. 83 CR 37

Upon request I have examined evidence concerning this case. The materials delivered by Sargent Phil Borger, Trumbull County Sheriff's Department, to my office at 4433 Loganway, Youngstown, Ohio 44505; was ammunition and photographs, (life size and enlargements); of the ammunition.

The ammunition consisted of;

I. Four (4) rounds live 22 caliber  
3 short - 1 long

II. Three spent rounds projectile part 22 caliber;  
Of the three spent rounds.

A. One (1) round from the home of the suspect Randy Fellows.

B. One (1) round from the body of the victim (stomach area) Patrolman John Utlak.

C. One round from the victim John Utlak's skull.

After examining the evidence and the photographs, it is my professional opinion the marks causing deformation of the projectile part of the bullets are consistent with human teeth marks. Some bullets appear to be bitten and some bitten and rotated thus, giving the appearance of being chewed. There are no bite marks or chew marks on the casing of the bullets.

On February 14, 1983 I was to attend The Annual American Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting in Cincinnati,



*Joseph F. Julius, D.D.S.*

4433 LOGAN WAY  
LOGAN WAY PLAZA

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO 44505

TELEPHONE 759-0409

General Dentistry

Ohio. I requested to have released to me some of the evidence for a second opinion at this meeting. In keeping with the chain of evidence procedure, this was done.

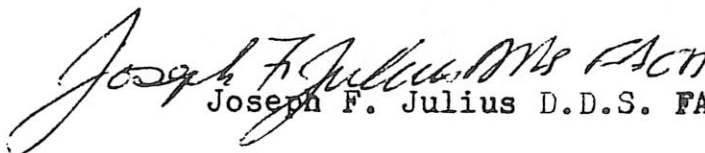
At this meeting I requested Dr. Norman Sperber, San Diego County San Diego, California; a Forensic Dentist, and an expert in the field of Bite Mark Evidence to examine the evidence.

In his professional opinion he agreed that these markings on the ammunition were consistent with that of human teeth.

Dr. Sperber stated, he would be available if needed at the request of the prosecutors office to appear and offer his expert opinion.

Thus, the professional opinions - marks on these bullets are consistent with human teeth.

Professionally, .

  
Joseph F. Julius D.D.S. FAGI

cc:  
Prosecutors Office(4)  
Dr. Norman Sperber

# Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

## Current Institutional Report Summary

Image not found.

|                                                                                        |                                                               |                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Inmate Name:<br><b>FRED JOSEPH JR</b>                                                  | Current Inmate Number:<br><b>A174221</b>                      | Date Report Generated:<br><b>05/17/2021</b> |
| Institution:<br><b>SOCF</b>                                                            | Current Risk Score:<br><b>Prison Reentry RT (Moderate) 12</b> |                                             |
| Current Security Threat Group (STG) Participation Level (Level of Gang Participation): | Current Sex Offender Classification:                          | Current Security Level:<br><b>4</b>         |
| Purpose for Report:<br><b>Court Request</b>                                            | Report Printed By:<br><b>Glenn Elder</b>                      |                                             |

**Open (Not Canceled) Warrants / Detainers Reported to DRC:** DRC Recommends that courts check LEADS, NCIC and OHLEG prior to releasing the inmate as these law enforcement data systems may contain additional detainer and warrant information pertaining to the inmate that are not currently known to DRC.

| Type | Agency | Date Placed |
|------|--------|-------------|
|------|--------|-------------|

### Security Classification Level History:

| Effective Date         | Level | Type            |
|------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| 5/10/2021 12:00:00 AM  | 4     | Anniversary     |
| 5/11/2020 12:00:00 AM  | 4     | Anniversary     |
| 5/9/2019 12:00:00 AM   | 4     | Anniversary     |
| 5/8/2018 12:00:00 AM   | 4     | Anniversary     |
| 5/8/2018 12:00:00 AM   | 4A    | Anniversary     |
| 5/11/2017 12:00:00 AM  | 4A    | Anniversary     |
| 5/12/2016 12:00:00 AM  | 4A    | Privilege       |
| 5/12/2016 12:00:00 AM  | 4B    | Privilege       |
| 5/12/2016 12:00:00 AM  | 4A    | Anniversary     |
| 5/28/2015 12:00:00 AM  | 4A    | Privilege       |
| 11/25/2014 12:00:00 AM | 4B    | Anniversary     |
| 11/25/2013 12:00:00 AM | 4B    | Special         |
| 9/30/2012 12:00:00 AM  | 3     | Anniversary     |
| 9/30/2011 12:00:00 AM  | 3     | Anniversary     |
| 9/15/2010 12:00:00 AM  | 3     | Anniversary     |
| 9/18/2009 12:00:00 AM  | 3     | Anniversary     |
| 9/3/2008 12:00:00 AM   | 3     | Confirmed       |
| 8/1/2007 12:00:00 AM   | 4A    | Confirmed       |
| 7/31/2007 12:00:00 AM  | 4A    | Anniversary     |
| 10/16/2006 12:00:00 AM | 4A    | Anniversary     |
| 6/28/2006 12:00:00 AM  | 4A    | Privilege       |
| 1/17/2006 12:00:00 AM  | 4B    | Privilege       |
| 7/26/2005 12:00:00 AM  | 4B    | Special         |
| 6/16/2005 12:00:00 AM  | 3     | Anniversary     |
| 5/20/2004 12:00:00 AM  | 3     | Anniversary     |
| 5/6/2003 12:00:00 AM   | 3     | Anniversary     |
| 5/13/2002 12:00:00 AM  | 3     | Anniversary     |
| 4/13/2002 12:00:00 AM  | 2     | Conversion Load |
| 4/3/2001 12:00:00 AM   | 3     | Anniversary     |

