

DATE TYPED: April 17, 2002
DATE PUBLISHED: April 19, 2002

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

Date of Meeting: April 16, 2002

Minutes of the SPECIAL MEETING of the Adult Parole
Authority held at 1030 Alum Creek Drive,
Columbus, Ohio 43205 on the above date.

IN RE: ALTON COLEMAN, SOCF #205-901

SUBJECT: Death Sentence Clemency

CRIME, CONVICTION: Aggravated Murder CS/W Aggravated Murder
CS/W Attempted Aggravated Murder CS/W
Aggravated Burglary CS/W Theft (MV)

DATE, PLACE OF CRIME: July 13, 1984
Norwood, Ohio

COUNTY: Hamilton

CASE NUMBER: B842559

VICTIMS: Marlene Walters and Harry Walters

INDICTMENT: B842559 Count 1: Aggravated Murder w/3 Spec.
2: Aggravated Murder w/3 Spec.
3. Attempted Aggravated Murder
4. Aggravated Burglary
5. Aggravated Robbery

DATE OF ADMISSION: October 5, 1988

DATE OF BIRTH: October 6, 1956

PRESIDING JUDGE: Honorable Richard Niehaus

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY: Arthur Ney
Carl Vollman

ACCOMPLICE: Debra Denise Brown

FOREWARD:

Clemency in the case of Alton Coleman was initiated by The Honorable Bob Taft, Governor of the State of Ohio, and the Ohio Parole Board, pursuant to Section 2967.13 of the Ohio Revised Code and The Parole Board Policy #501.09

A previous Clemency Report was sent to The Honorable George V. Voinovich on December 16, 1994, then Governor of the State of Ohio. That report contained a unanimous Parole Board recommendation against clemency.

During our most recent investigation for this report Mr. Coleman was interviewed by a Parole Board Member and Hearing Officer on April 8, 2002 at the Mansfield Correctional Institution. Also present at that meeting was Mr. Coleman's attorney, David Stebbins.

On April 16, 2002 a clemency Review Hearing was held by the Full Board. Present at that hearing were representatives from the Public Defender's office, the Hamilton County Prosecutor's office and Mr. Harry Walters, victim of this crime.

After reviewing and deliberating the information provided, the Parole Board voted and reached a unanimous decision.

We now submit to the Honorable Bob Taft, Governor of the State of Ohio our report and recommendation.

DETAILS OF THE INSTANT OFFENSE:

The following information was obtained from a Pre-Sentence Investigation, dated May 15, 1985, from information obtained from the Hamilton County Clerk of Courts:

Case #B842559

On July 13, 1984, between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m., the subject and his co-defendant, Debra Brown, were at the residence of Marlene and Harry Walters. The home was located at 4118 Floral Avenue, Norwood, Ohio. The subject and co-defendant were negotiating the possible purchase of a camper. Mr. and Mrs. Walters' nineteen-year-old daughter, Sherri, came home at approximately 3:45 p.m. that same afternoon and found the house in total disarray. She began running through the house screaming for her parents; however there was no answer. She attempted to call her grandparents on the downstairs phone, but the line had been cut. She then went upstairs and called her grandparents from another phone. Her grandparents informed her that her mother had phoned them earlier in the day and stated they were showing their camper to a couple. Following her phone call, Sherri Walters went into the basement and found her parents bound, beaten, and gagged. Her father had a rope around his neck, his feet were tied and his hands were handcuffed. Her mother's hands and feet were bound by electrical extension cords. Ms. Walters then got a knife from the kitchen and attempted to cut her parents loose. She then ran across the street and yelled to neighbors to call the police because her parents had been "tied up and killed".

Police and paramedics arrived on the scene at approximately 4:00 p.m., and found Harry Walters to be semi-conscious. Ms. Walters' grandparents arrived at the scene approximately the same

time. Upon entering the Walters' home, Norwood Police Officers decided that due to the condition of the inside of the house, they would need additional help from the Coroner's Office and the Cincinnati Police Department to process the crime scene. Police found two bicycles outside of the house which were described by witnesses to have been the mode of transportation the subject and co-defendant used to get to the victims' house. Police also discovered that Mr. Walters' car, a Plymouth Reliant, had been stolen. Additional items missing from the home included, a pair of bone colored shoes, and a pair of sunglasses.

