

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

GARY GOVAN
W86581

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: November 5, 2020

DATE OF DECISION: May 13, 2021

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley¹

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On November 16, 2005, in Suffolk Superior Court, Gary Govan pleaded guilty to second degree murder for the killing of Tracy Fletcher and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Mr. Govan appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on November 5, 2020 and was represented by Attorney Adam Narris. This was Mr. Govan's second appearance before the Board, having been denied in 2017. The entire video recording of Mr. Govan's November 5, 2020 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.² Reserve to Long Term Residential Program after 12 months in lower security. Mr. Govan has served 18 years for the stabbing death of 40-year-old Tracy Fletcher. Since his initial hearing in 2017 he has completed treatment and programming in the areas of emotional awareness and substance abuse. Mr. Govan has been sober since 2002 and has not incurred any disciplinary infractions. Mr. Govan presents as an individual who would benefit from mental health treatment which would be best met in the community. Mr. Govan

¹ Chair Gloriann Moroney recused, Board Member Colette Santa was unavailable and Board Member Karen McCarthy was not a board member at the time of the vote.

² Three board members voted to parole Mr. Govan to LTRP after 12 months in lower security and one board member voted to deny parole with a review in two years.

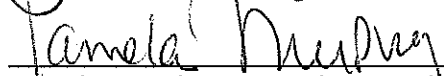
would benefit from transition through lower security for 12 months then to a Long-Term Residential Treatment Program. Mr. Govan should remain program involved and request mental health services.

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." In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Govan'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. Govan's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Govan's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Govan is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time.

Special Conditions: Reserve to Long Term Residential Program (LTRP) after 12 months in lower security; Waive work for LTRP; Curfew must be home between 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.; 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 adjustment/transition; AA/NA at least 3 times/week.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The above decision is an abbreviated administrative decision issued in an effort to render an expedited resolution in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Govan, through counsel, has waived his right to a full administrative decision.

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



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

5/13/2021
Date