**Program Participation:** Because of federal education and program treatment information disclosure regulations, program information will not be displayed if the inmate did not agree to release education, mental health, and/or recovery services information.

| Program Name                    | Status       | Completed | Completed On |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| CAGE YOUR RAGE                  | Completed    | Yes       | 10/31/2019   |
| Money Smart                     | Completed    | Yes       | 9/30/2016    |
| college                         | Started      | No        |              |
| OSP WELLNESS PROGRAM            | Recommended  | No        |              |
| STEPS OSP                       | Waiting List | No        |              |
| MET AND ORIENTATION OSP         | Waiting List | No        |              |
| AOD EDUCATION & ORIENTATION OSP | Waiting List | No        |              |
| ADVANCED JOB TRAINING           | Completed    | Yes       |              |
| Victim Awareness                | Waiting List | No        |              |

**Evidence Based Tools / Interventions:** Because of federal education and program treatment information disclosure regulations, program information will not be displayed if the inmate did not agree to release education, mental health, and/or

| Tool / Intervention Used | Date Completed |
|--------------------------|----------------|
|--------------------------|----------------|

**Pro-Social Activity / Group Participation:** Because of federal education and program treatment information disclosure regulations, program information will not be displayed if the inmate did not agree to release education, mental health, and/or recovery services information.

| Activity Group / Name | Status | Date Completed |
|-----------------------|--------|----------------|
|-----------------------|--------|----------------|

**Coupons and Certificate Incentives Issued For Positive Behaviors:**

| Tool / Intervention Used | Date Completed |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Coupon                   | 0              |
| Certificate              | 0              |

**Disciplinary History Including Rule Infraction Board (RIB) / Hearing Officer (HO) Disciplinary Actions:**

This section contains information from January 2007 forward when DRC began automating inmate disciplinary history data.

| Institution                      | Date of Infractions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Guilty Infractions | Disposition                                        | HO/RIB                 | Local Control Y/N |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| SOCF                             | 6/28/2016                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 51                 | 30 day LPHU out 8-6 REM 4A                         | Hearing Officer        | NO                |
| Infraction Summary If Reported : |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                    |                                                    |                        |                   |
| OSP                              | 7/15/2015                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 21, 08, 49         | 2wk range restrict. req. priv. review, 7 DC on she | Rules Infraction Board | NO                |
| Infraction Summary If Reported : | On the above date and time, I Officer Kleoudis and Officer Ellis did complete a random cell search of Inmate Joseph's cell. During the entire time we were in his cell he observed us from the outside of his cell. He was angry because his cell was being searched and he was verbally disrespecting this officer the entire time we were in his cell. He was found to be in possession numerous altered items(copper wire, razor blade, cable cord connectors). He then made a verbal threat of physical harm by stating, "Your not going to getting out of this cell." He refused directives to step away from the cell. I then made contact with the control room officer to send for extra officer presence. Only then did he decide to move away from cell permitting use to exit without further incident.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                    |                                                    |                        |                   |
| OSP                              | 1/6/2015                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 21, 61, 49         | Two weeks phone restriction                        | Hearing Officer        | NO                |
| Infraction Summary If Reported : | On 01-07-15 I observed the camera for pod B4 from 01-61-15. I observed inmate Joseph A174-221 who was out for recreation conduct the following while out. &#x0D; 1918 Inmate Joseph went to top range and passed something to B4-26 Bays 617-886&#x0D; 1924 Inmate Joseph took from B4-17 Beverly 612-318 and when to pod door by phone and tapped on door and passed it under the door. &#x0D; 1926 Inmate Joseph passed from B4-17 Beverly 612-318 to B4-23 Litschgi 676-475 top range. &#x0D; 1927 Inmate Joseph passed something returned under the pod door back to B4-17 Beverly 612-318 and B4- 16 611-929 Whicker. &#x0D; 1935 Passed from B4-11 Ranzy 244-822 to B4-14 Williams 622141&#x0D; 1936 Passed from B4-14 Williams 622141 to his own cell B4-13 . &#x0D; 1937 B4- 17 Beverly 612-318 slipped paper under his door Joseph read and gave back.&#x0D; 1939 B4-17 Beverly 612-318 and passed to B4-14&#x0D; 1940 took what appeared to be a pen from B4-16 611-929 Whicker and took it to his cell B4-13 and tampered with his door name tag. &#x0D; 2031 left shower and went to cell B4-18 643-074 Glover and took it to B4-14 Williams 622141 then stopped at inmate 253-842 Pegg's door B4-15 and put something on the window before returning to his cell. &#x0D; &#x0D; |                    |                                                    |                        |                   |
| OSP                              | 12/31/2014                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 21, 61             | Two weeks range restriction/recreation reduced to  | Hearing Officer        | NO                |
| Infraction Summary If Reported : | While observing the camera for B4 from 12-31-14 with UM T. Jackson inmate Joseph 174221 was observed at 10:03 AM passing to numerous cells some of which included B4-16, 17, 26 to name a few. He also was out of place on the top range to pass.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                    |                                                    |                        |                   |
| OSP                              | 12/21/2014                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 08, 26             |                                                    | Hearing Officer        | NO                |