The subject and co-defendant drove the victim's car to Lexington, Kentucky, where they abandoned it and proceeded to Dayton, Ohio. From Dayton they went through Indiana as they were arrested on July 20, 1984 in Evanston, Illinois. The evidence included fingerprints found at the home, articles of clothing, and testimony by neighbors.

The subject was convicted of two counts of Aggravated Murder for which he was sentenced to Death. He was also convicted of Attempted Aggravated Murder, sentenced to 7 to 25 years; Aggravated Burglary, sentenced to 10 to 25 years; and Aggravated Robbery, sentenced to 10 to 25 years. The co-defendant Debra Brown was sentenced to Life in prison, 20 years before parole eligibility for Aggravated Murder, 10 to 25 years for Attempted Aggravated Murder, 10 to 25 years for Aggravated Robbery, and 10 to 25 years for Aggravated Burglary – all to be served consecutively.

VICTIM'S VERSION/RESTITUTION:

Case #B842559

Please refer to the attached Victim Impact Statement.

CO-DEFENDANT'S VERSION:

The following was obtained from a Pre-Sentence Investigation, dated May 15, 1985:

The co-defendant, Debra Brown, admits to her involvement in the instant offense and states that she had been abusing marijuana and cocaine the day of the offense.

DEFENDANT'S VERSION:

Case #B842559

Not available.

PRIOR RECORD:

The information for the subject's prior record was obtained from the following: North Chicago, Waukegan, and Evanston (Illinois) Police Departments; Kenosha (Wisconsin) Police Department; Indianapolis and Gary (Indiana) Police Departments; Detroit and Dearborn (Michigan) Police Departments; Toledo and Dayton (Ohio) Police Departments; Hamilton County Juvenile Court,

Probation Department, and Clerk of Courts; NCIC and FBI; and Newspaper articles from the Toledo Blade obtained from the Toledo (Ohio) Police Department.

Inquiries were made to the Lexington (Kentucky) Police Department, however, no information has been returned.

JUVENILE:

According to the Hamilton County Juvenile Court, the subject has no known juvenile record in Hamilton County.

DATE	OFFENSE	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
4/28/72 Age 16	Burglary	Waukegan, IL.	Commitment to Juvenile Dept. Corrections suspended & Placed on probation until 1/17/94
5/29/73 Age 16	Disorderly Conduct	Waukegan, IL.	\$15 Fine/Court Costs

Coleman was convicted of causing damage to his mother's house because she would not buy him a \$6.00 jacket.

ADULT:

DATE	OFFENSE	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
12/28/73	Rape, Attempted Kidnapping Armed Robbery	Waukegan, IL	Sentenced 2-6 years, Illinois Dept of Corrections. Paroled 6/14/76. Terminated at expiration of sentence 11/2/79

On December 27, 1973 Coleman and co-defendant Leroy Charles Lockett abducted Eleanor MacIntire at gunpoint as she was in her car. She was driven to Evanston, Illinois, where she was vaginally raped by Coleman. The pair then stole her car and \$100.00. Via plea negotiations, Coleman was only convicted of armed robbery.

9/13/76	Rape	Waukegan, IL	Acquitted by jury.
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On September 13, 1976, the victim, Sherri Patterson, age 17, was driving her co-worker Joy Edwards home. Along the way, Joy spotted Coleman and asked him if he had seen her boyfriend. Coleman then got a ride with the two women and after Joy Edwards was dropped off he tricked Sherri Patterson into driving to an isolated area where he then dragged her into an abandoned building. She was then vaginally raped by Coleman. Following his arrest on September 14, 1976, Coleman was eventually acquitted by jury trial.

9/19/76	Deviate Sexual Assault (3 cts.)	Waukegan, ILL	Sentenced to 6 months
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While confined in the Lake County jail in Waukegan, Illinois, for the Sherri Patterson rape charge, Coleman forced three separate inmates to engage in various sex acts with him including anal and oral sex. Two of the victims were 19 years old and one was 18 years old. Coleman was convicted of Battery and sentenced to six months.

