

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE CONSIDERATION TO
GOVERNOR TONY EVERS AND HIS TRANSITION TEAM**

1. **Name and number:** Ronald Scott Schilling #32219.
2. **Birth date and age:** DOB 5.29.51, currently 68 years old.
3. **Date and age at incarceration:** I have been incarcerated since 13 June 1975. I was a relatively immature 24 years old at that time.
4. **Years in prison:** I have served 45+ years to date.
5. **Offense description:** I was convicted of Party to the Crime of First Degree Murder, §§940.01, and 939.05, Wis. Stats., and Party to the Crime of Armed Robbery, §§943.32(1)(a), (2) and 939.05.
6. **Length of sentence:** My sentence structure is Life plus 5 years concurrent.
7. **Current prison:** I am currently housed at the Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution, in Plymouth, WI.
8. **Mandatory Release date:** There is no technical Mandatory Release date associated with my sentence.
9. **Parole eligibility:** Parole eligibility was statutorily set after 11.3 years; meaning that after serving 11.3 years the Legislature determined I could be safely released back to society, that was in April of 1987.
10. **Programs taken:** I have successfully completed all required program and treatment programs as of 1988, upon completion of the college degree program, and have subsequently obtained plural college degrees and completed dozens of elective programs and academic courses, and well as programs to enhance my education in general.
11. **Number of parole hearings and length of defers:** The parole commission has held 50+ parole hearings in this case. Historically, this state had a decreasing deferment system, where the deferment periods between parole hearings were steadily reduced as the prisoner successfully progressed through Maximum, to Medium and Minimum security facilities – with each reduction in deferment period signifying less risk and greater parole potential, until parole finally occurred. My deferment record since becoming parole eligible in 1987, is that of eighteen (18) 12-month defers, 3-11's, (then during the last trip to Oakhill Minimum) 5-8's, 3-4's, a 3-month deferment with a Parole Plan approved by the parole agent, an apartment rented and completely furnished with furniture, pots and pans, food, clothing, two jobs being held open, all support personnel

in place and waiting to take me to DMV and the parole office, the parole supervision rules were signed and even a parole report date scheduled. Yet instead of the parole grant everyone expected, the parole commission *doubled* the deferment to an allegedly “non-punitive” 6 month deferment, which was then followed by an 11, a 10, an 8, and currently this fresh series of 12-month defers. After 50+ hearings, I’ve reasonably concluded the process is seriously flawed, and – like many others – I waived the last couple of hearings.

12. **Official reason for parole deferments:** There are two denial criteria cited for each and every parole deferment; that being “insufficient time for punishment,” and some unspecified “risk to the public.” Neither allegation is in any way substantiated or valid.

13. **Verifiable support system:** I currently have an approved parole plan for Milwaukee; that is, housing, clothing, employment, transportation, and all support personnel are in place to assist me in getting to the parole office, and to the DMV to obtain a driver’s license and CDL for a transport driving job. The address is: 8750 W. National Avenue #203, Milwaukee, WI 53227-1675. I also have numerous letters of support from family and friends who will help if necessary.

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT INFORMATION

With the advent of COVID-19 Coronavirus, there is an obvious need to substantially reduce the prison population to avoid infection of those most vulnerable to the deadly virus spreading throughout the prison system. Those who have served substantial portions of their sentence, and have completed all of their treatment and program needs, and have otherwise demonstrated a level of honest rehabilitation should be the most likely candidates for release. I submit that I meet all of these criteria. Moreover, according to CDC guidelines, those aged individuals, those with preexisting conditions, and those with compromised immune systems should be released from the prison setting, either paroled or released, or released to home confinement. I also meet each of the CDC criteria as well.

Another relevant factor is a unique situation that has continually sabotaged my progression through the system.

When I first arrived in the system there were at least a dozen rookie guards working at Waupun who were relatives and close friends of the guy who died in my case. His uncle, Gerald Heeringa, was the Security Director at Waupun prior to and during my incarceration there, and then retired in the early 1990’s, and took a position serving on and making decisions for the parole commission. And all those relatives and friends who were rookies in Waupun in the beginning have now promoted through the system to where they are top officials at virtually all of the minimum security facilities. Moreover, they no longer hide their hostility when testing my resolve to work my way through and out of the system by sabotaging my impeccable work ethic – singling me out for “special” work assignments and, when that proves uneventful – eventually issuing false-charge conduct reports to have me returned to Medium security facilities.