|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |            |                          |                        |     |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----|
| Infraction Summary If Reported : | On the above date and time, this reporting officer and officer Graham were conducting chow in Bravo Pod 4. When officer Graham approached the cell with his dinner tray in a Styrofoam container, inmate Joseph #174-221 stated I'm not taking this tray, you need to give me a regular tray because I'm not taking the one you got. Please be advised that food service had several Styrofoam trays on the cart and they were the exact same portions as the regular trays. This reporting officer advised inmate Joseph of this, and he refused the tray several more times, therefore refusing his tray. Inmate Joseph began to yell several obscenities, once myself and officer Graham began to exit the pod, Inmate Joseph began yelling, "open this cuff port so I can throw piss on you, I promise ill throw it on one of you bitches if you open this shoot." eor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |            |                          |                        |     |
| TOCI                             | 10/2/2013                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 21         | withdraw due to timeline | Hearing Officer        | NO  |
| Infraction Summary If Reported : | On 10-2-13 at 9:55 am I c/o W.gross gave inmate joseph 174221 a direct oerder to cuff up and come out of the rec cage. His time was up at 9:40 am and he said fuck off hoe, I'm coming out when i'm ready to come out. I gave him another direct order and he still refused. EOR&#x0D;                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |            |                          |                        |     |
| TOCI                             | 8/18/2013                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 32         | 10 days rec restriction  | Hearing Officer        | NO  |
| Infraction Summary If Reported : | On 08/18/2013 at approx. 0605 hrs while conducting count this officer found inmate Joseph 174221 cuffport (D3S8) open and the lock was jammed using a foodservice spork. EOR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |            |                          |                        |     |
| TOCI                             | 8/9/2013                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 04, 20, 26 |                          | Rules Infraction Board | YES |
| Infraction Summary If Reported : | on 8-9-2013 at approximately 1628 hours I responded to a disturbance in the chow hall where I witnessed C/O Terrazas had inmate Joseph on the wall. Inmate Joseph came off the wall and C/O Terrazas put him back on the wall, but once again Joseph came off and was taken to the ground by C/O Terrazas. Inmate Joseph was given several direct orders to stop resisting and cuff up but did not comply. At this time I administered a short burst of OC to the eyes of inmate Joseph. Inmate Joseph then started biting on the arm of C/O Terrazas. I used a series of closed fist strikes to attempt to get inmate Joseph to stop biting C/O Terrazas and he stopped but then bit down again. I then utilized pressure points under the jaw and behind the ear of inmate Joseph at which time he stopped biting C/O Terrazas and complied with the orders to cuff up. Inmate Joseph was taken out of the area by responding staff. EOR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |            |                          |                        |     |
| TOCI                             | 7/14/2013                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 26         | verbal warning           | Hearing Officer        | NO  |
| Infraction Summary If Reported : | On the above date and approximate time, I, Officer Poorman was on duty in A1/2W unit. I was handling another matter with inmates and pill call was announced. The bottom range was locked down which is where inmate Joseph's cell is. His cuff port was open. When I was on the top range opening doors and addressing inmates Inmate Joseph was hollering out of his cuff port, Hey Bitch open the door, this was the first of two disrespectful comments by Inmate Joseph. It was later that evening when he was out on the bottom range that he "told me" to open the door so he could get some soup and a pop. It was then that I opened it that he said give her a pop she would take a bribe. Therefore, Inmate Joseph should be charged with two counts of disrespecting an officer. End of report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |            |                          |                        |     |
| TOCI                             | 6/25/2013                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 48, 26     |                          | Hearing Officer        | NO  |
| Infraction Summary If Reported : | On June 25, 2013 at about 1:30 pm I C/O Hamrick left my desk for a security round when Inmate Joseph #174221 stole a ziplock bag from my lunch box under my desk. I was alerted by the control booth that this took place, I notified shift of this and responding officers were able to locate my items under Josephs pillow as he was cuffed he told me to suck his dick.EOR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |            |                          |                        |     |
| TOCI                             | 1/7/2013                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 21, 25     | 30d rec res (in seg)     | Hearing Officer        | NO  |
| Infraction Summary If Reported : | On 1/7/13 at aprox 1215 hours I officer B Danhoff was closing cuff ports in D4E after passing out chow when i came to cell 12 cell of inmate Joseph 174-221. Joseph had his arm hanging out of the cuff port and i gave him a direct order to put his arm back into his cell so i could secure the port. He said no im not putting it back in i still have something comming from the porter. I said put your arm back in and if you have something i will open it to let you have it. He then attempted to reach out and grab me and i pushed his hand away from myself and administered a short burst of OC from the one pound can marked FS3. i then asked him if he wanted to cuff up and come out for decontamination and he said "fuck you bitch, suck my dick" i moved away from the area and waited for the OC to take affect and after a short period went back to see if he wanted to come out and he made a sound like he was going to spit on me through the port. I administered another short burst of OC and he moved his face away from the port. I contacted seg control to call for a supervisor and left the area. Inmate was seen by medical and anitomicals were completed. Inmate refused to come out for decontamination. |            |                          |                        |     |



