



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety

Parole Board

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

LEO FARRIER

W43362

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: August 9, 2011

DATE OF DECISION: September 12, 2012

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Cesar Archilla, John Bocon, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Ina Howard-Hogan, Roger Michel, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Josh Wall

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Parole is denied with a review in five years. The decision is unanimous.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Leo Farrier, at age 36, raped a ten-year-old girl while threatening her with a gun in the child's Dorchester apartment on June 30, 1986. When the child's mother, Willie Ann Newberry, returned home just after the rape, Mr. Farrier killed her by shooting her in the head and neck as the child watched. Prior to the killing, Ms. Newberry begged Farrier, her boyfriend of 4 1/2 years, not to shoot her in front of her children. Mr. Farrier was identified by the 10-year-old victim as the person who shot her mother. Mr. Farrier was arrested the next morning when he turned himself in to the Boston Police.

On March 13, 1987, Mr. Farrier pled guilty in Suffolk Superior Court to second-degree murder, assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon, and rape of a child. Mr. Farrier received a life sentence for Ms. Newberry's murder, a 9 to 10 year concurrent sentence for the assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon charge, and a 4 to 10 year sentence for rape of a child to be served from and after the life sentence.

Mr. Farrier's criminal record includes prior offenses for larceny, possession of burglarious tools and breaking and entering in the night time.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON AUGUST 9, 2011

At his parole hearing, Mr. Farrier presented an opening statement stating that he accepted responsibility for his criminal behavior, but failed to express any meaningful remorse for his horrific conduct and its far-reaching harm. Mr. Farrier was questioned about the serious credibility issues he has created for himself in previous testimony. He told a preposterous story at parole hearings in 2002 and 2008 that included many falsehoods. As the 2008 decision noted, Mr. Farrier presented himself as a victim rather than a perpetrator. Mr. Farrier gave a more forthcoming statement at this hearing but was still in conflict with the evidence (most importantly, the child's statements) on important points.

Mr. Farrier completed the Sex Offender Treatment Program on June 3, 2008. Although the treatment team presented Mr. Farrier for determination of program completion, the team expressed concerns about Mr. Farrier's "lack of participation in treatment community and some of his classes." The team noted in its referral for program completion that "staff members have voiced their concerns with his current status of 35 months in Core Treatment and not having a full picture of Mr. Farrier. It was difficult for the treatment team to formulate an accurate assessment of Mr. Farrier for this reason." Mr. Farrier himself admitted to treatment center staff that he needed to gain additional insight into his "anger" issues.

During his closing statement Mr. Farrier acknowledged that he needs to continue to work on issues of resentment and power and control. As one Board Member told him, his claim of no prior violent incidents with Ms. Newberry is inconsistent with other information describing additional acts of domestic violence.

III. DECISION

Mr. Farrier demonstrated an extraordinary level of sexual deviance and violence in raping a child and murdering her mother. He appears unmoved by the consequences of his actions. He completed sex offender core treatment but he does not show sufficient rehabilitation and treatment evaluations record limited progress. He continues to have unresolved anger issues. It is the unanimous opinion of the Board that Mr. Farrier's release is incompatible with the welfare of society and that it is reasonably probable that he will re-offend if released on parole. Accordingly, parole is denied.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing.



Timothy V. Dooling, General Counsel

9/12/12

Date