

## **TRUMBULL COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE**

**Dennis Watkins**, Prosecutor

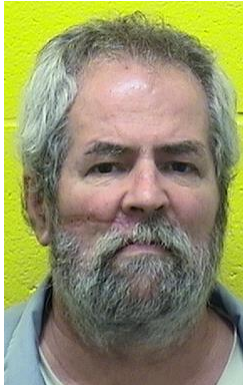
Repeat Violent Offenders newsletter

**UPDATE**, January 22, 2025

### **Two Trumbull County violent offenders denied parole**

The Ohio Adult Parole Authority has extended the prison stays of two violent offenders from Trumbull County, who have been imprisoned for a total of 73 years.

Jenna Maze, administrative assistant for the Victim/Witness Division of the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office, learned on Jan. 21 that bids for parole have been denied for both Van Gentry Fickes, 60, and David Owens, 59.



Fickes, photo at left, who is serving a 30-year-to-life prison sentence for conviction of two counts of murder, has been extended until at least October 2029, while Owens, photo at right, who is serving four life sentences for convictions of rape, has been extended by the parole board until at least October 2027.



Prosecuting Attorney Dennis Watkins said he is very pleased with the decisions, saying the victims and family members of these crimes -- and the public in general -- will be safe. In his opinion, the release of these offenders, based on their histories, would present "a clear and present danger to the public."

In letters objecting to his possible parole, Watkins wrote that Owens has "a disgusting sexual appetite for children under age 13" and has shown continued bad conduct with dozens of prison rule infractions, including drug use, fights, threats, destruction of property and the stalking and threatening of a female corrections officer.

By age 27, Owens had been a repeat violent offender some 17 different times between 1985 and 1988 before getting a six-month prison sentence for two counts of forgery and one count of receiving stolen property. In 1992, he was arrested by Warren police for multiple counts of rape and kidnapping, involving four female victims ages 9, 9, 8 and 5.

At a 1985 jury trial before the Honorable Judge David F. McLain, Fickes was convicted in the 1983 violent slayings of Christine and Ronald Fickes -- his mother and brother -- who were killed by shotgun blasts. The murders were committed while Fickes was on probation for attempted breaking and entering convictions. In his letter to the parole board, Watkins called Fickes "truly devoid of conscience."

Watkins and his assistant prosecutor and former Common Pleas Judge Peter Kontos tried the case for the state.

For more information, contact Guy M. Vogrin, public information officer/investigator for the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office at 330-675-2485.