|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |        |                                                    |                        |     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----|
| TOCI                             | 12/3/2012                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 50     | returned                                           | Hearing Officer        | NO  |
| Infraction Summary If Reported : | On 12/3/12 at approximately 2110 hours I officer Powers was placing property in vault Z1.717. At this time I had to label all the property sitting on the floor and properly tag it before placing what I had there. At this time I looked at inmate Joseph #174221 from A4E17T's 2055 and saw a TV listed. The TV with his property had inmate Ripinski #636113 nearly scratched out on the top. I removed the TV from this vault and completed a contraband control slip, I also marked the 2055 to show I did contraband the TV. End of Report |        |                                                    |                        |     |
| TOCI                             | 12/1/2012                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 51, 58 | 15d DC 5d CTS in 12/3/12 out 12/17/12. Also rec LC | Rules Infraction Board | YES |
| Infraction Summary If Reported : | On 12/01/2012 at approx. 2130 I, CO Perez, conducted a shakedown on Inmate Joseph 174-221 (A4E17). During this shakedown I discovered a tattoo gun and 2 bottles of ink in the cable outlet box. I also discovered a cell phone watch, phone charger, and ear piece hidden in the light of the cell.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |        |                                                    |                        |     |
| TOCI                             | 7/7/2011                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 21, 26 | 3d cell restriction shelved for 90d                | Hearing Officer        | NO  |
| Infraction Summary If Reported : |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |        |                                                    |                        |     |

**Job History:** Because of federal education disclosure regulations, education-related job information will not be displayed if the inmate did not agree to release the information.

