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**PAROLE BOARD**

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Josh Wall  
Chairman

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**ERIC LANCELOTTE**

**W60583**

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

**DATE OF HEARING:** **February 4, 2014**

**DATE OF DECISION:** **August 19, 2014**

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Ina Howard-Hogan, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Josh Wall

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude by a unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole at this time. Parole is denied with a review in four years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

Eric Lancelotte is seeking parole from his life sentence for second degree murder following his return to custody for a parole violation. This is Lancelotte's second appearance before the Board, having been granted parole following an initial hearing in 2009.

On May 9, 1996, in Essex County Superior Court, Lancelotte pleaded guilty to second degree murder and was sentenced to life with parole. In the early morning hours of July 31, 1994, Lynn Police Officers responded to a residence on Chatham Street for a report of a person being stabbed. Upon arrival, the officers found the victim, Robert Bosonac, age 51, lying face down in the driveway bleeding profusely from multiple stab wounds to his back. Lancelotte, then age, 19, stabbed Mr. Bosonac six to nine times with a large ten-inch knife. Mr. Bosonac was pronounced dead at Salem Hospital. Lancelotte was arrested a short time later.

Lancelotte had been staying with Bosonac at his Lynn home for a brief time. In the early morning hours of July 31, Lancelotte, who was addicted to crack cocaine, returned to Bosonac's home after he had been using crack cocaine and drinking heavily. He woke Bosonac and then demanded money. Bosonac had previously given Lancelotte money to support his addiction to crack cocaine. When Bosonac refused, Lancelotte attacked and stabbed Bosonac at least three times while he was lying down in bed. During the attack, Bosonac stated he would call the police which prompted Lancelotte to stab him several more times. Bosonac ran out of the house where he was later found by police. Lancelotte followed Bosonac and fled to a friend's house in Salem. Police arrested Lancelotte later that evening while he was waiting for a bus.

## **II. PAROLE, CRIMINAL & INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY**

Eric Lancelotte was before the Board for his initial parole hearing on July 14, 2009 after which the Board voted to parole him to a long term residential treatment program. On November 19, 2009, Lancelotte was released under parole supervision to the Bridge House. His adjustment while under parole supervision was "slow moving"; therefore he was referred to a mental health therapist. On April 24, 2010, Lancelotte tested positive for opiates and subsequently discharged from the Bridge House. As a result, Lancelotte's parole was violated.

On April 25, 2010, parole officers along with Framingham Police Department went to the Bridge House to take Lancelotte into custody for the parole violations, and upon their arrival he ran. After a chase and assistance from multiple area police, Lancelotte was apprehended within two hours in an enclosed porch which resulted in criminal charges for breaking and entering into a building in the nighttime with intent to commit a felony, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct. Lancelotte later admitted to parole officers he had been using heroin for the previous two days. In addition to violating the conditions of his parole, on January 25, 2011, Lancelotte was convicted of trespassing in Framingham District Court and sentenced to a 60 day commitment to run from and after his life sentence.

Lancelotte was 19 years old at the time of the offense. He is currently 39 years old, serving his third incarceration. Lancelotte's criminal history includes charges of larceny, possession of cocaine, trespassing, malicious destruction of property and multiple counts of being a common night walker. Also, he had a temporary abuse prevention order that was entered against him in 1992. Lancelotte has received eleven disciplinary reports, seven of which he incurred since being returned to custody in April 2010. These more recent offenses include possession of contraband, fighting, being tattooed, and receiving a positive drug test.

He is currently incarcerated at Old Colony Correctional Center and is unemployed. Since his return to custody, he has completed Mood Management, Motivational Enhancement Program, Criminal Thinking Program, Dialectic Behavior Treatment (DBT) Core Group, DBT Emotional Regulation Group, an 8-week substance abuse programming through the Spectrum program and multiple rounds of the Psychotherapy Group. He participates in Rational Thinking, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and Alcoholics Anonymous.

