

**EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**April 21, 2021**

**RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE PAROLE FOR  
SERIAL KILLER DON GENE MILLER**

Commissioner Barnes moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Mulder.

**WHEREAS**, on January 1, 1977, nineteen-year-old Michigan State University coed Martha Sue Young was reported missing from her East Lansing home after spending the evening with her former fiancé Don Gene Miller; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 14, 1978, twenty-seven-year-old Michigan State University coed Marita Choquette was reported missing from her Grand Ledge apartment; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 27, 1978, Marita Choquette's body was discovered in Ingham County's Alaiendon Township, having been stabbed nineteen times; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 27, 1978, twenty-one-year-old Michigan State University coed Wendy Bush was last seen on the MSU campus and was reported missing the following morning; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 14, 1978, thirty-year-old East Lansing resident Kristine Stuart was reported missing from her East Lansing home, having last been seen at the intersection of Coolidge and Fair Oaks in the City of East Lansing; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 16, 1978, a home break-in occurred on Canal Road in Eaton County's Delta Township; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 16, 1978, fourteen-year-old Lisa Gilbert was restrained with nylons and raped during the Delta Township break-in, and the suspect then began to strangle her with her own belt; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 16, 1978, thirteen-year-old Randy Gilbert interrupted the attempted murder of his sister, and after the suspect attempted to cut his throat, he was strangled by the suspect to the point of unconsciousness, then stabbed twice in the chest; and

**WHEREAS**, Lisa Gilbert was able to flee the house to flag down passing motorists for help, and both teens survived the brutal attack; and

**WHEREAS**, a passing motorist was able to confront the suspect and remember the license plate number to his vehicle before he fled the scene; and

**WHEREAS**, based upon the license number and identification of the suspect from photographs, serial killer Don Gene Miller was arrested in East Lansing within an hour after the Eaton County assault; and

**WHEREAS**, while awaiting trial in Eaton County, an Ingham County grand jury indicted serial killer Don Gene Miller for second degree murder in the deaths of Martha Sue Young and Kristine Stuart, whose bodies still hadn't been located; and

**WHEREAS**, in May of 1979, the Eaton County Prosecutor Attorney's Office successfully convicted serial killer Don Gene Miller for the rape and attempted murder of the Gilbert children, and he was sentenced to thirty to fifty years in prison; and

**WHEREAS**, after the Eaton County conviction of serial killer Don Gene Miller, the Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney offered serial killer Don Gene Miller a plea bargain, wherein, he would lead authorities to the bodies of his victims, and the second-degree murder charges would be reduced to manslaughter charges; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the Ingham County plea bargain, serial killer Don Gene Miller led investigators to the remains of Martha Sue Young and Kristine Stuart in Clinton County and the remains of Wendy Bush in Eaton County's Delta Township at the intersection of Broadbent Road and Huckleberry Lane; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1994, serial killer Don Gene Miller possessed a garrote, or strangulation device in his prison dorm at the Kinross Correctional Facility in Michigan's Chippewa County; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1998, while serial killer Don Gene Miller was preparing to be released from prison after having served the minimum time, the Eaton County Prosecuting Attorney discovered that Miller had not been charged with a criminal offense in the garrote case, and working in conjunction with the Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the Chippewa County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, successfully prosecuted serial killer Don Gene Miller in Chippewa County for possessing a dangerous weapon inside the prison and for being an habitual offender; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the conviction secured by the Eaton County Prosecuting Attorney, the Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and the Chippewa County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Don Gene Miller was sentenced to an additional twenty to forty years in prison; and

**WHEREAS**, serial killer Don Gene Miller has been eligible for parole nine times in the past and is eligible for parole again in 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, survivor Randy Gilbert, who was viciously attacked in 1978 by serial killer Don Gene Miller at the age of thirteen, now volunteers his free time to serve the citizens of Eaton County as a Volunteer in Police Service for the Eaton County Sheriff's Office.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners ardently oppose any parole or early release of serial killer Don Gene Miller.

Seconded by Commissioner. Roll call vote. Ayes: Tim Barnes, Blake Mulder, Terrance Augustine, Brandon Haskell, Jeanne Pearl-Wright, Jane M. Whitacre, Mark Mudry, Joseph Brehler, Brian Droscha, Dairus Reynnet, Wayne Ridge, Brian Lautzenheiser, Jim Mott, Jeremy Whittum, Barbara Rogers. Nays: None. Carried.