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Clinton Dickens Denied Parole for Brutal 1986 Murder of College Students

AKRON, Ohio (Friday, April 22, 2022) – Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that the Ohio Parole Board has denied parole for Clinton Dickens. Dickens, 53, is serving a life sentence after being convicted in the 1986 rape and murder of 21-year-old Wendy Offredo and 20-year-old Dawn McCreery.

Dickens was originally eligible for parole in 2071. However, a new Ohio law (SB 256), which went into effect last spring, gives those under 18 who were convicted of crimes the opportunity for parole after serving between 18 and 30 years in prison depending on their crimes.

On August 31, 1986, 21-year-old Wendy Offredo and 20-year-old Dawn McCreery, both University of Akron students, had just left their jobs at a local restaurant and were driving southbound on I-77 in Akron. At the time, 19-year-old Richard Coeey, 17-year-old Clinton Dickens, and a third teen were tossing rocks off a highway overpass overlooking I-77. As the two girls approached the Stoner Street Bridge near the Copley Road exit, Dickens threw a large piece of concrete from the highway overpass which smashed through the car's front windshield.

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Dickens, Coeey, and the third teen went down to the highway to see the damage they caused. After speaking with the girls, Coeey drove them to a nearby payphone where Wendy called her mother. After the call, Coeey and Dickens kidnapped the girls and drove them to a remote area in Norton, where they raped, beat and strangled the girls. Coeey and Dickens then dragged the bodies into the bushes. The third teen had left prior to Dickens and Coeey kidnapping the girls.

“This was a horrible crime, which is still being felt to this day nearly 36 years later. Wendy and Dawn were loved by everyone who knew them. It absolutely sickens me to think about what they went through,” said Prosecutor Walsh. “Coeey and Dickens are pure evil and Dickens should never be let out of prison. We will continue the fight to keep him locked up and to keep the community safe.”

In 2008, following years of legal battles, the State of Ohio executed Coeey for the murders.