| Institution | Job Name           | Department         | Location        | Start Date | End Date   |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| SOCF        | PORTER 2           | UNIT-A             | UNIT A / K-SIDE | 2/4/2021   |            |
| SOCF        | RECREATION WKR 2   | RECREATION         | M1/UNIT B       | 3/26/2018  | 2/4/2021   |
| SOCF        | PORTER             | UNIT-B             | K6              | 2/27/2017  | 3/26/2018  |
| SOCF        | ADJUSTMENT/C       | ADMINISTRATION     | 4A              | 2/14/2017  | 2/27/2017  |
| SOCF        | PATIENT            | ADMINISTRATION     | INFIRMARY       | 2/8/2017   | 2/14/2017  |
| SOCF        | AWL                | ADMINISTRATION     | AWL-HOSP        | 2/3/2017   | 2/8/2017   |
| SOCF        | DC                 | SEGREGATION        | DC              | 1/27/2017  | 1/27/2017  |
| SOCF        | ADJUSTMENT/C       | ADMINISTRATION     | HUNGER STRIKE   | 1/27/2017  | 2/3/2017   |
| SOCF        | ADJUSTMENT/C       | ADMINISTRATION     | HUNGER STRIKE   | 1/17/2017  | 1/27/2017  |
| SOCF        | ADJUSTMENT/C       | ADMINISTRATION     | OBSERVE/WATCH   | 1/13/2017  | 1/17/2017  |
| SOCF        | ADJUSTMENT/C       | ADMINISTRATION     | HUNGER STRIKE   | 1/11/2017  | 1/13/2017  |
| SOCF        | ADJUSTMENT/C       | ADMINISTRATION     | OBSERVE/WATCH   | 12/27/2016 | 1/11/2017  |
| SOCF        | FOOD SERVICE WKR 2 | FOOD SERVICE / IDR | IDR             | 8/1/2016   | 8/1/2016   |
| SOCF        | PORTER             | UNIT-D             | L7              | 8/1/2016   | 12/27/2016 |
| SOCF        | ADJUSTMENT/C       | ADMINISTRATION     | 4A              | 7/27/2016  | 8/1/2016   |
| SOCF        | ADJUSTMENT/C       | ADMINISTRATION     | LPHU            | 7/7/2016   | 7/27/2016  |
| SOCF        | ADJUSTMENT/C       | ADMINISTRATION     | 4A              | 6/28/2016  | 6/28/2016  |
| SOCF        | SC                 | SEGREGATION        | SCI / LPHU      | 6/28/2016  | 7/7/2016   |
| SOCF        | PORTER             | UNIT-D             | L7              | 12/24/2015 | 6/28/2016  |
| SOCF        | TRASH CREW WKR     | UNIT-D             | L7              | 9/14/2015  | 12/24/2015 |
| SOCF        | ADJUSTMENT/C       | ADMINISTRATION     | 4AT             | 8/28/2015  | 8/28/2015  |
| SOCF        | ADJUSTMENT/C       | ADMINISTRATION     | 4A              | 8/28/2015  | 9/14/2015  |
| SOCF        | ORIENTATION        | ADMINISTRATION     | ORIENTATION     | 8/27/2015  | 8/27/2015  |
| SOCF        | ORIENTATION        | ADMINISTRATION     | ORIENTATION     | 8/27/2015  | 8/28/2015  |
| OSP         | ADJUSTMENT/C       | OSP                | 4A              | 6/1/2015   | 8/27/2015  |
| OSP         | ADJUSTMENT/C       | OSP                | 4B              | 6/5/2014   | 6/1/2015   |
| OSP         | AWL                | AWL                | AWL OTC         | 5/6/2014   | 6/5/2014   |
| OSP         | ADJUSTMENT/C       | OSP                | 4B              | 2/24/2014  | 5/6/2014   |
| OSP         | ORIENTATION        | ORIENTATION        | ORIENTATION     | 2/20/2014  | 2/24/2014  |
| TOCI        | ADJUSTMENT/D       | OPERATIONS         | UNIT C          | 12/6/2013  | 2/20/2014  |
| TOCI        | SC                 | OPERATIONS         | SEGREGATION     | 8/9/2013   | 12/6/2013  |
| TOCI        | PORTER             | OPERATIONS         | UNIT A          | 7/1/2013   | 8/9/2013   |
| TOCI        | SC                 | OPERATIONS         | SEGREGATION     | 6/25/2013  | 7/1/2013   |
| TOCI        | PORTER             | OPERATIONS         | UNIT A          | 5/1/2013   | 6/25/2013  |
| TOCI        | SC                 | OPERATIONS         | SEGREGATION     | 12/2/2012  | 5/1/2013   |
| TOCI        | PORTER             | OPERATIONS         | UNIT A          | 10/22/2012 | 12/2/2012  |
| TOCI        | PORTER             | OPERATIONS         | UNIT A          | 10/10/2012 | 10/22/2012 |
| TOCI        | STUDENT ADVANCED   | SPECIAL SERVICES   | COLLEGE         | 7/28/2011  | 10/10/2012 |
| TOCI        | FOOD SERVICE WKR 2 | ADMINISTRATION     | FOOD SERV       | 6/7/2011   | 7/28/2011  |
| TOCI        | STUDENT ADVANCED   | SPECIAL SERVICES   | COLLEGE         | 1/14/2009  | 6/7/2011   |