7/18/80	Rape, Deviate Sexual Assault	Waukegan, ILL	Acquitted by jury
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Dorothy Hawkins, 22-year old African-American, met Coleman at a disco on July 11, 1980 and at that time she invited him to a picnic at the Grand Lakes Naval Station where she was stationed as a member of the U. S. Navy. At the picnic she mentioned she was looking for an off-base residence and Coleman offered to show her some apartment complexes. This ruse enabled Coleman to get her to an industrial area of Waukegan where he raped her orally and vaginally. Coleman then returned her to her barracks. Dorothy Hawkins identified Coleman via photo line-up; however, at trial, the jury acquitted Coleman.

9/28/81	Unlawful Restraint	Waukegan, IL	Charges dismissed for lack of probable cause.
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16-year old Lisa Mann and Lisa Pheiffer (age 14), both runaways from a Kenosha, Wisconsin group home, encountered Coleman and Leonard Lynch. After accompanying the pair to a liquor store, the four then went to Lynch's apartment. Lisa Mann reported she was raped by Lynch while Coleman stayed with Pheiffer in another room. Any interaction between Pheiffer and Coleman is unknown and this case was eventually dismissed.

7/12/83	Indecent Liberties with a Child	Waukegan, IL	Dismissed due to insufficient evidence.
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Terry Coleman, half-sister of Alton Coleman, reported to Waukegan Police on July 12, 1983 that Alton had tried to kick down her door due to his anger concerning Terry Coleman accusing him of molesting her daughter, Melinda Snow, age 8-years, African-American (Coleman's niece). According to Terry Coleman, Melinda informed her that in June 1983, during a visit, Coleman kissed her and fondled her buttocks and genital area over her clothing. Debra Brown was present also.

A second incident allegedly occurred on July 11, 1983 when Melinda reported that Coleman had come into the bathroom with her, fondled her bare buttocks and digitally penetrated her vagina. Terry Coleman witnessed Alton Coleman rushing from the bathroom. A subsequent medical exam did not reveal any evidence of injury or physical trauma.

2/28/84	Rape	North Chicago, IL	Coleman fled after arraignment and this case was not pursued due to the multiple murder prosecutions.
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On February 26, 1984, Coleman met Dorthea Thompson as she waited for her daughter, Chalendra, 14-year old African-American, to get off work at Burger King. After discussing job possibilities, Dorthea gave Coleman her address and telephone number. Two days later, Coleman went to Dorthea's home where only Chalendra was present and the pretext was to drop off a job application. The 14-year old let him in and paid for that mistake by being raped at knife-point. Afterwards, Coleman forced her to write in his journal or notebook, "Al, I really enjoyed tonight and we must do this again real soon. 'Tear Drop' Love Chalendra Thompson. P.S. let this be our little secret."

Records were vague, but apparently Coleman was arrested and eventually appeared in court for arraignment on May 30, 1984 (one day after murdering 9-year old Vernita Wheat). He fled after this and continued his murderous crime spree.

(The facts of this case and strategies employed by Coleman are significant as it reflects his cunning to engage the trust of the mother and/or victim in order to effect a rape or rape/murder.)

5/29/84	Kidnapping; Murder	Kenosha, WI	Death Penalty
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In the weeks before this offense, Coleman befriended Juanita Wheat, the mother of Vernita Wheat, African-American, age 9, and used an alias of Robert Knight. Coleman also lied about living in the same city as the victim, Kenosha, Wisconsin, and also lied about his employment. Juanita Wheat obviously trusted Coleman and on May 29, 1984, allowed him to take 9-year old Vernita and 5-year old Brandon to a local carnival. Upon their return, Coleman offered to buy a stereo for Vernita and Juanita Wheat gave her permission for Vernita to accompany Coleman to a store. They left at approximately 10:35 p.m. Vernita was next observed with Coleman at 11:35 p.m. in a Kenosha tavern called the "400 Club". Next they were picked-up by a cab and driven to Slater's Barbeque in Waukegan, Illinois. At 1:00 a.m., May 30, 1984, Juanita Wheat notified Kenosha Police that Vernita was missing. Coleman murdered Vernita in the early morning hours of May 30, 1984, returned to his grandmother's residence in Waukegan, changed clothes, and attended the arraignment hearing on the Chalendra Thompson rape.

