



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Terrence M. Reidy
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



Tonomey A. Coleman
Acting Chair

Lian Hogan
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

GEORGE BINGHAM
W63477

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: March 6, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: July 10, 2025

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley,¹ James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz²

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in 2 years from the date of the hearing.³

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On October 27, 1997, following a jury trial in Plymouth Superior Court, George Bingham was convicted of murder in the second-degree for the death of Michael Gustafson. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Parole was denied after an initial hearing in 2011, and after review hearings in 2014 and 2022. On March 6, 2025, George Bingham appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Dana Goldblatt. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of George Bingham's March 6, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On August 21, 1995, 30-year-old George Bingham beat and slashed 39-year-old Michael Gustafson to death in Brockton. On the morning of August 22, 1995, his body was found in a small, wooded area behind a shopping plaza by a homeless man, who was collecting cans. He reported to the police that he had seen Mr. Gustafson alive the previous evening at the same location. The homeless man explained that he happened to come

¹ Chair Hurley participated in the vote on this matter prior to her departure from the Board.

² Board Member Ortiz was not present not present for the hearing, but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

³ Two Board Members voted to deny parole with a review in 1 year.

across Michael Gustafson and another man (later identified as George Bingham) in the woods at approximately 4:00 p.m. the day before. The homeless man recalled that Mr. Gustafson appeared very intoxicated. He stated that he knew Mr. Gustafson, as they had both frequented the same homeless shelter in Brockton. He had seen Mr. Bingham several times, but he did not know his name. The homeless man told police that he and Mr. Bingham had purchased a 40 oz. bottle of beer and went back to the woods to drink. At around 4:30 pm, the homeless man left Mr. Gustafson and Mr. Bingham in the woods and went to try to get a bed at a shelter. The next morning, the homeless man returned to the site. After finding the body of Mr. Gustafson, the homeless man gave police a description of George Bingham.

On August 25, 1995, police located Mr. Bingham at the Cambridge Hospital Detox Unit. Mr. Bingham initially denied that he knew the victim and further denied that he was in Brockton on the night in question. Awhile later, Mr. Bingham admitted that he slammed Mr. Gustafson's face hard into the glass and cut him with a broken bottle. Later that evening, the police arrested and booked Mr. Bingham for the murder of Mr. Gustafson. The medical examiner ruled the manner of death to be a homicide caused by blunt and sharp force injuries to the head.


APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. In making this determination, the Board takes into consideration an inmate's institutional behavior, their participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize the inmate's risk of recidivism. M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. The Board also considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board. (if applicable).

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Bingham was before the Parole Board in 2022, when the Board voted "Action Pending" in order to receive additional information from counsel regarding Mr. Bingham's parole release plan, as well as his DMH application for services. The Board subsequently received the requested information and held a hearing to address Mr. Bingham's parole candidacy. According to Mr. Bingham, he is still experiencing anger and irritability issues. He has recently undergone medication changes and reported recent auditory hallucinations to the Board. Mr. Bingham's history of violence and self-harm, and his history of medication non-compliance, concerns the Board as to whether he will be able to live and remain at liberty without violating the law and such that his release will be compatible with the welfare of society. A comprehensive re-entry plan and evaluation will allow the Board to further address any concerns at the next hearing. The Board considered opposition testimony from Plymouth County ADA Arne Hantson. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that George Bingham has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

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.



Tonomey A. Coleman, Acting Chair



Date