|      |                           |                |                 |            |            |
|------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|------------|
| TOCI | ORIENTATION               | ORIENTATION    | ORIENTATION     | 9/16/2008  | 9/22/2008  |
| SOCF | PORTER                    | UNIT-D         | L5              | 10/24/2007 | 9/16/2008  |
| SOCF | PORTER                    | UNIT "D"       | L5              | 10/24/2006 | 10/24/2007 |
| SOCF | PORTER 2                  | UNIT "E"       | UNIT E / L-SIDE | 9/14/2006  | 10/24/2006 |
| SOCF | ADJUSTMENT/C              | 4A             | 4A              | 6/29/2006  | 9/14/2006  |
| SOCF | PORTER                    | UNIT A / K1    | UNIT A / K1     | 11/30/2005 | 6/29/2006  |
| SOCF | PRE-CLASS                 | PRE-CLASS      | PRE-CLASS       | 8/11/2005  | 11/30/2005 |
| SOCF | ADD TO COUNT<br>AND ROLLS | 4B             | 4B              | 8/11/2005  | 8/11/2005  |
| SOCF | ADJUSTMENT/C              | 4B             | 4B              | 8/11/2005  | 8/11/2005  |
| TCI  | LC                        | ADMINISTRATION | SEGREGATION     | 6/9/2005   | 8/11/2005  |
| TCI  | SC                        | ADMINISTRATION | SEGREGATION     | 5/17/2005  | 6/9/2005   |
| TCI  | PORTER                    | BLOCKS         | 14 EAST         | 3/17/2005  | 5/17/2005  |
| TCI  | AWL HOSP                  | AWL            | HOSPITAL        | 3/17/2005  | 3/17/2005  |
| TCI  | PATIENT                   | TIE            | INFIRMARY       | 3/16/2005  | 3/17/2005  |
| TCI  | PORTER                    | BLOCKS         | 14 EAST         | 11/8/2002  | 3/16/2005  |
| TCI  | PORTER                    | BLOCKS         | 13 WEST         | 10/21/2002 | 11/8/2002  |
| TCI  | SC                        | SEG            | SEG             | 10/15/2002 | 10/21/2002 |
| TCI  | PORTER                    | BLOCKS         | 14 EAST         | 2/28/2002  | 10/15/2002 |
| TCI  | SC                        | SEG            | SEG             | 2/4/2002   | 2/28/2002  |
| TCI  | PORTER                    | BLOCKS         | 14 EAST         | 12/5/2001  | 2/4/2002   |
| TCI  | DC                        | SEG            | SEG             | 12/4/2001  | 12/5/2001  |
| TCI  | SC                        | SEG            | SEG             | 11/21/2001 | 12/4/2001  |
| TCI  | PORTER                    | BLOCKS         | 14 EAST         | 11/20/2001 | 11/21/2001 |
| TCI  | AWL                       | ST. JOES       | ST. JOES        | 11/19/2001 | 11/20/2001 |
| TCI  | PORTER                    | BLOCKS         | 14 EAST         | 2/2/2001   | 11/19/2001 |
| TCI  | LAUNDRY ATTN              | 14 EAST        | 14 EAST         | 3/30/1995  | 2/2/2001   |
| TCI  | PORTER                    | BLOCKS         | 14 EAST         | 12/9/1993  | 3/30/1995  |
| TCI  | PORTER                    | FOOD SERVICE   | IDR             | 12/8/1993  | 12/9/1993  |
| TCI  | PORTER                    | SEGREGATION    | SEGREGATION     | 11/17/1993 | 12/8/1993  |
| TCI  | UNASSIGNED                | TIE            | TIE             | 11/12/1993 | 11/17/1993 |
| TCI  | PORTER                    | FOOD SERVICE   | IDR             | 11/10/1993 | 11/12/1993 |
| TCI  | GROUPS<br>KEEPER          | MAINT G A-AM   | MAINT G A-AM    | 6/23/1993  | 6/23/1993  |
| TCI  | GROUPS<br>KEEPER          | MAINT G B-AM   | MAINT G B-AM    | 6/23/1993  | 11/10/1993 |
| TCI  | GROUPS<br>KEEPER          | MAINT GROUNDS  | MAINT GROUNDS   | 6/16/1993  | 6/23/1993  |
| TCI  | YARD WKR                  | YARD           | YARD            | 1/18/1993  | 6/16/1993  |
| TCI  | ADD TO COUNT<br>AND ROLLS | BLANK          | BLANK           | 1/6/1993   | 1/18/1993  |
| WCI  | CLERK<br>GENERAL          | 3D             | 3D              | 10/8/1992  | 1/6/1993   |
| WCI  | LINE SERVER               | FOOD SERVICE   | FOOD SERVICE    | 7/8/1992   | 10/8/1992  |
| WCI  | PRE-CLASS                 | 3D             | 3D              | 7/1/1992   | 7/8/1992   |
| WCI  | LC                        | SEGREGATION    | SEGREGATION     | 5/4/1992   | 7/1/1992   |
| WCI  | DC                        | SEGREGATION    | SEGREGATION     | 4/20/1992  | 5/4/1992   |
| WCI  | SC                        | SEGREGATION    | SEGREGATION     | 4/17/1992  | 4/20/1992  |
| WCI  | PORTER                    | GYM/YARD       | GYM/YARD        | 11/27/1991 | 4/17/1992  |
| WCI  | DC                        | SEGREGATION    | SEGREGATION     | 11/21/1991 | 11/27/1991 |
| WCI  | SC                        | SEGREGATION    | SEGREGATION     | 11/13/1991 | 11/21/1991 |

#### Release Placement Plans

| Created By | Plan Details | Comments |
|------------|--------------|----------|
|------------|--------------|----------|

## AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF OHIO

ss.

