



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

DOUGLAS DUKETTE

W68697

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **January 5, 2023**

DATE OF DECISION: **February 9, 2023**

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On October 25, 2000, after a jury trial in Middlesex Superior Court, Douglas Dukette was convicted of the second-degree murder of Richard Comeau. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. That same day, he was also sentenced to serve 4 to 5 years concurrent with his life sentence for unlawful possession of a firearm, as well as 5 years of probation to be served from and after his life sentence for larceny of a motor vehicle. Finally, a conviction for knowing receipt of stolen property was placed on file.

Mr. Dukette appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on January 5, 2023. He was not represented by counsel. Mr. Dukette was denied parole at his 2014 initial hearing and at his 2019 review hearing. The entire video recording of Mr. Dukette's January 5, 2023, 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 that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole.¹

¹ One Board member voted to deny parole.

Reserve to long-term residential program after eighteen months in lower security. On February 8, 1999, Mr. Dukette shot and killed his 45-year-old roommate Richard Comeau. Mr. Dukette has been sober since 2000 and has done significant rehabilitative work to address his sobriety. He completed Correctional Recovery Academy, Relapse Prevention, and regularly attends AA/NA. He has also completed Violence Reduction and Emotional Awareness. The Board notes he has strong family support and has requested a gradual transition into the community through lower security and a program. Mr. Dukette has completed all program requirements. The Board agrees that Mr. Dukette would benefit from mental health counseling while in the community. While in lower security, to the extent that it is available, Mr. Dukette should participate in programming that further addresses victim empathy, like Restorative Justice.

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. Dukette'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. Dukette's risk of recidivism. Applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Dukette's case, the Board is of the opinion that Douglas Dukette is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time.

Special Conditions: Reserve to Long-Term Residential Program; Waive work for program; Curfew – must be at home between 10pm and 6am; ELMO-electronic monitoring; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with victim's family; Must have mental health counseling for addiction/adjustment/transition; AA/NA at least 3 times/week.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing.



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel



Date