On June 19, 1984, Vernita's badly decomposed body was found in an abandoned apartment building approximately two blocks from the Slater's Barbeque. She was bound with cable TV wire and there was wire around her neck used as a ligature. Although, the coroner was unsure, it appeared that rape was unlikely; however, her underwear was on inside out and backwards and was pulled halfway up her legs. Coleman's fingerprint was found on a door near the body. There was no indication that Debra Brown was involved in this offense.

Once Coleman had been apprehended, it was agreed upon by the various states, to try this case after the Hamilton County, Ohio cases. At trial in 1987, Coleman was convicted of Murder and

Aggravated Kidnapping with specification (1) that Vernita was under age 12 and death resulted from exceptionally brutal behavior indicative of wanton cruelty and (2) that Coleman had previously been convicted of murder. Coleman was then sentenced to Death.

Recently, Illinois Governor George Ryan instituted a moratorium on capital punishment; therefore, the Illinois Supreme Court has not scheduled an execution date for Coleman.

6/18/84	Murder, Attempted Murder, Child Molesting	Gary, IN	Death
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On June 18, 1984 Coleman and Debra Brown approached Tamika Turks, 7-year old African-American, and Annie Hilliard, 9-year old African-American, as the children were returning to Tamika's residence following a trip to the store. Coleman offered to give the children clothing to which the children agreed. This ruse was utilized to get the children to accompany Debra Brown for approximately 40 minutes and walk to a secluded, wooded area. Coleman then appeared. Initially, Tamika's shirt was taken from her, cut into strips, and both children were tied. Tamika cried and was brutally beaten by the pair with Brown holding Tamika's mouth and nose closed while Coleman stomped on her chest and abdomen. She was then carried into the woods as they apparently believed she was dead.

Annie Hilliard was then forced to perform oral sex on Coleman and Brown after which Coleman vaginally raped her. Annie then heard Tamika moan from the woods and Coleman and Brown went to Tamika and strangled her.

They then returned to Annie and strangled her with a belt and left when they thought she was dead. Miraculously, Annie survived and was found by a passerby.

Tamika died as a result of ligature strangulation and Annie Hilliard suffered serious physical injury as her intestines were protruding into her vagina necessitating surgery, and she also suffered high emotional trauma.

Coleman was found guilty by jury on April 12, 1986 of the murder of Tamika Turks with two specifications, (1) having been previously convicted of murder, and (2) murder while committing or attempting to commit child molestation.

Debra Brown was convicted likewise and also sentenced to Death.

6/19/84	Murder	Detroit, MI	Not prosecuted due to insufficient evidence.
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One day after the brutal murder and attempted murder of Tamika Turks and Annie Hilliard, Coleman and Brown befriended Donna Williams, 25-year old African-American, in Gary, Indiana. They called themselves Phil and Pam claiming to be from Boston. Donna Williams was a devout Christian and spoke to the pair about joining her church. On June 19, 1984 Donna arrived at her church in Gary at approximately 6:40 p.m. to set up chairs. She left at 7:50 p.m. to pick up Coleman and Brown and was never seen alive again. On June 26, 1984 her car was found in

Detroit, Michigan. Coleman's fingerprint was found on the glove compartment and a fake Indiana identification with the name Lisa Fisher and Debra Brown's photo was found in the car.

On July 11, 1984, Donna Williams' badly decomposed body was found in an abandoned building nearby where the auto was located. Death was caused by ligature strangulation and it could not be determined if a sexual assault had occurred due to the advanced decomposition.

6/24/84	Kidnapping	Detroit, MI	No prosecution.
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Information on this case is scarce; however, a Detroit woman, 28-year old African-American, was kidnapped at knifepoint and they demanded to be driven to Ohio. The victim was able to escape outside of Detroit. No prosecution resulted in this matter.

