

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

CHRISTOPHER BOUSQUET  
W44500

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** December 1, 2020

**DATE OF DECISION:** June 23, 2021

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Karen McCarthy, Colette Santa

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On February 10, 1988, after a jury trial in Bristol Superior Court, Christopher Bousquet was convicted of the first-degree murder of Lisa Lachance and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Mr. Bousquet unsuccessfully appealed his convictions on the theories that he should have been tried in juvenile court, he acted in self-defense, and his voluntary intoxication negated the specific intent required for first degree murder.<sup>1</sup>

On December 24, 2013, the Supreme Judicial Court issued a decision in *Diatchenko v. District Attorney for Suffolk District & Others*, 466 Mass. 655 (2013), in which the Court determined that the statutory provisions mandating life without the possibility of parole are invalid as applied to juveniles convicted of first degree murder. Further, the Court decided that such juvenile offenders must be given a parole hearing. Accordingly, Mr. Bousquet was granted an initial hearing before the Parole Board on December 18, 2014. He was denied parole at this hearing.

Mr. Bousquet appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on December 1, 2020 and was represented by Attorney Merritt Schnipper. This was Mr. Bousquet's third appearance before the Board having been denied in 2014 and 2017. The entire video recording of Mr. Bousquet's December 1, 2020 hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

<sup>1</sup> Commonwealth v. Christopher Bousquet, 407 Mass. 854 (1990)

**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 a suitable candidate for parole.<sup>2</sup> Reserve to Long Term Residential Program. Mr. Bousquet was 16 years old when he stabbed and murdered 16-year-old Lisa Lachance in June of 1982. Mr. Bousquet, now 54 years old has spent over a year and a half in a minimum-security facility. In rendering their decision, the Board did consider the Forensic Evaluation conducted by Dr. Kinsherff, who opined that across a broad set of measures, Mr. Bousquet poses a low risk of recidivism. The Forensic Evaluation included social and criminal history, education, substance abuse/usage, and risk to recidivate. Since his last hearing he has remained program compliant and employed. Release is not incompatible with the welfare of society. To be noted, the Board did consider the *Miller* factors of age and maturity, vulnerability to negative influences and the capacity to change.

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 the context of an offender convicted of first or second degree murder, who was a juvenile at the time the offense was committed, the Board takes into consideration the attributes of youth that distinguish juvenile homicide offenders from similarly situated adult offenders. Consideration of these factors ensures that the parole candidate, who was a juvenile at the time they committed murder, has "a real chance to demonstrate maturity and rehabilitation." *Diatchenko v. District Attorney for the Suffolk District*, 471 Mass. 12, 30 (2015); See also *Commonwealth v. Okoro*, 471 Mass. 51 (2015). The factors considered by the Board include the offender's "lack of maturity and an underdeveloped sense of responsibility, leading to recklessness, impulsivity, and heedless risk-taking; vulnerability to negative influences and outside pressures, including from their family and peers; limited control over their own environment; lack of the ability to extricate themselves from horrific, crime-producing settings; and unique capacity to change as they grow older." *Id.*

In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Bousquet'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. Bousquet's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Bousquet's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Bousquet is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time.

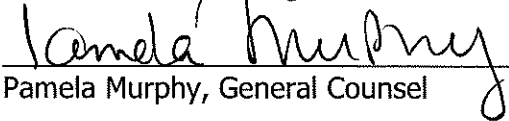
**Special Conditions:** Reserve to Long Term Residential Program (LTRP); Waive work for LTRP; Must be at home between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.; ELMO-electronic monitoring; Supervise for drugs; testing in accordance with agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence; testing in accordance with agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No

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<sup>2</sup> Six Board Members voted to grant parole and one Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in two years.

contact with the victim's family; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment/transition; AA/NA at least 3 times/week; Mandatory – obtain a sponsor.

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

  
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Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

6/23/2021  
Date