



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety



PAROLE BOARD

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

WILLIAM VEILLETTE

W39952

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: February 26, 2013

DATE OF DECISION: February 7, 2014

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Cesar Archilla, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Shelia 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, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in writing, 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 from the date of the hearing.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

William Veillette appeared before the Massachusetts Parole Board for a review hearing on the life sentence he is currently serving at MCI-Norfolk. Veillette received this sentence in Middlesex Superior Court on September 23, 1983 after pleading guilty to second-degree murder in the stabbing death of 55-year-old Hermine Thibeault.

On March 12, 1983 at approximately 11 p.m., William Veillette encountered Hermine Thibeault at a bar in Lowell, where they drank, talked and danced. Upon leaving the bar, Veillette and Ms. Thibeault returned to Ms. Thibeault's apartment. At some point while in Ms. Thibeault's apartment, Veillette stabbed the victim numerous times resulting in seven stab wounds to her chest, two slash wounds to her hand, a small puncture to the left side of her neck, and defensive wounds to her left palm. Additionally, Ms. Thibeault suffered blunt injuries to her face and head.

After this brutal and unprovoked attack, Veillette walked to a convenience store and admitted to a store clerk that he had killed a woman "because she pissed me off, she was a cockteaser." While at the store, Veillette placed a call to the Lowell Police department informing that a murder occurred on the 22nd floor of Post Office Square and he stated "I left my wallet in there. Are you going to do anything about it, asshole?" After leaving the store, Veillette went to Carol Chamberland's apartment where he showered and discarded his watch and the knife he used to kill Ms. Thibeault. He admitted to Ms. Chamberland that he stabbed the victim repeatedly until there was no life left in her. Mr. Veillette was arrested by the Lowell Police Department while driving to work later that same day.

Forensic evidence from the autopsy established that Veillette had sexual intercourse with the victim. The timing and circumstances of the sexual activity on that night are unknown.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON FEBRUARY 26, 2013

William Veillette had an initial parole hearing on February 24, 2000¹, followed by a review hearing in 2003 and in 2008. After each hearing, the Board denied parole and set a five year review date noting that Veillette no longer seemed motivated to work on his rehabilitation. The Board was also concerned about Veillette's insistence of experiencing a "blackout" when he brutally murdered Ms. Thibeault, despite providing a detailed statement to a witness shortly thereafter. Veillette was advised by the Board to become involved in programming to work on his rehabilitation.

At this review hearing Board Members questioned Veillette about the murder, underlying anger issues, and substance abuse issues. Board Members observed that Veillette continued to display little insight into why he stabbed to death an innocent woman while consistently denying that he recalls details of his brutal behavior. Veillette stated to the Board, "I will not come before this Board again until I remember what happened."

Since his last hearing, Veillette has engaged in minimal programming. Several Board Members questioned Veillette about his substance abuse history and his lack of programming to address his sobriety. Although Veillette admitted that he drank prior to the murder and that he had previously been involved in physical altercations while drunk, he refuses to participate in AA/NA meetings while incarcerated. He stated, "I stopped attending AA a long time ago.... the meetings are a place for guys to get their drugs and alcohol." A Board Member responded to this statement by informing the inmate that it did not appear that he thought thoroughly about his issues with alcohol or his sobriety. Veillette was advised to "get to work" in improving his rehabilitative efforts. Currently, Veillette is unemployed and participates in the chess club.

There were no supporters of parole in attendance. The victim's son, John Thibeault, daughter, Pat Morneault, and granddaughters, Jennifer Santos and Erica Belanger testified in opposition to Veillette's parole. Middlesex County Assistant District Attorney Felicia Sullivan opposed parole pointing out Veillette's failure to identify his anger triggers.

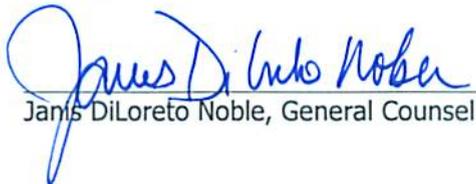
¹ Veillette's initial hearing on February 18, 1998 was invalidated due to the full Board not being present.

III. DECISION

William Veillette committed a brutal murder of a woman he had just met and consistently denies recalling any details of his brutal behavior. He has little insight into his volatile behavior and a lack of investment in rehabilitation, as shown by his minimal programming and refusal to participate in AA/NA meetings. The crime is either a sexual assault murder or a murder connected to sexual activity. The conclusion that the murder is connected to sexual motive or sexual activity is based on the circumstances of the crime, the forensic evidence, and the statements Veillette made to a friend. Veillette's rehabilitative path, therefore, is long and difficult. His lack of memory, whether true or fabricated, complicates the process of rehabilitation and is an impediment to establishing that he is not a current risk to public safety.

The standard for parole as set out in 120 C.M.R. 300.04, which provides that "Parole board members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such an offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." Applying this standard, the Board concludes that Mr. Veillette is not suitable for parole because he is not rehabilitated. The Board expressed concern with Mr. Veillette's minimal program participation and choice to not participate in AA/NA and other substance abuse programming. The review will be in five years, during which time Mr. Veillette should get started with his rehabilitation to address issues of violence, sexual violence, anger, substance abuse, lack of candor, lack of remorse, and victim empathy.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing. Pursuant to G.L. c. 127, § 130, I further certify that all voting Board Members have reviewed the applicant's entire criminal record. This signature does not indicate authorship of the decision.


Janis DiLoreto Noble, General Counsel


Date