### **III. PAROLE HEARING ON FEBRUARY 4, 2014**

Eric Lancelotte, age 39, appeared for a parole review hearing on February 4, 2014 following his return to custody for a parole violation. He is seeking a parole to the 60 day from and after sentence for his conviction for trespassing. Northeastern University School of Law student attorney Catherine Scott represented Lancelotte at the hearing. In her opening she described how Lancelotte's pitfall is substance abuse. He was released directly to a long term residential program; he could not find work and battled depression. As a result, Lancelotte began to drink and use drugs shortly after his release. His depression also caused him to receive his recent disciplinary reports. Lancelotte is currently attending group therapy and one-on-one counseling to address his substance abuse and depression. Lancelotte completed a Spectrum eight week program in the last year. Lancelotte met the victim while he was a prostitute, which was a factor in him acting out violently.

Lancelotte stated that he was released straight to the Bridge House program in November 2009 rather than stepping down through lower security. He stated he was under the impression that the Bridge House would help him transition into the community, including finding employment. Lancelotte attended alcoholics anonymous (AA) at the Bridge House two times per day for the first 30 days and outside meetings on the weekends, two on Saturday and one on Sunday. He immediately began attending mental health counseling once a week, meeting with his counselor at Advocates. He was prescribed Wellbutrin before he was released. However, within a month on parole, his doctor switched it to Celexa.

He explained how his family supported him, but that "it was hard to reach out to people, they would know where I came from." Lancelotte stated he dated women he met at AA meetings. He described how two and a half months to three months after he was released from prison he began drinking alcohol. Lancelotte admitted going to a store and buying alcohol. He explained how he started using heroin the "day before I went back. I used it once, gave a urine, and then used a second time after giving the urine." He described cocaine was his biggest problem prior to committing the murder. Lancelotte stated he used heroin and "I knew parole was coming. I just got scared. I didn't want to let everybody down and I didn't want to go back. My biggest problem is once I get depressed, I'm ashamed to ask my family for help." Lancelotte described his relationship with his parents as "always pretty good." He stated he's been depressed since he was a teenager and suffers from anxiety.

He reported his substance abuse issues began at age thirteen, when he started drinking alcohol, smoking marijuana and experimenting with lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD). At age sixteen he started using crack cocaine. When asked about his commitment to the Department of Youth Services (DYS), he stated he was "in" for two to three months at a time, but "at that time I wasn't trying to change anything. I ran away from DYS." He reported using heroin while in prison from 2005 to 2008. He stated, "A lot of people were doing it in the block I lived in. I stopped using it when I wasn't associating with them." He related his longest period of sobriety was five years, "I know I can stop using. I don't want this to be my life. I would like to go home and prove that I can be a better person. I know I have done a lot of stupid things."

Lancelotte admitted that while under parole supervision he could have been "a little more honest; more honest with my counselor about drinking. I felt like everyone knew I just

came from prison." He stated he spoke with his counselor about his insecurities and depression. Lancelotte acknowledged he mostly drank beer two to three times per week at times by himself, but sometimes with people in the house. He stated since the program tested on Sundays, that was his "clean day."

Lancelotte was asked to provide details of the governing offense. He stated at age sixteen or seventeen he began to prostitute himself on a daily basis. He met the victim through prostitution and knew him for a couple of years. Lancelotte stayed with the victim temporarily as, "He was trying to help me. He didn't want something bad to happen to me. I was in a relationship with him. He supported me and gave me money. He drank once in a while but we didn't do nothing like that together. He didn't want me on the streets. I didn't want to hear it."

Lancelotte also added that the victim, "didn't like Lewis Green," another man with whom Lancelotte had a relationship. Lancelotte elaborated by stating, "I thought he [the victim] was trying to get me away from him [Green]. Green was doing the same thing I was doing. I asked for money and he [the victim] gave me some. I wanted to buy crack. I asked him again, he gave it to me but said this was the last time. I asked again and he said no. I did spend the money and came back. I went to the kitchen and got a knife. I told him to give me money and when he got up I swung at him. I stabbed him. I know the paperwork says nine times, but I don't remember; I thought it was three or four times. Throughout the night I was using crack and drinking. I came out and he said he was calling the police and I stabbed him again."

