



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

**GERALD CRAFFEY
W61139**

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: January 12, 2016

DATE OF DECISION: June 13, 2016

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: ~~Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Ina Howard-Hogan, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe~~

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 unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in five years from the date of the hearing.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On August 15, 1996, in Suffolk Superior Court, Gerald Craffey pled guilty to the aggravated rape and second degree murder of Corinne Flynn. A sentence of life in prison was imposed on Mr. Craffey for the murder of Ms. Flynn. Mr. Craffey was also sentenced to a consecutive term of not more than 20 years and not less than 15 years in prison for his conviction of aggravated rape.

On August 27, 1991, members of Ms. Flynn's family discovered her body in a second floor bedroom of the home she shared with her 8-year-old daughter in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Boston. Subsequent investigation revealed Ms. Flynn's death to have been caused by multiple stab wounds to her side. The investigation also revealed that Ms. Flynn had been raped. At the time of her death, Ms. Flynn was known to have suffered from Multiple Sclerosis.

The investigation into Ms. Flynn's death initially involved numerous suspects, but ultimately remained unsolved until September 1995. Investigators began to focus on Mr. Craffey as a suspect after the case was assigned to the Boston Police Department's Cold Case Squad in August 1994. Investigators confirmed their suspicions when they submitted a sample of Mr. Craffey's blood to the FBI in 1995, when DNA testing revealed a match between Mr. Craffey and samples taken from Ms. Flynn's body. On September 14, 1995, detectives interviewed Mr. Craffey. Over the course of two interviews, Mr. Craffey confessed to having raped and murdered Ms. Flynn. During the interviews, Mr. Craffey told officers that he was a drug addict and an alcoholic, and that he wanted to obtain psychiatric help.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON JANUARY 12, 2016

Mr. Craffey, now 49-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on January 12, 2016 for a review hearing and was represented by Student Attorney Huy Le. Mr. Craffey's initial appearance before the Board, in August 2010, resulted in the denial of parole. In Mr. Craffey's opening statement, he apologized for his actions and expressed his remorse. During the course of the hearing, he spoke about the night of the murder.

According to Mr. Craffey, Ms. Flynn invited him into her home after he arrived with a six pack of beer, asking if he could speak with her. After talking together for some time, Mr. Craffey began to kiss Ms. Flynn. Although she initially reciprocated his advances, Ms. Flynn eventually told Mr. Craffey that she only wanted to be friends. Mr. Craffey then took a knife off a coffee table and threatened Ms. Flynn. Mr. Craffey then ordered Ms. Flynn to go upstairs and disrobe. After being raped by Mr. Craffey, Ms. Flynn started striking Mr. Craffey and threatened to tell her brother what he had done. Mr. Craffey swung the knife at Ms. Flynn and stabbed her multiple times in (what he described as) a blind rage. After murdering Ms. Flynn, Mr. Craffey fled the scene, threw the knife away, went home, and discarded his clothing. Mr. Craffey was not apprehended until years later, when he provided a DNA sample to detectives investigating the murder. During the interim, Mr. Craffey stayed in contact with Ms. Flynn's family as they mourned her death.

Mr. Craffey discussed the efforts he has made since his last parole hearing to further rehabilitate himself through programming. Mr. Craffey attends Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous (AA/NA), as well as other substance abuse programs, multiple times per week. Mr. Craffey has also participated in programming to address his anger management issues. Mr. Craffey has been involved in the pretreatment for the Sexual Offenders Treatment Program (parts I and II). Mr. Craffey indicated he chose to suspend his involvement in the program, thus failing to complete the treatment section of the program (part III). He stated he suspended his involvement for several reasons, including his appeals. Mr. Craffey attempted to resume his involvement in 2012, but learned that he was not eligible for the treatment part of the program because of his sentence length. Mr. Craffey indicated that he hopes to become eligible for and complete the treatment section of the program if he is paroled. Although Mr. Craffey was employed, a disciplinary incident resulted in the loss of his employment. He is not currently working.

The Board considered testimony from Mr. Craffey's uncle, who expressed support for his release. The Board also considered testimony from Ms. Flynn's sister-in-law, brothers, childhood best friend, and daughter, all of whom expressed opposition to Mr. Craffey's petition

for parole. Testimony in opposition to parole was also considered from Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Charles Bartoloni and Sgt. Detective William Doogan of the Boston Police Department.

III. DECISION

The Board is of the opinion that Mr. Craffey has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board believes that a longer period of positive institutional adjustment and programming would be beneficial to Mr. Craffey's rehabilitation.

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. Craffey'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 whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Craffey's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Craffey's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Craffey is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Craffey's next appearance before the Board will take place in five years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Craffey to continue working towards his full rehabilitation.

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.


Gloriann Moroney, General Counsel

6/13/16
Date