6/28/84	Aggravated Burglary Robbery	Dearborn Hts., MI	No prosecution
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At approximately 7:00 a.m. on June 28, 1984, Coleman and Brown entered the residence of Palmer Jones (62, white male) and Marge Jones (59, white female) with Coleman armed with a chair or table leg and Brown with a hand gun. The victims were badly beaten and Palmer received 25 inches of lacerations and long-term dizziness. Marge Jones received a broken arm and required 20 sutures. Coleman and Brown stole \$90 and their car which was later recovered in Taylor, Michigan.

7/2/84	Aggravated Robbery Felony Assault	Detroit, MI	No prosecution
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Mary Billups, 55-year old African-American met Coleman and Brown on a street corner in Detroit. After talking with her for 45 minutes, they managed to get themselves invited to her house for dinner and to spend the night.

The next day, they used the ruse of needing a ride to get introduced to Marion Gaston, 55-year old African-American. At his residence they threatened both with knives, Coleman punched Mary Billups in the face, knocking her unconscious. They were then forced to the basement where they were tied with electric cords, gagged with rags, and beaten with a wrench by Coleman. They then fled in Gaston's car.

7/6/84	Aggravated Murder (2) Rape (2)	Toledo, OH	No prosecution
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Coleman and Brown effected this offense by convincing a minister, Ernie Jackson, whom they met on the street that Coleman was from Decatur, Alabama, and on leave from his army post in Germany. Brown went by the name of Doris Smith. Rev. Jackson invited the pair to his residence for ribs.

While at the residence, they had a chance encounter with Virginia Temple, age 30, divorced, African-American who was visiting Mrs. Jackson. Coleman was able to get Virginia Temple's

address. On July 6, 1984, Coleman and Brown went to Virginia Temple's home where she lived with her five children, Rachelle, age 10, Raymond, age 6, Michael, age 5, Kimberly, age 3, and Angela, age 1. During the night or early morning of July 6 or July 7, 1984, Coleman and Brown murdered Virginia Temple and raped and murdered Rachelle Temple. When the other children awoke on July 7, 1984, they could not find their mother or sister. Upon the Toledo police being notified, a search revealed the two bodies being located in the crawl space of the residence. Both were killed by strangulation and beaten. The coroner was unsure if Virginia Temple had been raped, but was conclusive that 10-year old Rachelle Temple had been raped as when her body was found, blood flowed all the way from her vagina to her feet. Coleman and Brown also stole Virginia's eyeglasses, clothing, and jewelry. Later, under the dead body of Torrie Storey in Cincinnati, a bracelet stolen from Virginia Temple was found. Clothing from Virginia Temple was later found at the home of Rev. Gay in Dayton, Ohio, after that home invasion on July 17, 1984.

7/7/84	Aggravated Robbery	Toledo, OH	No prosecution
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One day after or the same day as the Temple murders, Coleman and Brown talked their way into the residence of Frank Duvendack, age 77, former assistant superintendent of Toledo Schools. Once inside, and on cue, Brown took a handgun out and handed it to Coleman. Frank Duvendack was forced upstairs where his wife, Dorothy was located. Frank was handcuffed and Dorothy had her hands tied with electrical cords. Brown then stuffed paper tissues in their mouths. The pair then removed \$200, a hat and the car.

7/11/84	Aggravated Murder	Cincinnati, OH	Death Sentence recently overturned and awaiting re- sentence hearing.
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On July 11, 1984, the victim, Tonnie Storey, age 15, was reported to have left school at 2:00 p.m. with a friend. She was later seen in the company of a black male and black female by a classmate. On July 12, 1984, Tonnie Storey's parents reported her missing. On July 19, 1984, Tonnie Storey's badly decomposed body was discovered in a vacant apartment building. Identification of the body proved to be difficult due to the fact that the body was badly decomposed. A witness, who had seen Tonnie Storey walking with a black male and black female, identified Alton Coleman as the black male after reviewing mug shots. Debra Brown's fingerprint was lifted from a Michael Jackson button which was on the victim's clothing. A shoe print, which was identified as Alton Coleman's, was found in the muddy basement of the building. The cause of death was determined to be strangulation. Police were unable to determine if the victim had been raped because of the badly decomposed state of the body.

7/13/84	Aggravated Murder	Cincinnati, OH	Death
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This is Marlene Walters murder described in "Offense" section.