The personnel mentioned above are employed in every facet of DOC. They have made this sentence incredibly challenging over the decades, to say nothing of the ways they negatively impact my ability to be found parole qualified. The situations they have created are responsible for having me returned from my rightfully-earned Minimum security to Medium security *six times*, since first transferring to Minimum in 1992. The first three return transfers were made without any allegation of a rule infraction, or so much as a conduct report. After complaining that they couldn't lawfully keep increasing my custody rating without due process; that is, a conduct report or due process disciplinary hearing, they responded, "Oh, so you want conduct reports, eh?" The fourth, fifth and sixth return transfers were facilitated merely using false-charge conduct reports.

Moreover, instructional classes are held for staff and civilians on how to make entries into the COMPAS system. I have even overheard guards speaking about retaliating against someone after he prevailed in a conduct report appeal, saying, "That's okay, I'll get him back through the COMPAS data entry." And nowadays, the family members and friends are influencing my situation from the streets; for instance, having a Dodge County parole officer place negative (and totally false) entries into the COMPAS data base, which DOC refuses to investigate and/or correct. It is interesting that this parole officer is conveniently no longer the agent of record. (And most peculiar because I was tried, convicted and sentenced in Dane County, and my parole file *should* be in Dane, yet the file was somehow mysteriously transferred to Dodge County, where the victim's family members and friends reside). That matter has been well documented and illustrated as a matter of record.

Since beginning the transition to Minimum security back in 1992, despite being a model prisoner in every respect and going well beyond all DOC expectations – obeying all the rules, and working harder than ten men (supervisor's language) – a variety of their shenanigans have resulted in my being returned from Minimum numerous times, the last occurrence being in 2012.

In 1992 I had every reason to expect I would be paroled in short order since my co-defendant (the so-called mastermind of the offense) was paroled on my birthday in 1992. My record was considerably better than his – he was returned to Maximum and Medium security settings numerous times because of horrendous conduct, strong-arming weaker prisoners, homosexual activity, drug use, and never participated in educational or treatment programming. All the while I continued keeping my nose clean, advancing my education, claiming plural college degrees, and dozens of certificates for successfully completing and voluntarily participating in numerous programs, and working hard to prove myself parole worthy.

While at the Gordon Minimum facility I received a 12-month deferment from the parole commission on the parole commission action paperwork. Yet, unbeknownst to me, the parole commission Chairperson Husz issued a secret memorandum in 1993 to the warden at that facility, stating I would have to serve "5+ years" before being "considered" for parole (tantamount to a phantom five-year deferment). Of course, Husz had no valid

reason or lawful authority to make such a determination, since I am supposed to be "considered" for parole at least once a year.

The phantom 5-year defer was sufficient to have me subsequently hoicked from Minimum security *three* times, absent any semblance of due process; no conduct report, no disciplinary hearing, nothing. After the third return to a Medium facility, the same parole commission Chairperson issued a secret letter in 1996 to the Fox Lake Correctional Institution Program Review Committee (PRC) Coordinator, stating that he intended to get at least twenty-five (25) years out of me (tantamount to a phantom four-year deferment). Again, such a maneuver was without provocation or legal basis for that decision.

The parole apparatus has failed in numerous ways. On 10 January 2006 three cases were granted parole by then parole Chairperson Wells at a public meeting in front of numerous citizens and prison reform advocates lobbying for my release. When pressed on the matter by the lobbyists – since they had been told numerous times at prior public meetings that the commission was planning for my release – the chairperson stated that I would "be released in 30 days or sooner." And yet despite that pointed public statement the others were released, I was not. It became obvious to everyone that someone had spun the chairperson after the fact because he had fully considered all the valid and relevant criteria for granting parole.

When the above is coupled with the systemic problems – the manifest changes in classification and parole policy and general shifting sentiment – it cumulatively halts and prevents my progression through and release from the system, culminating in the complete elimination of parole release after serving 45+ years of continuous incarceration. It pragmatically changes my sentence to "terminal." This, despite the fact that parole eligibility is statutorily prescribed at 11.3 years on a "life" sentence, and the sentencing judge intended for me to serve no more than the mean average length of time which, in 1975, was 13.6 years, absent extenuating circumstances.

It is my hope that you will find this matter appalling and even disgusting for myriad moral and ethical reasons and that in the interest of fairness and justice you render your decision as you would wish for yourself under similar circumstance. I feel my sentence has been served with all due honor, remorse, stellar rehabilitation and impeccable behavior.

I thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this matter, and graciously await your response.

Sincerely,

Ronald Schilling