

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



**PAROLE BOARD**

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**Kevin Keefe**  
*Executive Director*

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**ERIC LANCELOTTE**

**W60583**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** **Review Hearing**

**DATE OF HEARING:** **February 17, 2022**

**DATE OF DECISION:** **October 19, 2022**

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa

**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 scheduled in two years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On May 9, 1996, in Essex Superior Court, Eric Lancelotte pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of 51-year-old Robert Bosonac and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Mr. Lancelotte was 19-years-old at the time of the murder.

Eric Lancelotte had been staying with Robert Bosonac at his Lynn home for a brief period of time. In the early morning hours of July 31, 1994, Mr. Lancelotte, who was addicted to crack cocaine, returned to Mr. Bosonac's home after using crack cocaine and drinking heavily. He woke up Mr. Bosonac and demanded money. When Mr. Bosonac refused, Mr. Lancelotte attacked him, stabbing him at least three times, while he lay in bed. During the attack, Mr. Bosonac said he would call the police, which prompted Mr. Lancelotte to stab him several more times. Mr. Bosonac then ran out of the house, where Lynn police officers found him face down in the driveway, bleeding profusely from multiple stab wounds to his back. He

had been stabbed six to nine times with a large 10-inch knife and was pronounced dead at Salem Hospital. Mr. Lancelotte fled to a friend's house in Salem and was arrested later that evening.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON FEBRUARY 17, 2022<sup>1</sup>**

Eric Lancelotte, now 47-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on February 17, 2022. He was represented by Attorney Yefim Luvish. Mr. Lancelotte was granted parole after his initial hearing in 2009, but was returned to custody in 2010 for violating his conditions of release. He was denied parole after his review hearing in 2014, and postponed his review hearings in 2012, 2018, and 2021. In Mr. Lancelotte's opening statement to the Board, he apologized to the family of Mr. Bosonac. He explained that he is "trying hard" to address the many issues that caused the attack, including substance abuse, anxiety, and depression. Mr. Lancelotte stated that at the time of the murder, he was abusing alcohol and crack cocaine regularly and turned to sexual favors to support himself. During a two year relationship, Mr. Bosonac provided him with money for drugs and alcohol in exchange for sex. Mr. Lancelotte claimed, however, that Mr. Bosonac would control him with the threat of withholding money. On the evening of the murder, Mr. Lancelotte consumed alcohol and crack cocaine. When Mr. Bosonac refused to give him money, Mr. Lancelotte stated that he became irate and repeatedly stabbed him. Thereafter, he went to a friend's house, where he was eventually arrested by police.

The Board reviewed Mr. Lancelotte's 2009 release on parole to Bridge House, where he started drinking alcohol again. Mr. Lancelotte stated that he found the transition from prison to the half-way house too soon and was not prepared for that much freedom. Mr. Lancelotte admitted that he failed to make use of any of his supports, such as family, while on parole. He explained that he presently suffers from anxiety and has been hospitalized for psychiatric treatment. Upon his return to prison, Mr. Lancelotte received regular counseling and medication. He admitted that he occasionally abused his medication and consumed alcohol. Mr. Lancelotte stated that he has been sober for approximately 18 months since the COVID lockdown. He is currently in Alcohol Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, as well as a music program. Mr. Lancelotte has incurred several disciplinary reports due to anger issues. He has begun the application process for services from the Department of Mental Health.

Mr. Lancelotte's father testified in support of parole. The Essex County District Attorney's Office submitted a letter in opposition to parole.

## **III. DECISION**

The Board is of the opinion that Eric Lancelotte has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. On July 31, 1994, 19-year-old Eric Lancelotte killed 51-year-old Robert Bosonac. Mr. Lancelotte has a well-documented mental health history, as well as a history of drug addiction. He is currently in the RTU and compliant with treatment and medication. However, the Board is concerned about recent periods of self-injurious behavior. He presented as fragile at the hearing and appeared to require further treatment. The Board notes he has accrued 8 d[isciplinary] reports since his last hearing, most recently in September 2020, when he threw a

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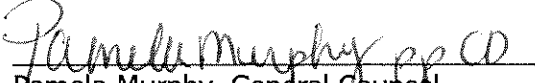
<sup>1</sup> The entire video recording of Mr. Lancelotte's February 17, 2022 hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

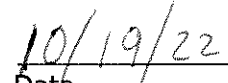
trash can at a correctional officer. Prior to this incident, he was placed on mental health watch on various occasions, including in January and February 2020. Mr. Lancelotte has been back in custody for 12 years with inconsistent periods of stable adjustment. The Board encourages him to continue to pursue his DMH application and his treatment in the RTU.

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. Lancelotte'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. Lancelotte's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Lancelotte's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Eric Lancelotte is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Lancelotte's next appearance before the Board will take place in two years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Lancelotte to continue working toward 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.*

  
Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

  
Date