



**Maura Healey**  
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*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**PAROLE BOARD**

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**Tina M. Hurley**  
Chair

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**CRAIG MINNGIA**

**W99579**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** October 13, 2022

**DATE OF DECISION:** January 12, 2023

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Dr. Maryanne Galvin, James Kelcourse, Colette Santa

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On November 12, 2011, in Worcester Superior Court, Craig Minngia pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of 79-year-old Lillian Johnson and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On the same date, Mr. Minngia received a concurrent ten-to-twelve-year sentence for armed burglary.

Mr. Minngia appeared before the Parole Board for an initial hearing on October 13, 2022. He was represented by student attorneys from Northeastern University School of Law. The entire video recording of Mr. Minngia's October 13, 2022, hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

**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 by unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole.

The Board is of the opinion that Craig Minngia has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. On July 15, 1984, Mr. Minngia, then 24 years old, stabbed 79-year-old Lillian Johnson to death in her Worcester apartment. He was not identified as the assailant until 2007 when CODIS linked him to the crime following a New York conviction for the sexual assault of a child. The Board notes that he has done minimal rehabilitative programming and received a guilty finding for a disciplinary infraction as recently as June 2022. The Board feels strongly that the completion of SOTP is

essential to his rehabilitation and notes that his motivation for enrollment in SOTP is suspect given the program notes and his own admissions. The Board encourages Mr. Minngia to reflect upon why, contrary to his hearing testimony, SOTP is important for him to complete. The Board wants Mr. Minngia to demonstrate insight, empathy, and responsibility for his criminal activity and his reluctance thus far to meaningfully engage in his rehabilitation.

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. Minngia'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. Minngia's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Minngia's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Craig Minngia is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Minngia's next appearance before the Board will take place in four years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages him 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.*

  
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Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

1/12/23  
Date