



BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

Local Officials Voice Support for Family of Murder Victim Cheri Lindsey as Killer Considered for Special Parole

(TOWN OF DICKINSON, NY) Broome County leaders are rallying behind the family of murder victim Cheri Lindsey as her murderer is being considered for parole for a second time in the same year.

James Wales was convicted for the rape and murder of 12-year-old Cheri Lindsey in 1984 and sentenced to 33 years-to-life. After becoming eligible for parole in 2017, Wales has been denied for parole four times, including earlier this year. Despite being denied parole in April, Wales is once again being considered by the New York State Parole Board for a potential release, this time on medical parole.

According to the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) Office of Victim Assistance, to be eligible for medical parole, the incarcerated individual must be "suffering from a terminal condition, disease or syndrome and be so debilitated or incapacitated as to be physically or cognitively incapable of presenting any danger to society."

Cheri Lindsey's family was notified late last week that Wales had been approved to be interviewed by the Parole Board due to a "non-terminal medical condition" sometime in the coming month.

Broome County Sheriff Fred Akshar, along with Broome County Executive Jason Garnar, Binghamton Mayor and members of the Broome County Legislature gathered in support of the Lindsey family on Thursday to urge the community to contact the Parole Board and recommend a fifth denial of parole for Wales.

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“James Wales committed an unspeakable and gruesome crime, murdering an innocent 12-year-old girl and depriving a loving family of their beloved daughter and sister,” said Sheriff Fred Akshar. “He should never see the light of day. We are gathered in solidarity with the family of Cheri Lindsey and asking the community to once again rally behind them to help ensure the Parole Board keeps Mr. Wales exactly where he belongs for the rest of his life.”

“The scars of the Cheri Lindsey tragedy are still very much with Binghamton’s North Side and the City of Binghamton as a whole,” said Binghamton Mayor Jared M. Kraham. “Every time Cheri’s murderer is considered for parole, our community relives the trauma of that day. There are no circumstances under which James Wales should be released from prison. I join members of law enforcement and the Lindsey family in urging the Parole Board to deny his parole.”

“James Wales committed one of the most horrific crimes in the history of our city – the brutal rape and murder of a 12-year-old girl,” said Binghamton Police Chief Joseph T. Zikuski. “I was a patrolman in the Binghamton Police Department when Cheri Lindsey was killed. It’s unfathomable her murderer could be released. I stand with the Lindsey family, members of local law enforcement and the broader Binghamton community in asking the Parole Board to deny the parole of James Wales.”

"The heartbreak felt by everyone in Broome County following Cheri Lindsey's horrific murder will never go away and the man who caused this pain within our community should never be free," said County Executive Jason Garnar. "I am encouraging everyone to make their voices heard and share letters of opposition to James Wales's release. We owe it to Cheri and her family to make sure he remains in jail for the rest of his life."

“Cheri Lindsey had a full life ahead of her that was cut short due to a criminal that cannot manage nor control any emotions,” said Broome County Legislature Chairman and 5th District Legislator Dan J. Reynolds. “This violent criminal poses a clear, continued threat to everyone in our community. I don’t believe this individual should be released and his medical condition doesn’t negate the heinous actions he committed. He was sent to prison for a reason, and he can receive the necessary medical care while incarcerated.”

Community members who would like to submit letters of opposition to Wales’ parole can do so by following this link: <https://doccs.ny.gov/form/letters-in-support-or-opposition> and reference the following information regarding James Wales:

Name: James B. Wales
DIN: 84C1060

Early this year, Cheri Lindsey’s father, Dave Lindsey, died at the age of 81. A former Binghamton Police Officer and Broome County Legislator, Dave Lindsey became a lifelong community advocate for crime victims’ rights after his daughter’s murder. The Lindsey family

partnered with local volunteers and donors to establish a scholarship fund for Binghamton High School students as well as the Cheri Lindsey Memorial Fund, which has funded park improvements and various donations to Toys for Tots, the Humane Society and Binghamton schools over the past 40 years. In 1984, Stow Park on the Northside of Binghamton was renamed Cheri A. Lindsey Memorial Park.

The Lindsey family released the following statement:

“We would like to thank everyone for their continuous support. Before our dad passed, we as a family assured him that we would continue his and our mother’s fight. It has already been a very difficult year for us and now this. How many parole hearings is this convicted murder going to be allowed to have? Our family has lived in a terminal hell since this monster killed our sister and daughter. Many prisoners die in prison, that’s what James Wales needs to do, he has no right to ever be a free man again. Please write your letters to the NYS Parole Board and include James Wales Din# 84C1060. His hearing will be held within a month, we are begging you to help us keep James Wales in jail!”

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