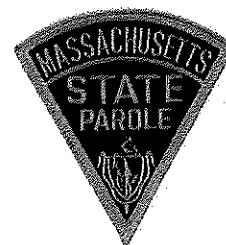




The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION
IN THE MATTER OF

GEORGE ECONOMOU
W62354

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: November 14, 2024

DATE OF DECISION: February 25, 2025

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

VOTE: Parole is granted to a medical facility which can meet his medical needs, but not before District Attorney clearance.¹

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On March 21, 1997, after a jury trial in Middlesex Superior Court, George Economou was convicted of three counts of rape and abuse of a child and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Economou was convicted of five counts of rape and received 15 to 20 year concurrent sentences, two counts of assault with the intent to rape and received 7 to 10 year concurrent sentences, two counts of indecent assault and battery on a child under 14 and received 7 to 10 year concurrent sentences, and five counts of indecent assault and battery of a person over 14 and received 3 to 5 year concurrent sentences. Mr. Economou was convicted on 17 total indictments.

On January 27, 2021, Mr. Economou was granted a medical release by the Department of Correction. He was transferred to Shattuck Hospital for continued care. On July 21, 2021, Mr. Economou was medically cleared and determined to be ready for discharge. Accordingly, Mr. Economou's medical parole permit was revoked, and he was transferred back to prison. Mr. Economou was denied parole after his initial hearing before the Board on November 4, 2021. George Economou, now 70-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on November 14, 2024, for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Kelly Cusack.

¹ Three Board Members voted to deny parole with a review in 2 years from the date of this hearing.

The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of George Economou's November 14, 2024, parole hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: In 1982, George Economou initiated a series of physical and sexual assaults on his three daughters. The sexual abuse began when his oldest daughter was 12 and continued until she moved out of the family home in Lowell at age 24. The other two daughters were then victimized by his sexual and physical abuse until the Department of Social Services intervened on April 27, 1996. Mr. Economou has maintained his innocence since his arrest in 1996.

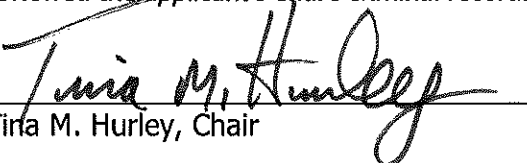
APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain 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).

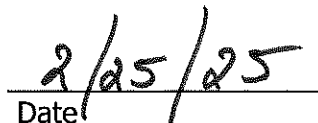
DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Economou was before the Board for a review hearing. Mr. Economou has multiple health issues. (Mr. Economou has been incarcerated for 28 years.). He has had a prior medical parole release with a subsequent return to custody after approximately six months due to improved health. After his initial hearing on November 4, 2021, Mr. Economou completed the low intensity SOTP (Sexual Offender Treatment Program). He has limited other programming. His family testified that they will secure appropriate medical facility treatment for his multiple need areas.

The Middlesex County District Attorney deferred to the Board's discretion, but raised concerns in testimony and written submission.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work - disabled; ; 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 children under the age of 18 unless supervised; Must have substance abuse evaluation and follow recommendations; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment; Medical facility that will meet his needs; Mandatory Sex-A Conditions and sign releases of information.

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.


Tifra M. Hurley, Chair


Date