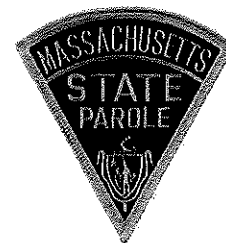


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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Acting Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

Damien Lamb
W88441

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: August 1, 2023

DATE OF DECISION: December 14, 2023

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina M. Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman¹, James Kelcourse.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On the evening of February 16, 2005, Damien Lamb and co-defendant, Steven Fish, drove to the victim's apartment seeking money that was owed to a mutual friend of both the victim, Brandon LaBonte, and Lamb. When the victim informed Lamb that he did not have the money, Lamb grew angry. At approximately, 5:20 P.M., the three men then drove to Lamb's father's house, located in the town of Becket, MA. Upon arriving at the Becket property, Lamb instructed Steven Fish and the victim to wait inside the car, while he went to call his brother. About ten minutes later, at approximately 6:15 p.m., Lamb returned to the car and asked the victim to follow him into the house to speak with his brother on the phone. Lamb instructed Steven Fish to remain in the car.

Approximately one-half hour later, Lamb approached the car and led Fish to a brown Chevrolet pickup truck parked on the property. Fish observed the victim's breathless body on the ground near the truck with a shovel over his face and a rope around his neck. Lamb stated, "If the rope didn't do it, the shovel would tell me." Lamb and Fish then rolled the victim's body onto a blue tarp. The two men then dragged the tarp to the car that Lamb had borrowed earlier that night.

PAROLE HEARING: Damien Lamb appeared before the Parole Board on August 1, 2023, and was represented by student attorneys Bethany Hunter and Dylan Morris of Northeastern

¹ Board Member Coleman was not present at the hearing but participated in vote after review of recording and record.

University Law Clinic under the supervision of Attorney Patricia Garin. The entire video recording of Mr. Lamb's hearing is fully incorporated by reference in the Board's decision.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: 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.

After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of offense, the criminal record, the 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.² Parole is denied with a review in one year from the date of the hearing.

In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Lamb'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. Lamb's risk of recidivism. The Board acknowledges that Mr. Lamb has done extensive programming.


Board Member 1: Parole to an approved LTRP upon completion of one year in lower custody. Subject has had 18 years of good overall adjustment to include completion of numerous rehabilitative programs, vocational programs, and work. Presented with contrition and has only one disciplinary report from 10 years ago (non-violent, non-substance related)

Board Member 2: Concur with Board Member 1

Board Member 3: Parole denied with a one-year review. While this Board agrees subject has completed many meaningful programs, in this particular case his varying accounts of the murder, lack of candor, and only recent admission to committing the offense is concerning. This Board Member is hoping subject will provide credible essential information.

Board member 4: Parole denied with a two-year review. Subject provided multiple accounts as to what happened in regard to the governing offense. Testimony was provided by victim's family as well as the prosecutor in the case. Subject is encouraged to engage in victim empathy or any available programming to gain additional insight into the crime.

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

12/14/23
Date

² Two Board members voted to grant parole, and two Board Members voted to deny parole. Due to a split vote, parole is denied with a review in one year from the date of the hearing.