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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

DAMIEN LOCKHART
W64441

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: March 4, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: July 29, 2025

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz¹

VOTE: Parole is denied with review in 1 year from the date of the hearing.²

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On September 2, 1997, Damien Lockhart pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of a 17-year-old young woman.³ He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he pleaded guilty to attempted rape and was sentenced to a concurrent term of 9 to 12 years in prison. Both sentences were ordered to run consecutively to an unrelated armed robbery sentence he was serving at the time of this conviction. Parole was denied after an initial hearing in 2013, and after review hearings in 2018 and 2023.

On March 4, 2025, Damien Lockhart appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Kim Jones. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Damien Lockhart's March 4, 2025, hearing.

¹ Board Member Ortiz and Board Member Coughlin were not present for the hearing, but they reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

² Three Board Members voted to deny parole with a review in 2 years from the date of the hearing, and three Board Members voted to grant parole. Due to a split vote, parole is denied with a review in 1 year from the date of the hearing.

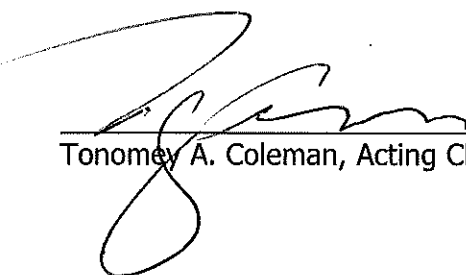
³ The identity of the victim is withheld. G.L. c. 265, §24C

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On August 10, 1996, Damien Lockhart sexually assaulted and murdered a 17-year-old young woman in Framingham. Her body was discovered by the edge of a railroad dirt access road known as "the Weeds." She suffered seven distinct blows to her head and face, along with multiple cuts and bruises on her hands (consistent with defensive wounds). There were also indications of sexual assault. Blood consistent with the victim's blood was found on Mr. Lockhart's shorts. Footprints at the crime scene matched the tread of sneakers that Mr. Lockhart wore on the night of the murder. Additionally, eyewitnesses reported seeing Mr. Lockhart with the victim near the time and place of the murder. When Mr. Lockhart went to the Framingham Police Department for questioning, he was arrested for the murder.

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 inmate'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 inmate'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 inmate at the time of the 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 and/or in written submissions to the Board. (if applicable).

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Lockhart is 51-years-old and has been incarcerated for approximately 29 years. Since his last hearing, he has engaged in rehabilitative programming and correspondence courses related to his criminogenic factors. The Board notes programming related to victim empathy would be beneficial. The Board recognizes substance misuse was a contributing factor to the crime. The Board considered the risk assessment of Dr. DiCataldo. Mr. Lockhart completed SOTP in 2017, and he has been in Maintenance since. The Board reviewed Mr. Lockhart's medical conditions. The Board heard testimony in support of parole from two of Mr. Lockhart's family members. The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from four members of the victim's family and from Middlesex County Assistant District Attorney Adrienne Lynch. The Board is split in its decision and, as a result, the review hearing will take place in one year from the date of the hearing.

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.


Tonomey A. Coleman, Acting Chair

Date 7/29/25