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## **Man cleared in old police shooting seeks parole**

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PHILADELPHIA - Attorneys for a 74-year-old man acquitted of murder charges five months ago are urging the state parole board to release him.

William Barnes has been in prison since the August 2007 death of police Officer Walter Barclay, whom Barnes shot and paralyzed in a botched burglary four decades earlier. Barnes served 16 years for attempted murder in the Barclay case and was charged with his murder after Barclay died. A jury exonerated him in May after a weeklong trial.

In legal documents filed with the parole board Monday, Barnes' attorneys call his continued imprisonment "illogical and unjust."

Assistant District Attorney Ed Cameron, lead prosecutor in Barnes' murder trial, said he had not seen the filing and could not comment on it. He said parole will not go unopposed, however, because the officer's relatives and Fraternal Order of Police officials vowed after the trial to fight any plan to release Barnes.

Barclay was a 23-year-old rookie responding to a report of a prowler when Barnes, then a 30-year-old with a long criminal record, gunned him down Nov. 27, 1966.

Paralyzed from the waist down, Barclay endured years of infections and bedsores. He died at age 64 of complications from a urinary tract infection.

Prosecutors, in charging Barnes with murder, said the paralysis set in motion an unbroken chain of events that ended in Barclay's death four decades later.

At trial, Barnes' lawyers said Barclay suffered from falls, car accidents and caretaker abuse over the succeeding decades that contributed to his demise.

Barnes was acquitted, but he returned to prison for having a cell phone and a car without his parole officer's approval. He was given the minimum, three months, for each of those violations, time he completed more than two years ago.

Barnes, who also has convictions for unrelated robberies and escape attempts, spent most of his life in prison and was paroled in April 2007. Defense attorney Samuel Silver contends the parole board's reasons for releasing him still stand: He expressed remorse for his actions, he was employed and performing community service after his release, he has stayed out of trouble, and has shown no evidence of returning to a life of crime.

"In short, Mr. Barnes has exhibited the precise type of conduct, both within the correctional system and outside, that warrants the granting of parole," Silver argues in the legal brief.

Silver also said that the board's denial of parole in 2009, when Barnes was awaiting trial, is based on arguments that aren't supported by evidence and contradict the good report from two years earlier granting his parole.

At the time of his arrest, Barnes was living in a halfway house and working at a supermarket. He also was lecturing at Temple University and Eastern State Penitentiary, now a museum, where he once served time.