



Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn Polito  
Lieutenant Governor

Daniel Bennett  
Secretary

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

**PAROLE BOARD**

*12 Mercer Road*  
*Natick, Massachusetts 01760*

*Telephone # (508) 650-4500*

*Facsimile # (508) 650-4599*



Paul M. Treseler  
Chairman

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**FRANK LANZA**

**W44852**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** October 31, 2017

**DATE OF DECISION:** July 25, 2018

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, and 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 a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is granted to a long term residential program after 12 months in lower security with special conditions.<sup>1</sup>

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On May 9, 1988, in Essex Superior Court, Frank Lanza pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of James Paradis and received a life sentence with the possibility of parole. On the same date, he received concurrent life sentences for armed assault in a dwelling and armed robbery while masked. Also, he received a concurrent 5 to 7 year sentence for assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon.

On October 26, 1987, 41-year-old Frank Lanza (a drug addict living in Revere) planned to rob the occupants of an apartment at 17 Williams Avenue in Lynn. At approximately 3:00 a.m., Mr. Lanza entered the third floor apartment, wearing a Halloween mask and armed with a

<sup>1</sup> Three Board Members voted to parole to a Long Term Residential Program after 12 months of lower security. One Board Member voted to parole to a Long Term Residential Program after 9 months of lower security. Two Board Members voted to deny parole with a 2 year review.



knife. Mr. Lanza threatened to stab one of the females with the knife, as he demanded money and cocaine. She grabbed the knife with her right hand, suffering a laceration. She used her other hand to pull the mask off the face of Mr. Lanza. She screamed for her sister-in-law, who was in the other room. Her sister-in-law went to get help from a neighbor, 28-year-old James Paradis. Mr. Paradis, however, was confronted by Mr. Lanza on the stairs. Mr. Lanza then stabbed Mr. Paradis twice in the chest, killing him. Mr. Lanza was arrested the following evening at his residence.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON OCTOBER 31, 2017**

Mr. Lanza, now 71-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on October 31, 2017, for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney John Rull. Mr. Lanza was denied parole after his initial parole hearing in 2002, as well as after review hearings in 2007, 2010, and 2012. In Mr. Lanza's opening statement to the Board, he apologized to the Paradis family for taking the life of James Paradis 30 years ago. He recognized that his actions have destroyed many lives, and he offers no excuse for his actions. Mr. Lanza stated that he was addicted to alcohol and drugs at the time of the murder. He said that although he didn't know Mr. Paradis prior to the murder, he has heard the family of Mr. Paradis describe him as "young and full life" at prior hearings. Mr. Lanza stated that he prays daily for Mr. Paradis and his family.

Mr. Lanza described his childhood as coming from a home with "great parents," however, he subsequently experienced many failures in life. His father wanted him to work in the family business, but he "hated it." He married his high school sweetheart and had a baby girl, but his life fell apart because of alcohol and drugs. When a Board Member asked Mr. Lanza why he killed Mr. Paradis, he responded that he went to the apartment with the intent of robbing a woman. He explained he was sick from the use of drugs and alcohol and that he did not mean to kill Mr. Paradis. Mr. Lanza explained to the Board that he is not the same person he was 30 years ago. Through the AA and 12 Steps Programs, he learned that he was very "sick" and couldn't "drink in safety anymore." He explained the importance of keeping up with his sobriety, stating that he has not consumed any drugs or alcohol in 30 years. Mr. Lanza described AA as being the most influential program because it taught him "how to live sober."

A Board Member asked Mr. Lanza to describe the programs he participated in since his last hearing. Mr. Lanza stated that he has been an active participant in the CRA Graduate Maintenance Program, which has taught him more about himself. He completed Leadership and Transformational Thinking and attended counseling to address anger issues. Currently, he runs five miles a day, and he volunteers at the barber shop one day a week. He loves to play his guitar and write his own music. Mr. Lanza attends AA/NA twice a week and is involved with the 12 Steps/Big Book program once a week. Currently, he sees a psychiatrist for his anxiety disorder every five months and sees a clinician once a month. He is also on medication. Mr. Lanza describes himself as "living a conflict free life" as a "mediator," rather than as an "agitator." It was noted by Mr. Lanza's attorney that he completed over 40 programs while incarcerated. A Board Member noted that Mr. Lanza received two disciplinary reports, on the same day in 2014, for incidents towards staff.

Mr. Lanza described a parole plan that includes living with his sister. Also, he is requesting a 6-12 month step-down program to assist him in transition and to help with the Vivitrol program. When asked to describe the challenges he might face living in the community after being incarcerated for 30 years, Mr. Lanza stated, "Thank God I have my daughter, sister,





and grand-daughter, who will help me [and] show the way." He continued, "I think my family structure will help me with that." In the community, he plans to have music be a big part of his daily life. He wishes to play music for church, nursing homes, and the community.

The Board considered testimony in support of parole from Mr. Lanza's daughter, cousin, sister, and granddaughter. The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from Mr. Paradis' brother, sister-in-law, and former wife. Also, a letter in opposition was read to the Board written by another brother of Mr. Paradis. Essex County Assistant District Attorney Elin Graydon provided testimony in opposition to parole.

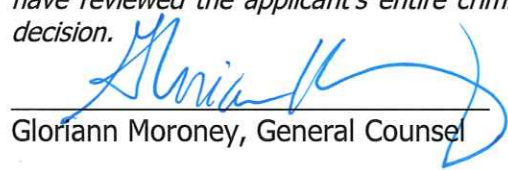
### **III. DECISION**

The Board is of the opinion that Frank Lanza has demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Lanza has availed himself of rehabilitation and has been actively engaged in AA/NA and 12 Step/Big Book. Mr. Lanza should consider Vivitrol upon release to aid him in reintegration and to maintain his sobriety.

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. Lanza'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. Lanza's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Lanza's case, the Board is of the opinion that Frank Lanza merits parole at this time. Parole is granted to a long term residential program after 12 months in lower security with special conditions.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Waive work for long term residential program; Must be home between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am; Electronic monitoring - GPS; 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; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment/transition; Long Term Residential Treatment; 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. 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

  
Date

