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Tina M. Hurley
Chair

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Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

COREY SAUNDERS
W91876

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: July 9, 2024

DATE OF DECISION: October 10, 2024

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman,¹ Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in four years from the date of the hearing.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On February 2, 2009, in Bristol Superior Court, Corey Saunders pleaded guilty to rape of a child with force. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole to run concurrent with the sentence he was currently serving. On that same date, he pleaded guilty to: indecent assault and battery on a child under 14 for which he received a from and after sentence of probation for life, indecent assault and battery on a child under 14 for which he received a sentence of 9-10 years, enticing a child under 16 for which he received a sentence of 4-5 years, and threatening to commit a crime for which he received a 6 month House of Correction sentence. All sentences were to be served concurrently.

On July 9, 2024, Corey Saunders, represented by Attorney Debra Beard-Bader, appeared before the Board for an initial hearing.² In addition to the testimony presented at the hearing, the Board received and considered substantial written material, including, but not limited to, records of the Department of Correction that described Mr. Saunders' history while incarcerated, submissions received from Mr. Saunders and his attorney, records related to his prior commitment as a Sexually Dangerous Person, and records related to the criminal cases against Mr. Saunders.

¹ Board Member Coleman was not present for the hearing but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

² Mr. Saunders postponed his hearing in 2022.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On January 20, 2008, Corey Saunders approached a 6-year-old child, D.V.,³ in a New Bedford Library, while the child's mother used a computer in a nearby room. After speaking with the child briefly, he guided the child to an area between two bookshelves. While there, Mr. Saunders put his hand down D.V.'s pants and touched D.V.'s penis and then put D.V.'s penis in his mouth and bit it. Saunders was arrested later that day.

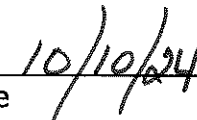
At the time of his 2008 rape of D.V., Mr. Saunders was on probation for his sexual abuse of a 7-year-old boy, P.N. On December 30, 1999, 17-year-old Corey Saunders was placed at P.N.'s home as an emergency shelter through DSS. During a SAIN interview, P.N. disclosed that, on the same night Mr. Saunders arrived at the home, he approached P.N. while he was watching television and told him to pull his "Pull Up" diaper down. Mr. Saunders then put his penis in P.N.'s anus until he was interrupted by P.N.'s mother entering the room.

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: This is Mr. Saunders' first appearance before the Board. Mr. Saunders has convictions involving two child victims. He discussed sexual predator behaviors before the Board. His disclosures, while candid and forthcoming, suggest he needs to invest more fully with his mental health providers. Mr. Saunders has completed Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP) and is currently in maintenance. The Board considered the attributes of the juvenile brain and Mr. Saunder's mental development. The Board encourages Mr. Saunders to continue to engage in programming and vocational training. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Corey Saunders has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

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

³ The names of the victims have been removed to protect the victims' identities.