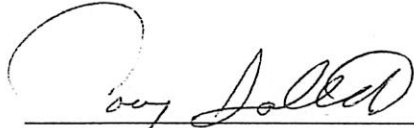
COUNTY OF TRUMBULL

I, DOUG SOLLITTO, of 125 Bentwillow Drive, Niles, Ohio, being duly sworn say:

1. Affiant graduated from Niles McKinley High School in Niles, Ohio in 1984.
2. At Niles McKinley High School, Affiant was in the same grade as Fred Joseph, Jr. and was a year behind Randy Fellows.
3. I was on the Niles High School Freshman Football team with Fred Joseph, Jr. Joseph was kicked off the team for smoking marijuana behind the bleachers.
4. In December of 1982 Officer John Utlak of the Niles Police Department was shot and killed. Fred Joseph, Jr. and Randy Fellows were both convicted for their roles in the murder of Officer John Utlak.
5. Affiant went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts from Youngstown State University.
6. Affiant was a corrections officer from 1989 to 2015 with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. During that time Affiant rose from Correctional Officer to Sergeant to Supervisor.
7. From 2015 to the date of this affidavit, Affiant has been the Lead Staff Representative for the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association (OCSEA) and the Chief Negotiator for the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction/OCSEA.
8. Also Affiant has been elected to the Niles City Council for two terms since 2018 to present.
9. Approximately 1994 while working as a corrections officer at Trumbull Correctional Institution I was making a required thirty-minute security check and walked by a cell. After I walked by the cell Mr. Joseph recognized me and called out words to the effect of hey don't act like you don't remember me. Affiant asked Joseph how he was and how did he let Fellows get you hemmed up as Officer John Utlak's killer. Joseph stated "Fellows is a puss and you know that." "I'm the one that shot that bitch in the head." Joseph would frequently use the word "bitch" or "bitches" when referring to anybody.

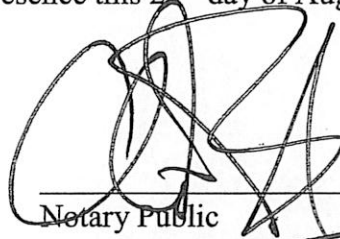
10. Affiant also recalls during that conversation Joseph telling him that they already took my life away and when I get out I'm going to sit across from the Niles Police Department and shoot the first five cops that come out the door. He pointed his finger like he had a gun and pulled his finger like he was pulling the trigger of a gun and said bing, bing, bing. All they can do is bring me back here.
11. Affiant is aware that Joseph has been housed at either the Ohio State Penitentiary in Youngtown or the Southern Ohio Correction Facility in Lucasville since 2014. Both of those facilities are maximum security prisons in the State of Ohio. Affiant has spoken to Stu Hudson, the Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction who advised Affiant that there are only 4,000 maximum security beds in the state of Ohio and Joseph has occupied one of those beds from 2014 to present. Only approximately ten percent or less of all State of Ohio prisoners make it to maximum security prisons.

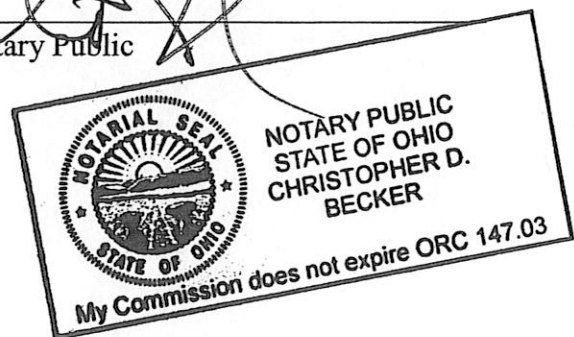
Further Affiant sayeth not.

  
DOUG SOLLITTO

NOTARY ATTEST

Sworn before me and subscribed in my presence this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August 2021.

  
Notary Public



# City of Niles, Ohio

SPONSORED BY: COUNCIL AS A WHOLE  
AUTHORIZED BY: ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

DRAFT NO. 75-21

RESOLUTION NO. 20-21

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CONTINUED INCARCERATION OF FRED JOSEPH

WHEREAS, Fred Joseph was convicted of the heinous killing of Niles Police Officer John Utlak; and

WHEREAS, reports of Fred Joseph's conduct in prison exhibits that he has not been rehabilitated. Since being incarcerated, Mr. Joseph has progressed to higher security prisons, has assaulted staff and other inmates, and has shown no remorse for any of his actions; and

WHEREAS, in the interests of justice for the family and the safety of the general public, Fred Joseph must serve his entire prison sentence; and

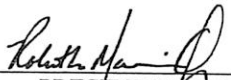
WHEREAS, The Mayor and the Council of the City of Niles implore the Adult Parole Authority to require Fred Joseph to serve the remainder of his prison sentence without the eligibility of parole.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NILES, STATE OF OHIO:

SECTION 1: That the Council of the City of Niles, together with the Mayor of the City of Niles, hereby declare their adamant opposition to the release of Fred Joseph. Further, the Mayor and Council of the City of Niles request that Fred Joseph be required to serve his entire prison sentence without the eligibility of parole.

