



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

AARON MORIN
W101766

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: September 26, 2024

DATE OF DECISION: January 7, 2025

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is granted to CRJ for 90 days (Community Resources for Justice) in two weeks from the date of decision.¹

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On December 7, 2012, in Bristol Superior Court, Aaron Morin was found guilty of first-degree felony murder as a joint-venturer and received a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. In 2018, Mr. Morin's first-degree sentence was vacated, and he agreed to plead guilty to second degree murder with the possibility of parole. Mr. Morin appeared before the Board on September 26, 2024, for an initial hearing. He was represented by law students Emma Abrams, Sydney Johnson, and Samantha Raymond from Boston College Law School's Defenders Clinic under the supervision of Attorney Frank Herrman. The Board's decision fully incorporates, by reference, the entire video recording of Aaron Morin's September 26, 2024, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On November 3, 2009, 26-year-old Aaron Morin and his co-defendants killed Chad Fleming, age 31. Mr. Fleming, a Berkley native who had moved to Florida, was the supplier of a Percocet distribution chain in the Taunton area. Mr. Fleming supplied large quantities of drugs to Mr. Morin and his co-defendants. Mr. Morin and his co-defendants would then sell the drugs to individuals in the community. When Mr. Fleming started selling drugs directly to these individuals, Mr. Morin led a plan to recruit others to rob

¹ One Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in 2 years.

Mr. Fleming. On November 3, 2009, Mr. Morin lured Mr. Fleming to an apartment in Taunton, where he was ambushed, beaten, strangled, and robbed by Mr. Morin and his co-conspirators.


APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. In making this determination, the Board takes into consideration an incarcerated individual's institutional behavior, their participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize the incarcerated individual's risk of recidivism. M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. The Board also considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the incarcerated individual at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the incarcerated individual's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board (if applicable).

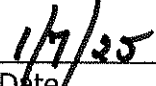
DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Morin appeared for his first appearance before the Board. Mr. Morin has participated in multiple programs, including Victim Impact. Mr. Morin stated he is invested in continuing his education. He is enrolled in classes with Mt. Wachusett and Boston College for a bachelor's degree. He is currently employed as a unit runner for over a year. He helped establish the American Vet Dogs program and has trained 8 dogs. He has only had one disciplinary report. Mr. Morin has participated in Restorative Justice Programming. Mr. Morin expressed remorse at the hearing.

Three people testified in support of parole. Bristol County Assistant District Attorney Canan Yesilcimen testified in opposition to parole. A family member testified in opposition to parole, and two other family members submitted letters in opposition to parole.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Restrict work for program; Curfew—must be at home between 10 pm and 6 am for the first 90 days; Electronic monitoring for the first 90 days; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with Agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with Agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with victim(s)' family; Must have substance abuse evaluation and must comply with recommended treatment plan; Counseling for transition issues; CRJ residential program.

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.


Tina M. Hurley, Chair


Date