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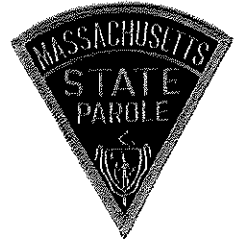
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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Tina M. Hurley
Chair

Lian Hogan
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

GEORGE CAMERON
W35886

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: March 7, 2024

DATE OF DECISION: June 25, 2024

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

VOTE: Parole is granted upon issuance of Decision to a program that will meet his needs.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On December 2, 1976, following a jury trial in Worcester Superior Court, George Cameron was convicted of six counts of second-degree murder and received six concurrent sentences of life in prison with the possibility of parole. He was also convicted of two counts of arson, resulting in a consecutive sentence of 10-15 years. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 1991 and after review hearings in 1994, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2017. Mr. Cameron postponed his review hearing scheduled for 2022. On March 7, 2024, Mr. Cameron appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Deirdre Thurber. The Board's decision fully incorporates, by reference, the entire video recording of Mr. Cameron's March 7, 2024, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On April 2, 1976, George Cameron (age 19), who was assisted by Michael Moody, set a fire that resulted in the deaths of six people. The victims of these offenses were Lisa Grandmaison (age 8), John Grandmaison (age 5), Daniel Grandmaison (age 3), Christine Grandmaison (age 10), their mother Florence Grandmaison (age 31), and Colleen McCarthy (age 16). Examination of the fire scene revealed that the fire originated on the first-floor rear porch. The fire quickly raged out of control, shooting up the rear porches of each floor to the top of the four-story building. The McCarthy family lived on the third floor, and the Grandmaison family lived on the fourth floor. John Grandmaison, a survivor, lost his wife (who was 8 months pregnant) and three of his children, all of whom perished that night, as well as his daughter Lisa, who died two months later at the Shriners' Hospital in Boston. Colleen

McCarthy tried to make her way to the fourth floor to help the Grandmaison family. She died while trying to save them. Mr. Cameron admitted at his 2007 parole hearing that he was obsessed with two of the occupants of the building, Colleen McCarthy and her sister, Kathleen. He described his lust for the two young women, stating that if he could not have the young girls, then nobody would. Mr. Cameron and Michael Moody each blamed the other when they were arrested and interviewed two weeks after the fire. It was undisputed that Mr. Cameron called 911 soon after the fire started. His call was recorded, and he described the fire "I just lit."

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 incarcerated individual'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 incarcerated individual'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 incarcerated individual at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the incarcerated individual'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).

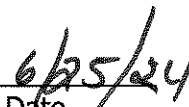
DECISION OF THE BOARD: This was Mr. Cameron's eighth appearance before the Board. He was 19 years old at the time of the offense. He had a significant trauma history and learning disabilities. Mr. Cameron has served 48 years and is now 67 years old. He presented with an appreciation for the serious harm he has caused. He was remorseful and appears to understand the impact his crimes have had on the survivors and the community. Mr. Cameron recognized that it took him many years to come to terms with what he did and to accept full responsibility for the offense. He has engaged in Violence Prevention programming, Criminal Thinking, and Substance Abuse treatment. He has been sober for 40 years and has attended AA and Smart Recovery. The Board considered the expert evaluation by Dr. DiCataldo and the comprehensive re-entry plan submitted by Kathryn Barry. The Board considered her testimony, as well as opposition testimony from ADA Jesse Paul-Crane from the Worcester District Attorney's Office. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Mr. Cameron has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for Long-Term Residential Program; Curfew: must be at home between 10PM and 6AM at Parole Officer's discretion; Electronic monitoring at Parole Officer's discretion; 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)' families; Must have substance abuse evaluation and must comply with recommended treatment plan; Counseling for adjustment and trauma history; Long-Term Residential Program.

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.


Tina M. Hurley, Chair


Date