SECTION 2: That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to:

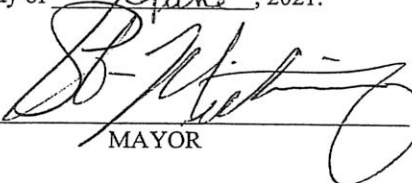
**Prosecutor Dennis Watkins  
Trumbull County Prosecutor  
160 High St NW#4  
Warren Oh 44481**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

PASSED: June 2, 2021

ATTEST: Nicole Bacak  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

Received by the Mayor of the City of Niles this 2 day of June, 2021,  
and approved by me as such Mayor this 2 day of June, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

I, Nicole Bacak, Clerk of Council, City of Niles,  
State of Ohio, do hereby certify that this is a true and  
correct copy of Resolution 20-21, which was duly  
passed on the 2nd day of June 2021.

Nicole Bacak  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Bacak, Clerk of Council

# Tribune Chronicle

## Officer killing case reason to repeal Ohio law

SEP 9, 2021

---

Prosecutors, police officers and even a former classmate of local police killer Fred E. Joseph Jr. have been working to keep Joseph in prison one year earlier than they originally expected.

And even if the group is successful in their quest to keep Joseph behind bars, a recently passed Ohio law now will send them back to the parole board to renew their argument every five years.

Senate Bill 256 took effect in April after it passed in the state Legislature and was signed earlier this year by Gov. Mike DeWine. The law retroactively decrees that all juvenile offenders must get a chance at parole.

The law applies to previous crimes and sentences, regardless of when a juvenile committed the crime or the fact that when justice was meted out, the sentence was perfectly legal.

As a juvenile, Fred Joseph Jr. shot and killed Niles police Officer John Utlak in 1982. He was convicted one year later, and sentenced to serve 30 years to life in prison. But thanks to the new law, Joseph is among many offenders now getting increased chances at freedom.

Authorities originally had set a 2022 date for a parole hearing, after Joseph's bid for parole in 2012 was rebuffed. But under Ohio's new law, Joseph, imprisoned in the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville, was permitted to have a parole hearing this month.



Joseph, 17 at the time of Utlak's murder, would be eligible for release Nov. 1 if the parole board looks favorably on his case.

Trumbull County Prosecutor Dennis Watkins is opposing parole, arguing to keep Joseph in prison. In a lengthy letter to the Ohio Adult Parole Authority, Watkins noted that Joseph is housed in a maximum security prison because his bad behavior in prison "only confirms what we saw from him as a juvenile in society —

a dangerous psychopath with little or no conscience."

Doug Sollitto, a high school classmate of Joseph who also served as a corrections officer, also included a statement in Watkins' correspondence. Sollitto came in contact with Joseph in prison, including a chilling conversation that Sollitto said he will never forget.

Sollitto, in the affidavit, recalls Joseph acknowledging to him being the triggerman in Utlak's death and telling the prison guard: *"When I get out, I'm going to sit across from the Niles Police Department and shoot the first five cops that come out the door."*

Sollitto said Joseph then pointed his finger, as if he had a gun, and pulled his finger like it was on a trigger — saying *"bing, bing, bing ... all they can do is bring me back here."*

We understand kids make mistakes and, generally speaking, people often deserve a second chance. However, the murder of a police officer is neither a small nor common mistake. Anyone who commits such a heinous or brutal crime likely does not deserve additional chances at freedom.

Sadly, not everyone can be rehabilitated. And let's not forget that juveniles convicted of such horrible crimes already have received a second chance because in Ohio they do not face the death penalty.

Further, the process of converting a juvenile case to adult court is arduous, with many hoops created for the very reason of

protecting juveniles. But once they've cleared all the hurdles, it's because it's been proven

that the defendant deserves to be tried in adult court.

After already enduring such pain and suffering in the deaths of their loved ones, don't victims' families deserve peace in knowing they must not endure the sadness and frustration of facing parole hearings at an increased frequency or, worse, the killer's release?

This law should be repealed. Like other Ohio cases, appeals to convictions and life sentences handed down to juvenile offenders should be heard only on their merits or trial error. This blanket opportunity to get out of jail must not stand.