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NEWS
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Clemency not recommended for Brett X. Hartman

(Akron) ... Today, the Ohio Parole Board unanimously recommended against clemency for Brett Hartman, 35, currently in prison and sentenced to death for the 1997 murder of Winda Snipes, 46, of Akron.

A Clemency Hearing was previously held on March 6, 2009. At that hearing, the Parole Board recommended against clemency for Hartman in a unanimous vote.

Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh gave testimony against clemency at the March 6, 2009 hearing. She stated at the hearing, "Brett Hartman has tried to emphasize the good things he has done during his incarceration. That may well be, but no amount of good deeds can erase the horror and brutality of the crime committed by the defendant. After all this time, Brett Hartman still has not shown any remorse for killing Winda Snipes and he certainly showed no mercy when he tortured and killed her. He refuses to accept responsibility. The evidence has continuously pointed to one thing; Brett Xavier Hartman killed Winda Snipes. I am pleased with the recommendation of the parole board."

On September 9, 1997, Brett Hartman brutally murdered Winda Snipes. Winda was beaten, stabbed one hundred thirty-eight times, strangled, her throat was cut, and her hands - which have never been found - were cut off.

The Parole Board based its decision today largely on the following:

- The brutality in which Snipes was murdered, including the severing of her hands;
- Hartman placed himself at the scene of the crime;
- Snipes' watch was found in his bedroom
- Hartman's print found in blood near the victim and semen found in Snipe's anal cavity close to her time of death;
- Hartmann has repeatedly denied involvement in this case and asked for further testing of evidence. In 2006, his request to test the semen found in the victim's anal cavity was granted. The DNA test results were a match to Hartman.

Gov. John Kasich will review the Parole Board's unfavorable recommendation for clemency and then decide if Hartman's execution set for August 16, 2011 will go forward.