Board Member Bonner expressed to Lancelotte that he presented as "very depressed." He went off course even though he came from a good family. His pattern of behavior is to run away, self-medicate with drugs, remain unemployed, and seek unhealthy relationships. This pattern of behavior is the same in prison, as Lancelotte continued to make poor decisions and has poor coping skills. Board Member Bonner suggested to Lancelotte that "depression is not always easy to treat and sometimes medication doesn't work at all. You have to really want to be well and you have to fight to be well." When he was asked if he has ever felt "normal" or "effectively treated," Lancelotte replied, "I thought I would feel like that when I got out." Board Member Bonner conveyed to him that "in the community environment you would have to work really hard and want to be well and your family cannot do this for you." He responded, "I think part of it are the decisions I make. I feel I need to ask for help before I make a bad decision. I will always struggle with depression."

Since his return to custody, Lancelotte has completed multiple programs and attends group therapy and individual counseling. He is currently attending Rational Thinking. He stated, "I work out my anger issues appropriately; I tell people when I'm frustrated." He worked in the kitchen until he was terminated. He said he lost this job the first time for receiving a disciplinary report for fighting "I went back and two to three months later I got a dirty urine for suboxone. I went back again but I got kicked out again because I wasn't doing the job I was supposed to be doing." He has received seven disciplinary reports since his return to custody, two of which were for fighting. He admitted using suboxone on two occasions, and stated "my substance abuse issues come from mental health issues; when I get depressed, I use."

When asked about his adjustment within the prison system, Lancelotte reported he was involved in programming. He was further questioned regarding any boundary issues he had with medical staff while incarcerated at MCI Norfolk which was an issue addressed in a 2009 disciplinary report. Lancelotte stated, "We used to work together and used to talk. We were going to maintain contact during my parole, but never did. We talked about personal stuff. I hugged her once and we kissed a little bit. She said if I got paroled she would give me her information. She never did as I was transferred out of Norfolk. I never crossed boundaries with anyone else." One Board Member recommended to Lancelotte to get involved with positive people. He stated, "It's hard to find positive people where I am except for the groups I'm involved in."

A Board Member questioned Lancelotte regarding his connection with the group For Your Eyes Only (FYEO) as they appear on his visitor log. Lancelotte replied, "I don't know what that could be."

Lancelotte's father and aunts spoke in support of parole. Essex Assistant District Attorney Elin Graydon appeared in opposition to parole.

#### **IV. DECISION**


Eric Lancelotte is seeking a parole to a 60 day from and after sentence. He has a long history of substance abuse and depression, as well as a poor performance on parole. Within two to three months of his release he began drinking alcohol, and later relapsed into using heroin. Upon his termination from a long term residential program Lancelotte fled, causing a dangerous situation for parole officers and the police. He was whereabouts unknown for two hours until he was apprehended. It also turns out he was using heroin in prison from 2005 to 2008, shortly before his parole.

Lancelotte did not utilize all the services offered to him and manipulated the ones he used. Upon his revocation and return to prison, Lancelotte continued to abuse drugs and engage in violent behavior. Throughout the hearing he did not display insight into his drug use, criminal thinking, coping skills and mental health issues. It appeared as though his depression is preventing him from being productive. Lancelotte focused on his "lack of support" for his parole failure; however, he failed to recognize how his violations resulted from criminal thinking. His entire life he has hid things from people, which was apparent while on parole. Depression has been a central part of his issues is connected to secondary negative behaviors and plays a pivotal role in his life, which has not been addressed adequately.

The standard we apply in assessing candidates for parole is set out in 120 C.M.R. 300.04, which provides that, "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." Applying that appropriately high standard here, it is the unanimous opinion of the Board that Mr. Lancelotte is not a suitable candidate for parole. The period of review will be in four years, during which time Mr. Lancelotte should maintain positive institutional behavior and make an active commitment to his rehabilitation and address issues of depression, substance abuse, criminal thinking, violence and antisocial behavior. He

needs to chart a path for himself while in prison and be more productive. He is encouraged to think more about the connection between criminal thinking and of his parole violations.

*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.*

  
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Janis DiLoreto Smith, General Counsel  
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Date