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

**PAROLE BOARD**

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**Paul M. Treseler**  
Chairperson

**Michael J. Callahan**  
Executive Director

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**DANNY KEENE**  
**W38344**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing / Resolve Action Pending

**DATE OF HEARING:** September 22, 2015

**DATE OF DECISION:** July 20, 2016

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Ina Howard-Hogan, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe

**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. Parole is denied with a review in one year from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On July 8, 1981, in Essex Superior Court, Danny Keene pled guilty to the second degree murders of 17-year-old Claire Goossens and 18-year-old Joseph Salvatore. Two sentences of life in prison with the possibility of parole, to be served consecutively, were imposed on Mr. Keene for the murders of Ms. Goossens and Mr. Salvatore.

On the morning of Sunday, April 20, 1980, Mr. Keene drove from Salisbury, Massachusetts to Hampton, New Hampshire to look at an automobile that his brother was interested in purchasing. Mr. Keene was accompanied by his two co-defendants, Everett Sielicki and Paul Bowman, as well as another man. In the presence of the others, the owner of the automobile told Mr. Keene that he had been arrested during a drug deal the previous week and suspected that he had been set up by Mr. Salvatore. Mr. Keene said that he would "take care" of Mr. Salvatore.



Later that morning, Mr. Keene, Mr. Sielicki, and Mr. Bowman went to the motel where Mr. Salvatore was staying. Mr. Keene was armed with a pistol. After conversing in the motel room, Mr. Salvatore and his girlfriend, Ms. Goossens, left with the three men to make a drug deal. The group drove to Rowley and walked to a wooded area on a hilltop, commonly referred to as "Sunset Rock." Mr. Bowman, needing to relieve himself, began to walk down the hill. When he was about 30 feet away from the group, he heard screams. Mr. Bowman returned to the hilltop, where Mr. Keene was holding Mr. Salvatore as Mr. Sielicki stabbed him. Mr. Keene then grabbed Ms. Goossens, and Mr. Sielicki stabbed her repeatedly.

After the murders of Mr. Salvatore and Ms. Goossens, the three men (Mr. Keene, Mr. Sielicki, and Mr. Bowman) left Rowley and took steps to dispose of Mr. Sielicki's bloody clothing. They were arrested the following day, April 21, 1980.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2015**

Mr. Keene, now 63-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on September 22, 2015, for a review hearing and was represented by Attorney Eva Clark. Mr. Keene's initial appearance before the Board, in March 2010, resulted in the denial of parole. In Mr. Keene's opening statement to the Board, he expressed remorse for his actions and described his involvement in the murders of Ms. Goossens and Mr. Salvatore. Mr. Keene primarily attributed his willingness to take part in the murders to his addiction to poly-substances, which began after a series of traumatic events. The Board expressed concern that in his initial appearance before the Parole Board, Mr. Keene had minimized his involvement in the murder and had removed himself from direct responsibility. Mr. Keene agreed that he had not been entirely forthcoming during his initial hearing, but claimed that he now accepts full responsibility.

Mr. Keene discussed the events that gave rise to the murders. Mr. Keene said that he had only known the victims and his co-defendants for a short period of time (and in the context of using and selling drugs). Just prior to the murders, Mr. Keene and his co-defendants came to believe that Mr. Salvatore may have been an "undercover narc," or informant. According to Mr. Keene, he and his co-defendants plotted to scare Mr. Salvatore. The plan included Mr. Keene "beating him up." The Board questioned Mr. Keene regarding his prior knowledge of the weapons that were brought to the murder, the intention to kill Mr. Salvatore, and his participation in each of the murders. Mr. Keene adamantly denied any intent to kill the victims, but acknowledged that he held down both victims as one of his co-defendants stabbed them to death. He admitted telling Ms. Goossens, "Sorry, you're going to have to die," as she pleaded for her life. Mr. Keene also repeatedly testified that he did not make any attempts to stop the murders from occurring and, in fact, essentially encouraged his co-defendant to slit their throats. He said that at the time of the murder, he thought that slitting the victims' throats would prevent any prolonged suffering. Mr. Keene stated, "I told him to slice his (Salvatore's) throat because it was a torture chamber. I didn't know if he did it, I was looking the other way." Mr. Keene said that he had been using drugs and alcohol for three days straight, including on the day of the murders, and was thus impaired prior to, and during, the crime.

Mr. Keene also discussed his substance addiction with the Board. He recounted life events which he believes were primary precipitants to his dysfunctional and criminal lifestyle. Mr. Keene said that he had been hospitalized for the first two years of his life. He later sustained serious injuries after being struck by a fire engine when he was 11-years-old. As a



result of these serious medical issues, Mr. Keene developed a dependency on narcotics to treat his pain. His dependency contributed to further experimentation with other substances, eventually leading him to abuse significant amounts of psychedelic drugs, stimulants, and hallucinogens. Mr. Keene also abused alcohol and, at one point, received treatment for Delirium Tremens. As Mr. Keene's drug use increased, he surrounded himself with people who were also in the throes of addiction.

Mr. Keene was admitted to Bridgewater State Hospital at the beginning of his incarceration. He said that, while there, he was diagnosed as having "manic depression" and "schizophrenia." Although Mr. Keene was prescribed anti-psychotic medication for approximately seven or eight years, he does not currently take psychiatric medications or participate in individual counseling. Mr. Keene reported that he has not engaged in any counseling since 1987 and was "cleared by mental health" in 1996, when he was weaned off medications. The Board asked Mr. Keene to describe his mental health symptoms that prompted the initial diagnosis and treatment. He provided a vague description of symptoms, and conceded that such symptoms may have been directly related to his extensive abuse of various substances.

Mr. Keene insisted that he has not experienced any symptoms that have required counseling or medications for many years. However, he acknowledged that he would need significant supports, guidance, and services if he were to be re-integrated into society. Describing his baseline level of functioning, Mr. Keene said, "I'm Fred Flintstone going into a George Jefferson world." Mr. Keene agreed that he has been institutionalized for a very long time and, prior to his incarceration, he was not functioning as a well-adjusted, contributing member of society. Mr. Keene insisted that since his last parole hearing in 2010, he has invested in treatment that has advanced his rehabilitation, and he is now ready to re-integrate into society. Mr. Keene apologized to the victims' families and to the town of Rowley. Mr. Keene also described the large role that his substance abuse played in the commission of these murders, his understanding and appreciation of his role in the murders, and his investment in rehabilitation.

The Board considered testimony from Essex County Assistant District Attorney Elin Graydon, who spoke in opposition to Mr. Keene's parole. No one testified in support of Mr. Keene's parole; however, two of the people who attended Mr. Keene's hearing listed themselves as supporters.

### **III. DECISION**

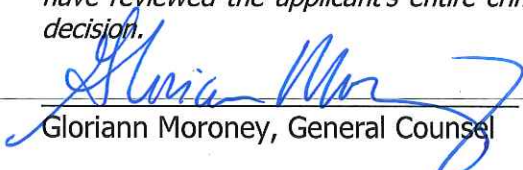
The Board is of the opinion that Mr. Keene has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board believes that a longer period of positive institutional adjustment and programming would be beneficial to Mr. Keene's rehabilitation.

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. Keene's institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and

treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board also considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Keene's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Keene's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Keene is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Keene's next appearance before the Board will take place in one year from the date of this hearing. Mr. Keene may submit information regarding his mental health status, and any other relevant documentation, to assist with the Board's determination of parole suitability. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Keene 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. 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.*

  
Gloriann Moroney, General Counsel

7/20/14  
Date