7/16/84	Kidnapping	Lexington, KY	11/26/84 sentenced to 20 years (Federal)
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Following the Walters murder, the pair journeyed to Kentucky where on July 16, 1984 they encountered Oline Carmical, white male, age 33. On this offense, the pair was joined by Thomas Harris. The three encountered Carmical in a motel parking lot. Following his abduction, they placed a telephone call to his wife demanding ransom. The instructions were to take the money to a gas station in Richmond, Kentucky. The trio never showed to pick-up the money. They next drove to Dayton, Ohio, where Carmical's auto was abandoned with him still in the trunk. After several hours he was discovered and rescued.

Coleman and Brown were convicted on November 26, 1984 in Federal Court and sentenced to 20 years.

7/17/84	Aggravated Robbery	Dayton, OH	No prosecution
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Coleman and Brown had befriended Rev. Millard and Kathryn Gay on July 7, 1984 in Dayton right after the Temple murders and Duvendack home invasion. The Gays were African-Americans with Millard being 79 and Kathryn 76. The pretext of the initial meeting was to rent a room which was offered and they remained there until July 9, 1984 when the Gays took the pair to Cincinnati and dropped them off. It is significant that an envelope from the Gay residence was found in the building where Tonnie Storey's murdered body was located.

Following the Storey and Walters murders in Cincinnati, and the Carmical kidnapping in Kentucky, the pair returned to Dayton and to the Gay residence. By this time, Millard realized who they were and told them so. Coleman allegedly responded "Well, honey, I guess we'll have to burn them" upon which both brandished guns. Kathryn Gay knocked the gun out of Coleman's hand and a scuffle ensued resulting in Millard being pistol whipped by Coleman. Both Gays were then tied and an attempt was made to strangle Kathryn, but stopped short of unconsciousness. Before leaving Coleman told Millard Gay "usually don't leave a witness, they always get rid of them." Coleman then attempted to shoot Kathryn Gay but the gun malfunctioned. They then stole money and their car.

7/19/84	Murder	Indianapolis, IN	No prosecution
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On July 19, 1984 the body of Eugene Scott, 79-year old African-American was found in a ditch outside of Indianapolis, shot four times with a .38 caliber gun and stabbed repeatedly. When Coleman and Brown were arrested on July 20, 1984 in Evansville, Illinois, in a park, Eugene Scott's auto was found parked nearby.

INSTITUTIONAL AND/OR SUPERVISION ADJUSTMENT:

Coleman was admitted to the institution on October 5, 1988. He is on Death Row at the Mansfield Correctional Institution. Reportedly, his institution adjustment is satisfactory. He has not committed any Rule Violations in the last 17 years. His Application for Clemency cites several

statements by Corrections Officers. One officer was quoted as saying that Coleman was polite and forthright and never gave him any problems. Another officer was quoted as saying he has had "No trouble" with Coleman.

SOCIAL HISTORY

Reverend Robert Evans attended the hearing on April 16, 2002. He testified that he has known Alton Coleman from birth. He reported that Alton Coleman was born into an environment of rejection, drugs and prostitution. The Reverend also stated that Coleman was abused by his grandmother. Reportedly, Coleman's mother threw him into a garbage can as an infant and had to be retrieved by his grandmother. Coleman's application states that his grandmother involved him in voodoo practice. She would have him kill the animals and collect body parts for use in her "magic potions." Reportedly, Coleman was raised in an environment of "group sex", sometimes including his mother and grandmother, as well as "Bestiality" and "Pedophilia". He quit school in the ninth grade.

PROPONENTS:

Alton Coleman is currently represented by Attorneys Dale A. Baich of the Federal Public Defender's Office and David C. Stebbins of Columbus, Ohio. They have provided the Ohio Parole Board an extensive written argument and documentation outlining the reasons Alton Coleman should receive Executive Clemency. On April 16, 2002, Dale A. Baich, Assistant Federal Public Defender, Dr. Thomas Thompson, ABPN-Clinical and Neuropsychology, and Reverend Robert B. Evans Sr., personally appeared and gave oral arguments before the Ohio Parole Board. Reasons expressed in favor of the granting of Executive Clemency are as follows:

1. Coleman's genetic predisposition for disordered behavior.
2. In utero poisoning due to maternal drug and alcohol abuse by his mother during pregnancy.
3. Early maternal rejection and abandonment by his mother during vital developmental stages.
4. Coleman's severe drug and alcohol addictions.
5. Coleman's organic brain dysfunction cause him to lack the ability to make non-impulsive, considered choices about his life's path.

