



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

GEORGE DONOVAN
W46283

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **June 27, 2023**

DATE OF DECISION: **September 7, 2023**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, James Kelcourse

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On June 23, 1988, George Donovan murdered his 29-year-old girlfriend, Kathleen Kane, at their home in Everett. On April 13, 1989, in Middlesex Superior Court, Mr. Donovan pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree and was sentenced to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole.

Mr. Donovan appeared before the Board on June 27, 2023, for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Lorenzo Perez. Parole was denied following prior hearings in 2003, 2008, 2011, 2017, and 2021. The entire video recording of Mr. Donovan's June 27, 2023 hearing is fully incorporated by reference into 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.

Parole reserve upon completion of one year in lower security to LTRP.¹ This was Mr. Donovan's 6th appearance before the Board. While Mr. Donovan only has 1 disciplinary report and has

¹ One Board Member voted to deny parole with a 2-year review.

maintained his sobriety for 35 years, he began addressing his history of domestic violence in 2017. Since that period of time he has engaged in specific domestic violence programming and now appears to have gained sufficient insight into his pattern of abuse. Mr. Donovan has engaged in Restorative Justice and has remained in the NEADS program. Mr. Donovan agreed that he would benefit from more intensive counseling that is offered in the community to specifically address his own reported abuse history and healthy relationships.

Mr. Donovan has been incarcerated for 35 years. He requested a transition through lower security to a residential treatment program to assist with positive re-entry. The Board considered a forensic evaluation provided by Dr. Saleh in 2021. The Board also considered the testimony from four members of the victim's family and Howard Blatchford, Assistant District Attorney from Middlesex County, who also spoke in opposition to his parole.

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. Donovan'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. Donovan's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Donovan's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Donovan is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time, subject to special conditions.

Special Conditions: Parole reserve upon completion of one year in lower security to LTRP; Complete LTRP; Waive work for LTRP; Curfew – Must be at home between 10PM and 6AM; 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 intimate partner violence or Batterer's Program; 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.


Tina M. Hurley, Chair

09/07/2023

Date