

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

GERALD CRAFTFEY
W61139

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **January 22, 2025**

DATE OF DECISION: **May 5, 2025**

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

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in 4 years from the date of the hearing.²

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On August 15, 1996, in Suffolk Superior Court, Gerald Craftfey pleaded guilty to second degree murder in the death of Corinne Flynn. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Craftfey also pleaded guilty to aggravated rape and was sentenced to a consecutive term of 15 to 20 years, and to armed assault in a dwelling, which was filed. Parole was denied after an initial hearing in 2010, and after review hearings in 2016 and 2021. On January 22, 2025, Gerald Craftfey appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Frank Herrmann. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Gerald Craftfey's January 22, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On or about August 27, 1991, 24-year-old Gerald Craftfey stabbed 33-year-old Corinne Flynn to death after raping her at knifepoint. On this date, members of Ms. Flynn's family discovered her body in the second-floor bedroom of the home she shared with her 8-year-old daughter in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Boston. Subsequent investigations revealed her cause of death was due to multiple stab wounds. The investigation

¹ Board Member Coughlin was not present for the hearing, but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

² Two Board members voted to deny with a review in 3 years.

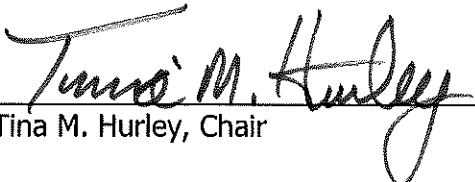
also revealed Ms. Flynn had been raped. At the time of her death, Ms. Flynn was known to have suffered from Multiple Sclerosis.

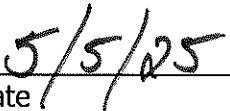
The investigation into Corinne Flynn's death initially involved numerous suspects, but it remained unsolved until September 1995. Investigators began to focus on Gerald Craffey as a suspect after the case was assigned to the Boston Police Department's Cold Case Squad in August 1994. Investigators confirmed their suspicions when they submitted a sample of Mr. Craffey's blood to the FBI in 1995. DNA testing revealed a match between Mr. Craffey and the samples taken from Ms. Flynn's body. On September 14, 1995, over the course of two interviews, Mr. Craffey confessed to having raped and murdered Ms. Flynn when he was 24-years-old. During the interviews, Mr. Craffey told officers that he was a drug addict and an alcoholic, and that he needed psychiatric help.

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. Craffey was before the Board for the 4th time. The Board noted he has perpetrated sexual violence against multiple victims. While having recently completed SOTP, the Board finds he would benefit from additional rehabilitation, having only recently engaged in such treatment despite his lengthy incarceration. The Board notes that Mr. Craffey still appears to lack insight into his actions. The Board also found the circumstances of the murder, and Mr. Craffey's actions in the following years, to be particularly concerning. His versions of the crime have varied over the years, causing the Board to have concerns regarding his rehabilitation. The Board encourages Mr. Craffey to reflect on his accountability, engage in the Sex Offender Maintenance Program, and address his mental health needs. The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from three members of Ms. Flynn's family, Boston Police Captain (Ret.) Timothy Murray, and Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Darcy Jordan. The Board concludes that Gerald Craffey 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.


Tina M. Hurley, Chair


Date