Mr. Baich was the lead presenter for the applicant's side, and presented the reasons that Alton Coleman should receive Executive Clemency. He highlighted that Coleman's offense behavior was directly related to his organic brain dysfunction and environmental factors in his childhood. Dr. Thomas Thompson presented the results of his interview and neuro-psychological consultation of June 20, 2001 and the Quantitative Electroencephalographic Evaluation (QEEG) of October 21, 2001 performed by Dr. Ricardo Weinstein. He stated that the evaluations revealed a large number of pathognomonic signs, which are indicators of abnormal brain function. Coleman's inability to organize and structure his behavior in an acceptable and useful manner due to his significant brain

impairment was relevant to the commission of his offenses, including the murder of Marlene Walters. Dr. Thomas indicated that Coleman's history of functioning well in prison is another indication of his brain dysfunction. Prison provides him with the structure and controls that his brain is not able to provide.

Reverend Robert B. Evans Sr. provided testimony concerning Coleman's upbringing. Reverend Evans has known Alton Coleman from birth and lived on the same street as Coleman's grandmother, Alma Hosea, mother, Mary Bates Coleman, and most of his siblings. He discussed the blighted area where Coleman and his family resided, and how dysfunctional his grandmother and mother were.

The Ohio Parole Board has also received letters from the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Friends Service Committee, The Human Rights Watch, and fourteen individuals supporting the granting of Clemency.

OPPONENTS:

Mr. Michael K. Allen, Hamilton County Prosecuting Attorney and Mr. Jim Canepa, Section Chief of the Ohio Attorney General's Capital Crimes Unit represented the State of Ohio at the hearing before the Parole Board on April 16, 2002. Mr. Allen was assisted by Assistant Hamilton County Prosecutor Mark Piepmeier, who was one of the trial attorneys.

Mr. Allen described the details of the offense, which resulted in Marlene Walters' death. He stated how Coleman and Debra Brown used the ruse of purchasing the Walters' camper to gain the confidence of the Walters. Coleman hit Harry Walters over the head with a wooden candleholder, which broke upon impact, and caused a piece of Mr. Walters' bone to be imbedded in his brain. Mr. Allen stated how Marlene Walters was struck in the head by multiple objects, a total of twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) times, which resulted in her death. When she was found it was discovered that parts of her skull and brain were missing.

Mr. Allen discussed the Tonnie Storey case, and how the victim was strangled to death after she was seen in the company of Alton Coleman and Debra Brown. Storey's body was found so badly decomposed in a vacant apartment building that identification was difficult and it could not be determined if she had been raped. An identification bracelet was found that belonged to Virginia Temple of Toledo, Ohio, who had been murdered prior to Tonnie Storey's murder. He stated the conviction has been upheld on appeal but has been remanded for re-sentencing. He reviewed the list of offenses Coleman committed in 1984, which resulted in the deaths of Vernita Wheat in Wisconsin, Tamika Turkes in Indiana, Virginia and Rachelle Temple in Toledo, Ohio, and Donna Michelle Williams in Indiana.

Mr. Allen refuted that it would be impossible for Coleman to have such a positive institution record if he had organic brain damage. The stress faced by an inmate in a prison setting would exacerbate the organic brain damage syndrome.

Mr. Allen has stated that a jury of his peers, the trial court, and all appellate courts have approved the sentence. They determined Coleman to be a principle offender in the Walters case. Coleman did not provide mitigation at his trial due to his belief of his innocence.

Mr. Allen noted that the Coleman's organic brain damage argument has been argued in other states' courts and has not been accepted.

Mr. Canepa stated Coleman's offense behavior was not indicative of an individual suffering from organic brain damage since they involved non-impulsive behavior of manipulating the victims so that they gave him their confidence before he victimized them.

