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NEWS
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Ohio Parole Board Unanimously Recommends Hartman be Denied Clemency
Final decision rests with Governor Kasich

AKRON, OHIO – October 18, 2012 – Summit County Prosecuting Attorney Sherri Bevan Walsh today announced that the Ohio Parole Board unanimously voted to recommend convicted murderer Brett Hartman be denied clemency. This is the third time the Board has recommended against clemency. Hartman’s clemency request and the Board’s recommendation now go to Governor John Kasich, who makes the final decision to grant or deny clemency.

A jury convicted Hartman in 1998 of two counts of Aggravated Murder, Kidnapping and Tampering with Evidence in the 1997 death of Winda Snipes, a 46-year-old Akron woman. Hartman tied Snipes to her bed, stabbed her 138 times, slit her throat and cut off her hands. Her hands were never found.

“Brett Hartman committed an especially gruesome crime when he brutally murdered and mutilated Winda Snipes. He continues to twist facts and lie to the Parole Board,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “This is the third time Hartman has requested clemency, and this is the third time the Parole Board has recommended against clemency. I hope Governor Kasich follows the recommendation of the Ohio Parole Board and denies Hartman clemency once and for all so that the family and friends of Winda Snipes can finally have some sense of closure.”

In its recommendation against clemency, the Board found that no new evidence existed that would have changed either the outcome of the trial or the jury’s recommendation of the death penalty. Rather, the Board concluded that, had additional mitigating evidence been presented at trial that Hartman argues would have swayed the jury to reject capital punishment, “a jury would be more convinced that Hartman was capable of committing this heinous crime, and would not have changed the recommendation.”

Hartman’s execution is scheduled for November 13, 2012.

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Note to editors: The Ohio Parole Board’s full clemency report can be read [here](#).