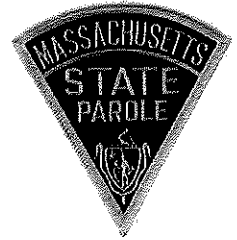


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**DEAN LINDSTROM**

**W38481**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** February 27, 2018

**DATE OF DECISION:** November 8, 2018

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa, 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 that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole.<sup>1</sup> Parole is denied with a review scheduled in four years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On October 5, 1981, in Middlesex Superior Court, Dean Lindstrom pleaded guilty to the second degree murder of Richard Valentine and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he also pleaded guilty to armed assault with intent to murder and armed assault in a dwelling. He received 18-20 year concurrent sentences, as well as a 3-5 year concurrent sentence for unlawful possession of a firearm. These charges stem from the same incident as the murder.

On January 14, 1980, Dean Lindstrom, armed with a handgun, followed an occupant into an apartment building with the intent to rob Richard Valentine's wife of her diamond ring. When Mrs. Valentine answered Mr. Lindstrom's knock on her apartment door, he forced his way in and

<sup>1</sup> Two Board Members voted to deny parole with a review in three years.

assaulted Mrs. Valentine, demanding her diamond ring. When Mr. Valentine came to the aid of his wife, a struggle ensued. Mr. Lindstrom shot Mr. Valentine in the neck and hit him with the butt of his gun. Mr. Lindstrom then shot Mrs. Valentine twice in the chest, stole her diamond ring, and kicked her in the face. The Valentine's 8-year-old son was in the apartment and witnessed the assault. Mrs. Valentine survived the shooting (with life-long injuries), but Mr. Valentine did not. Mr. Lindstrom was subsequently arrested in California in July 1980.

When Mr. Lindstrom murdered Mr. Valentine, he had recently escaped (on September 17, 1979) from MCI-Framingham, where he was being held for a 1978 conviction for the armed robbery of a Billerica gas station and possession of a sawed off shotgun. Mr. Lindstrom had been serving a 12 year sentence for this conviction. In investigating Mr. Valentine's murder, it was discovered that Mr. Lindstrom had committed other home invasions while on escape. On October 26, 1979, Mr. Lindstrom and an accomplice broke into the Brookline apartment of a 31-year old mother and her 2-year-old son. Mr. Lindstrom demanded her diamond ring at gunpoint, and then bound and gagged her. In 1984, in Norfolk Superior Court, Mr. Lindstrom pleaded guilty to escape and to the crimes committed during the October 26, 1979 home invasion. He pleaded guilty to armed assault in a dwelling and armed robbery while masked, and received 18-20 year sentences to run concurrent with the second degree murder sentence. For the same home invasion, Mr. Lindstrom pleaded guilty to the unlawful carrying of a firearm and received a 4-5 year sentence to run from and after the 18-20 year Norfolk sentences. Mr. Lindstrom also pleaded guilty to escape and received a 3-5 year concurrent with the second-degree murder sentence.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON FEBRUARY 27, 2018**

Dean Lindstrom, now 66-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on February 27, 2018. He was not represented by counsel. Mr. Lindstrom was denied parole at his initial hearing in 1995. Mr. Lindstrom was denied parole again at his review hearings in 1999, 2004, 2008, and 2013. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Lindstrom apologized to the Valentine family and to all the other lives he affected. The Board asked Mr. Lindstrom to describe the events in 1979 that seemed to start the series of crimes leading to Mr. Valentine's murder. Mr. Lindstrom explained that, in 1978, he bought a shotgun with the intent of committing armed robberies. On February 10, 1978, he got drunk, took the shotgun, and robbed the gas station behind his house. As he drove away, he was chased by police and crashed his car into a snowbank. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 12 years in prison for armed robbery. After a few months in MCI-Framingham,<sup>2</sup> Mr. Lindstrom said that he got drunk, smoked marijuana, and escaped with his girlfriend (whom he met in prison). Mr. Lindstrom and his girlfriend lived on stolen checks and credit cards and developed addictions to heroin. They incurred a \$2,000 debt to their drug dealer and tried to pay it off with items stolen in armed home invasions. Mr. Lindstrom claimed that the drug dealer directed him, and his girlfriend, to rob the Valentine family.

The Board asked Mr. Lindstrom about his substance abuse issues. Mr. Lindstrom stated that he was last sober at age 13, prior to going to prison. He then got sober in prison, but had a relapse in 2004. He has been sober/drug-free since January, 1, 2011, and claims to be very active in Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. In addition, Mr. Lindstrom told the Board that he has been very active in programming. When the Board questioned him about being diagnosed as a sociopath, Mr. Lindstrom stated that he was diagnosed as schizoaffective and a sociopath, with an anti-social personality disorder exacerbated by substance abuse. The Board

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<sup>2</sup> MCI-Framingham was a mixed-sex facility at the time.

noted that a sociopath commits crimes without remorse and then asked Mr. Lindstrom whether he was capable of remorse. Mr. Lindstrom told the Board that he was "remorseless" when he killed Mr. Valentine, due to his drug addiction, but claims to be remorseful now for everything he did. Mr. Lindstrom feels, through religious involvement and programming, that he has successfully rewired his brain.

If paroled, Mr. Lindstrom's parole plan is to live with his son and daughter-in-law, and their two children, in Manchester, New Hampshire. When the Board noted, however, that Mr. Lindstrom had only made significant contact with his son in the past year, Mr. Lindstrom said he would be willing to go to a long term treatment program first, if the Board felt it was better. Mr. Lindstrom said he has a "success team," comprised of an Alcoholics Anonymous sponsor, a religious advisor, and others, all of whom he could rely upon in dealing with challenges while on parole. Mr. Lindstrom said that he has a sponsor who would be willing to support him financially until he found work.

Mr. Lindstrom's son, daughter-in-law, and friends attended the hearing. Mr. Lindstrom's son and a friend testified in support of parole, and his religious studies teacher sent a letter in support of parole. Mr. Valentine's brother sent a letter, on behalf of the Valentine family, in opposition to parole. Middlesex Assistant District Attorney Nils Lundblad testified in opposition to parole. The Middlesex District Attorney's Office submitted a letter of opposition, as well.

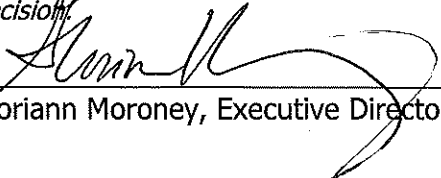
### **III. DECISION**

The Board is of the opinion that Dean Lindstrom has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Lindstrom should continue to invest in his treatment/programming to address his causative factors.

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 consideration Mr. Lindstrom'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 could effectively minimize Mr. Lindstrom's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Lindstrom's case, the Board is of the opinion that Dean Lindstrom does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Lindstrom's next appearance before the Parole Board will take place in four years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Lindstrom to continue to work 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, Executive Director/General Counsel

11/8/18  
Date