Canepa stated Coleman's counsel's argument that since Coleman is to be re-sentenced in Tonnie Storey's case because he did not request to have his counsel present mitigation, has no bearing in the Walters case. The courts have upheld the conviction and sentence in the Walters case.

Scott Lillard, Marlene Walters son-in-law, made statements to the Board. He stated the family wants justice in the case and not sympathy. He asked for the sentence to be enforced.

Harry Walters, a victim and Marlene Walters' husband, made statements to the Board. He asked when would the legal system have mercy on the victims. He stated it was long overdue that the sentence be enforced.

The Ohio Parole Board has received thirty-eight (38) individual letters and petitions with one hundred and fifteen (115) signatures asking for Coleman's Clemency request to be denied.

COMMUNITY ATTITUDE:

The Hamilton County Prosecutor's office is in opposition to Coleman's Clemency request.

The Parole Board has not received any responses from the judicial or law enforcement segments of the criminal justice system.

CONCLUSION:

The Board reviewed the documents and deliberated for hours on the information provided. During our deliberation we focused on the following facts.

- Most of Coleman's crimes involved him befriending his victims before he raped or killed them.
- Coleman involved himself in mass murders and multiple rapes.
- He caused almost indescribable and irreparable damage to his victims. For example, one of his victims, who managed to survive, described how her personality changed after the offense. She was 9-years old when she was raped. She is now 27-years old and still fearful while in the presence of adult males.
- He stands convicted for killing a 9-year old victim, a 7-year old victim, raping and attempting to kill a 9-year old victim, killing a 15-year old victim, and murdering a 44-year old mother of three.
- Coleman was raised in an environment of neglect.

- He was raised in an environment where violent behavior was common.
- Information was presented that related to his alleged organic brain damage and how that damage affected his ability to control his impulsivity.
- Information was presented attempting to make a connection between Coleman's alleged brain damage and his early environment, which lead to his violent behavior.
- Beyond those two elements, information was presented stating that the condition was exacerbated by his use of drugs.

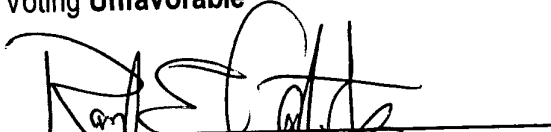
At the conclusion of our deliberation, the Board Members were of the opinion that while it is obvious that Coleman had a troubled childhood, with a possibility of brain damage, the aggravating factors far out weigh the mitigating factors. Therefore, the Board Members, in their judgment, felt that Clemency would not further the interests of justice in this case of Alton Coleman.

RECOMMENDATION:

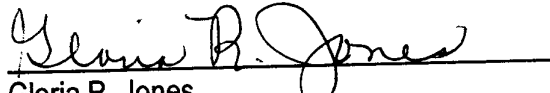
Following consideration of available information, the Ohio Parole Board, with ten (10) members participating, recommends to The Honorable Bob Taft, Governor of the State of Ohio, by a vote of ten (10) to zero (0), the Executive Clemency be denied in the case of Alton Coleman, #A205901.

Alton Coleman #205-901
Death Penalty Clemency

Adult Parole Authority
Ohio Parole Board Members
Voting **Unfavorable**


Raymond E. Capots

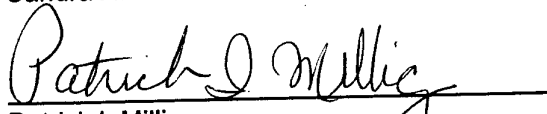

William E. Hudson

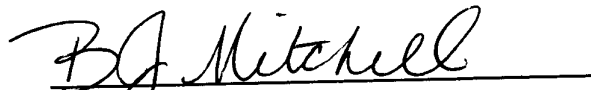

Gloria R. Jones


Henry R. Ginner

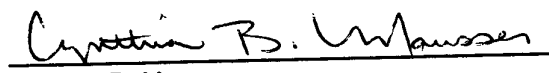

Jim Bedra


Sandra A. Mack


Patrick I. Milligan


Betty L. Mitchell


Peter Davis


Cynthia B. Mausser