



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety



PAROLE BOARD
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Chairman

DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

DENNIS PAUL

W33970

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: February 28, 2012

DATE OF DECISION: October 1, 2012

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

DECISION OF THE BOARD: After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, institutional record, the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude by a unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole at this time. Parole is denied with a review in five years.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On September 11, 1974, Mr. Paul pled guilty in Plymouth Superior Court to second-degree murder and received a life sentence for the murder of a fellow inmate at Bridgewater State Hospital, Edward Rastellini. Mr. Rastellini was stabbed to death with a sharpened butter knife on November 6, 1973. The autopsy revealed that the cause of death was seven stab wounds which penetrated Mr. Rastellini's chest wall. Mr. Paul and his co-defendants believed that Mr. Rastellini was an informant who gave officials information regarding their plans to escape from the institution. Mr. Paul pled guilty to the murder and testified against his co-defendants in the case.

At the time this sentence was imposed, Mr. Paul was serving a 15 to 20 year sentence for manslaughter, a 15 to 20 year sentence for armed robbery, a 5 to 10 year sentence for armed robbery, and a 3 to 5 year sentence for unlawfully carrying a firearm, all concurrent sentences imposed on February 6, 1973. These offenses resulted from an armed robbery of a Radio Shack store in Revere, after which Mr. Paul was involved in a car chase.

During the chase, Mr. Paul crashed into another vehicle, killing a female passenger of that car, Mae Molander, and injuring five others. He committed these offenses while on escape from the Billerica House of Corrections where he had been awaiting trial on firearm and motor vehicle charges.

II. INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

Mr. Paul's institutional conduct has been especially violent. He has accrued approximately 45 disciplinary reports over the course of his incarceration. He has received three disciplinary reports since his last parole hearing: failure to show for an appointment in May 2011; stealing in January 2011; and a failed drug test (positive for Vicodin and Klonopin) in October 2009.

Mr. Paul's criminal history includes two additional stabbing incidents. Mr. Paul stabbed J. J. Kelleher, another inmate, while awaiting trial on the manslaughter and armed robbery charges. While incarcerated for his current offenses at MCI Cedar Junction, prior to his transfer to Rhode Island, Mr. Paul stabbed inmate William Langton.

Mr. Paul was transferred to the Rhode Island Adult Correctional Institution in February 1980, due to protection and gambling issues, and has remained in that institution. In February 1992, Mr. Paul received a one-year from and after sentence for possession of a weapon while incarcerated.

Since his last parole hearing in February 2009 he has completed several programs including Trauma, Victim Impact, Violence Reduction, and NA/AA. In addition, he is currently enrolled in the following programs: Substance Abuse Treatment – Level II; Exodus Pre-release Transitional Group; and Providence Center: Substance Abuse Program.

III. PAROLE HISTORY

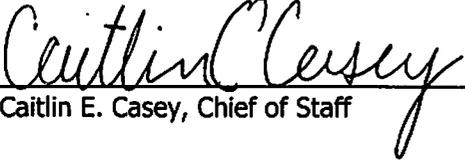
On Tuesday, February 28, 2012, Dennis Paul appeared before the Massachusetts Parole Board for a Review Hearing. This is Mr. Paul's eighth appearance before the Board since August 1989, all resulting in denial. Most recently in its 2009 decision, the Board stated that his "efforts at rehabilitation remain minimal, having done little to address his violence and substance abuse issues".

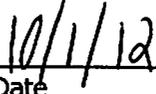
IV. DECISION

Mr. Paul's criminal record identifies him as a very dangerous person. He has killed two people and stabbed two others. He made no effort or progress towards rehabilitation during the first 32 years of his life sentence. After the passage of three decades, and seven parole denials, Mr. Paul finally reached a point where he decided to invest some effort in reforming his character and behavior. This is commendable. A few years of improved effort and conduct is insufficient to reduce Mr. Paul's risk of violence to the low level suitable for community supervision. If released at this time he would be likely to re-offend and his release is incompatible with the welfare of society. Parole is therefore denied. Mr. Paul should continue

with a commitment to programs and eliminate all disciplinary incidents. Because of the amount of work remaining for Mr. Paul, there is no reason to reduce the review period of five years.

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


Caitlin E. Casey, Chief of Staff


Date