



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety



PAROLE BOARD

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

MICHAEL AMMAN

W38034

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: December 4, 2012

DATE OF DECISION: February 7, 2013

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Cesar Archilla, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sheila Dupre, Ina Howard-Hogan, 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, we conclude by 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 November 23, 1979, Michael Amman and his co-defendant, Lawrence Licciardi, kidnapped, raped, and murdered fifteen year old Jane Doe¹ in Dorchester. Miss Doe was stabbed sixteen times, and raped vaginally and anally. Mr. Amman was seventeen at the time of the offense.

On February 2, 1981, Mr. Amman pleaded guilty to second degree murder, two counts of rape of a child under the age of sixteen, and kidnapping in Suffolk Superior Court. He was sentenced to serve concurrent terms of life in prison for the second degree murder and rape convictions, and a concurrent 9-10 year prison term for kidnapping. He has not appealed his convictions. Mr. Amman testified against Mr. Licciardi during a jury trial, and Mr. Licciardi was subsequently convicted of first degree murder. Mr. Licciardi then filed a motion for a new trial during which Mr. Amman, upon the request of Mr. Licciardi's sister and wife, falsely recanted his

¹ A pseudonym. G.L. c. 265, § 24C.

prior trial testimony and took responsibility for the entirety of the crime. Mr. Licciardi's motion was denied.

On the day of the murder, Mr. Amman and Mr. Licciardi had consumed alcohol and angel dust and were walking around Dorchester together when Mr. Licciardi suggested that they find a girl to rape. Mr. Amman agreed. They soon came upon Miss Doe, who was with her dog. Both men knew Miss Doe, and considered her to be an easy target for their plan. Mr. Amman felt that Miss Doe had betrayed him while they were staying together at the same foster home and, as a result, wanted revenge. The men told Miss Doe that they were going to commit a robbery and needed her to serve as a lookout. She agreed. They walked to a secluded location nearby, tied her dog to a tree, and tackled Miss Doe. Mr. Amman tied her hands with a rope that he had stolen.

Mr. Amman went into a nearby concrete shed and cleared an area on the ground. Mr. Licciardi took Miss Doe into the shed and cut the ropes that were binding her hands with a knife that Mr. Amman had given him. Mr. Amman stood watch outside the shed while Mr. Licciardi raped Miss Doe. Mr. Licciardi emerged from the shed and told Mr. Amman that it was his turn. When Mr. Amman entered the shed, Miss Doe was hunched in a corner. As he grabbed her, she pleaded with him not to rape her and offered to give him oral sex to placate him. He agreed and, as she was performing oral sex, Mr. Licciardi walked back into the shed and came up behind Miss Doe. She reacted by biting Mr. Amman, which caused him to start punching her in the head. He then anally raped her until he ejaculated.

Mr. Amman left the shed to check on and release Miss Doe's now barking dog. As he was coming back, he heard her screaming. He entered the shed and saw Mr. Licciardi stabbing Miss Doe with the knife that he had given to Mr. Licciardi. Mr. Amman kicked her body and she did not move. He took the knife back and the two fled. Mr. Amman went back to the shed two days later to meet Mr. Licciardi and dispose of the body, but Mr. Licciardi did not show up. When Mr. Amman went inside the shed, Miss Doe's body was not in the same position that it had been when they left.

Miss Doe's body was discovered almost two weeks later by a young boy who was playing by the nearby train tracks.

II. INSTITUTIONAL CONDUCT

Mr. Amman has received a total of 14 disciplinary reports since his incarceration, most recently in 2009 for possession of contraband. In 2007, he received a disciplinary report for assaulting another inmate after he lost his temper. He has received numerous lateral transfers during his incarceration, and was classified to a higher custody status once in 1998.

He completed his GED while in custody and has had a number of work assignments including working in the kitchen and at the print shop.

Mr. Amman was found to be a sexually dangerous person in 1985, and completed CORE treatment at the Massachusetts Treatment Center. He continues to attend sex offender treatment program aftercare maintenance and weekly AA/NA meetings, but is not participating in any other programs or classes.

III. PAROLE HEARING ON DECEMBER 4, 2012

Mr. Amman appeared before the Board for his fourth parole hearing after having served 32 years in prison. He waived his first hearing in 1995 after having served fifteen years. At this hearing, Mr. Amman admitted that he was full of anger and rage the day that he raped Miss Doe and participated in her murder. He further admitted that he needed and sought the approval of Mr. Licciardi, which spurred him to retract his trial testimony to support Mr. Licciardi's motion for a new trial.

With respect to the rape and murder of Miss Doe, Mr. Amman admitted that he did not see her as a person, and degraded her by calling her derogatory names while he was sexually assaulting her. He admitted that he was angry at her because of prior interactions that they had had at a foster home. He further acknowledged the fear and confusion Miss Doe must have felt during her last moments alive.

He disclosed that this was not the only incident of sexual misconduct prior to his incarceration. He informed the Board that he, Mr. Licciardi, and two other men had kidnapped a hitchhiker. The men held her at knife point and vaginally raped her before letting her go. He also told the Board that he had watched a neighbor undress, had grabbed a woman's buttocks, and had offered a thirteen year old girl money in exchange for sex. In addition to these uncharged offenses, and the crimes for which he is currently incarcerated, Mr. Amman's criminal history includes eight juvenile arraignments and one adult arraignment (he was seventeen at the time of the rape and murder of Miss Doe).

The Board expressed concern that Mr. Amman's evaluations from the Sex Offender Treatment Program at MCI-Gardner indicate that he does not actively participate in the meetings. Instead, he freely offers criticism and feedback to others, but declines to share anything personal about his own experience and treatment. When questioned about this, he admitted that he has "trust issues" and that it is difficult for him to divulge personal information. The Board further expressed concern that Mr. Amman has been diagnosed as suffering from psychopathic personality disorder and antisocial personality disorder, two diagnoses indicating that Mr. Amman lacks the ability to feel compassion or empathy for others, and that he is still classified as a Sexually Dangerous Person. Mr. Amman agreed that treatment is "paramount" to not re-offending, and that he needs to participate in his treatment more.

While acknowledging that Mr. Amman had a difficult and abusive childhood, the Board noted that Mr. Amman's support system outside of the institution is lacking. He maintains minimal contact with family, and has only one friend outside the institution.

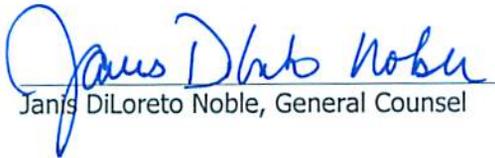
IV. DECISION

Michael Amman was a destructive force in his community prior to his incarceration for the exceedingly brutal rape and murder of a fifteen year old girl. He remains a sexually dangerous person and has taken no steps to remove that classification. He has participated in sex offender treatment without meeting program expectations. Considering these factors, the Board concludes that Mr. Amman is not rehabilitated. He would be likely to re-offend if

released and his release is incompatible with the welfare of society. Accordingly, parole is denied.

Mr. Amman is encouraged to participate fully in his sex offender treatment programs, remove his classification as a sexually dangerous person, and take personal inventory of the reasons behind his antisocial behavior. He should also make efforts to foster positive personal relationships with individuals who will be able to support his rehabilitation and transition back into society.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing. This signature does not indicate authorship of the decision.


Janis DiLoreto Noble, General Counsel

2/7/13
Date