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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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Gloriann Moroney
Chair

Kevin Keefe
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

GARY PHILLIPS
W36959

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: July 21, 2020

DATE OF DECISION: January 5, 2021

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Karen McCarthy¹

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On February 8, 1979, in Hampden Superior Court, Gary Phillips pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of 77-year-old Daisy Loncrini. He was sentenced to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole.

Mr. Phillips appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on July 21, 2020 and was represented by Northeastern University School of Law Student Amanda Gordon. This was Mr. Phillips's ninth appearance before the Board, having been denied in 1994, 1997, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2011, 2015, and 2017. The entire video recording of Mr. Phillips's July 21, 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 by an unanimous decision that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole. Reserve to Long Term Residential Program after 24 months in lower security. Mr. Phillips has served approximately 42 years for the brutal murder of 77-year-old Daisy Loncrini. Mr. Phillips has remained sober for over 40 years. In addition, he has obtained a sponsor. Since his last hearing, he independently engaged in counseling at the recommendation of the Board. He additionally participated in the Restorative Justice Retreat in 2019. Release after a gradual transition meets the legal standard.

¹ Board Member Colette Santa was not a voting member due to unavailability.

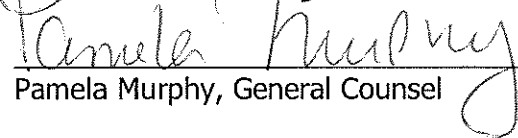
The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society."

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

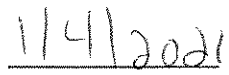
Special Conditions: Reserve to Long Term Residential Program (LTRP) after 24 months in lower security; Waive work for LTRP; Curfew must be at home between 10 p.m and 6 a.m.; ELMO-electronic; Supervise for drugs; testing in accordance with agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence; testing in accordance 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; Must complete LTRP; 90 meetings in 90 days, then 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. Phillips, 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



Date