



2/10/25

DENIAL PAROLE LETTER FOR JAMES HUGHES....

It is a bit of a surprise that James Hughes is already seeing the parole board again for review. Mr. Hughes last hearing was in 2023. The toll it took on Zeke Harris family was obvious. To think they must relive this ordeal once more after only 2 short years, is unconscionable.

Mr. Hughes has never demonstrated remorse or desire to admit accountability for his actions. A review of his incarceration and possible release status is unimaginable given those facts.

The crime Mr. Hughes committed was perhaps one of the most grizzly and brutal acts of murder this state has witnessed. Not only did he betray Zeke Harris good nature and trust by robbing him, but he also murdered Zeke Harris.

The murder was filled with an uncontrollable savage rage as Hughes beat Zeke Harris to death with a “ping hammer”, yes, a “ping hammer”. One cannot even begin to comprehend the depths of depravity as this murder unfolded in Zeke Harris furniture store.

Mr. Hughes would like to spend his retirement years in a care facility vs the prison environment. Perhaps that situation would be more

comfortable for him. I would argue that when he took the life of a senior citizen, he did not care about the victim's age. Zeke Harris was a 79 year old employed business owner, father, grandfather, and a wonderful citizen in the community.

Society does not owe Huges anything in return for the evil choices he has made in his life, and the lives he has destroyed.

A life sentence was appropriate for this individual, and he should serve that sentence out in custody of the Department of Corrections as an incarcerated inmate.

The family of Zeke Harris have been given a life sentence, "without parole" without "relief" and with pain and suffering all the days of their lives.

It is small consolation that James Hughes life remains incarcerated for his crimes.

All those in society must be kept safe from the darkness and potential for harm due to his volatile violent nature. This includes anyone, both working or residing in a health care facility outside of the prison walls. We have witnessed the consequences of bad decisions regarding compassionate release for older violent criminals. The risk outweighs any perceived benefits regarding Mr. Hughes.

In conclusion, The Alliance for Safe Communities requests denial of parole for James Hughes.

Respectfully,

Carolyn Medeiros

Executive Director Alliance for Safe Communities

