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PAROLE BOARD

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Paul M. Treseler
Chairman

DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

ANTHONY CALABRO

W87798

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: September 21, 2017

DATE OF DECISION: July 25, 2018

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe

DECISION OF THE BOARD: After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of 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 written submissions to the Board, we conclude that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in four years from the date of the hearing.¹

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On June 9, 2006, in Norfolk Superior Court, Anthony Calabro pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of Marina Calabro and was sentenced to serve life in prison with the possibility of parole.

On December 19, 2001, at approximately 11:53 p.m., police responded to 55 Bedford Street in Quincy. Upon arrival, police observed the body of 84-year-old Marina Calabro at the bottom of a flight of stairs. Anthony Calabro, 18-years-old at the time of the murder, was the great-nephew of Marina Calabro and had lived with her at that address. Although he was not present during the murder, he had known that his co-defendant planned to kill Ms. Calabro.

¹ Five Board Members voted to deny parole with a 4 year review. One Board Member voted to deny parole with a 5 year review.

During the investigation, officers discovered that Mr. Calabro's co-defendant struck Ms. Calabro with both a frying pan and a teakettle and choked her with his hands. While she was lying on the floor unconscious, the co-defendant placed a pillow over her face to suffocate her. The cause of death was blunt neck trauma. Another co-defendant was involved in the murder, as well.

Mr. Calabro had been set to inherit a portion of his aunt's estate. Police recovered the frying pan and teakettle (among other items) used in the murder from a pond in Norton. Bank records indicated that on January 30, 2002, Mr. Calabro transferred approximately \$201,000 from Marina Calabro's accounts at Citizen's Bank to his own account at Fleet Bank. In March 2002, Mr. Calabro made payments to his co-defendants.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

Anthony Calabro, now 34-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for an initial hearing on September 21, 2017. He was not represented by counsel. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Calabro described himself 15 years ago as someone who was "young" and "confused." He stated that he continues to "strive to be better" and to not be the person he was. He explained that he grew up with "positive influences" in his life and that he "had a sense of honor," which broke down in middle school. He stated that he wasn't able to communicate well with people his own age, which made him an "outcast." He explained that growing up in a "divided home" left him with feelings of inadequacy, and he blamed himself for his parent's separation. By the time he was 10, he had attended three or four schools and did not have a lot of friends. He described himself as "getting lost," when referencing his high school academics.

Mr. Calabro moved out of his mother's house after a disagreement. He wanted to become more independent and live with friends, but his mother did not agree and an argument ensued. He punched a hole in the wall and left soon after. He stated, "I was in a very bad place at the time." Later, he went to live with his aunt, so that he could "pull [his] life back together again." Eventually, Mr. Calabro's two co-defendants stayed with him frequently, but his aunt was not comfortable with this arrangement. He disclosed that he was diagnosed with a form of clinical depression. At the time, he said he was suicidal and severely depressed, but didn't know how to deal with his feelings.

Board Members questioned Mr. Calabro as to the circumstances surrounding the murder. Mr. Calabro stated that over a period of time, he and his co-defendants went back and forth exchanging thoughts on how to execute the murder, up until the day it was done when "[he] gave [his] assent." Mr. Calabro acknowledged that he was the one that planted the thought in his friends to kill his aunt. He explained that Ms. Calabro had bought him a new car, but he totaled it in an accident. He didn't know how to explain it to his aunt, since he knew she was going to be upset with him. Mr. Calabro acknowledged that his co-defendant came into his room and stated that it was time to do it, a reference to killing Ms. Calabro. Mr. Calabro said he did not respond, but his co-defendant took his silence as an affirmation. Mr. Calabro took the dog down to his truck and waited. Sometime later, he went up to the apartment and opened the door. Mr. Calabro acknowledged that he stepped inside the door and saw his aunt dead in the kitchen. He left to go play with his dog in the truck. He denied helping clean up the house after the murder. He acknowledged, however, that he participated in taking a trash bag containing evidence to a pond to dump it.

When questioned, Mr. Calabro admitted that he called his grandmother and father to tell them that his aunt was missing, when, in fact, he knew that she was dead. Mr. Calabro stated that a part of him is "in denial that [he] was capable of committing this heinous crime" and "another part of [him] has blocked out a lot of details because of the trauma." A Board Member asked Mr. Calabro about his actions after he realized his aunt was murdered. He stated that he isolated himself. He also said that he bought each of his co-defendants a vehicle and bought himself a 1999 Corvette. A Board Member asked him how he felt as he was buying these items and spending money. He stated, "I felt like I had no right to any of it and that if I didn't have a right to any of it, then, I would just give it all away." He said he inherited about \$250,000.

A Board Member asked Mr. Calabro to describe his possible parole plan. Among other plans, he stated that he could reside with his mother or his uncle. A Board Member asked him if he has fully come to terms with his culpability and responsibility with the murder. He responded, "I feel like that there is still some issues that I could address" and he intends to explore it in therapy. He acknowledged that he takes responsibility for the decision and for "helping to get rid of the evidence after the fact." In therapy, he has learned to "mediate conflict" and "de-escalate situations." He acknowledged that his strongest supporter is his mother, and he communicates with her weekly. Mr. Calabro received his G.E.D. in 2007. Currently, he participates in college classes through Mt. Wachusett College Program and has completed such programs as Restorative Justice Retreat and Lifeskills. He is employed as a clerk in the library at the facility and has been involved in the Toastmaster Group since 2012. He stated that he is actively involved with the Alternatives to Violence Program and Seasonal Garden Program. He has had one disciplinary report during his incarceration.

The Board considered testimony in support of parole from Mr. Calabro's step-father. Norfolk County Assistant District Attorney Marguerite Grant provided testimony in opposition to parole.

III. DECISION

The Board is of the opinion that Anthony Calabro has not yet demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. It is the opinion of the Board that he does not take any responsibility for his criminal culpability. His behavior was manipulative and self-serving.

The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such 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." 120 C.M.R. 300.04. In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Calabro's institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board has also considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Calabro's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Calabro's case, the Board is of the opinion that Anthony Calabro is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Calabro's next appearance before the Board will take place in four years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Calabro to continue working towards his full rehabilitation.

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.



Gloriann Moroney, General Counsel



Date

