

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 CRAFFEY  
W61139

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing  
**DATE OF HEARING:** January 28, 2021  
**DATE OF DECISION:** September 27, 2021

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa<sup>1</sup>

**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 in four years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On August 15, 1996, in Suffolk Superior Court, Gerald Craffey pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of 33-year-old Corinne Flynn and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Craffey also pleaded guilty to the aggravated rape of Ms. Flynn and was sentenced to a consecutive term of 15 to 20 years in state prison.

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 her cause of death was due to multiple stab wounds. 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.

<sup>1</sup> Chair Gloriann Moroney recused.

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.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON JANUARY 28, 2021**

Gerald Craffey, now 54-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on January 28, 2021, for a review hearing. He was represented by law students from Northeastern University School of Law. Mr. Craffey was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2010, and after his review hearing in 2016. Mr. Craffey told the Board that he had been sexually assaulted as a child, by a family friend, until he was 15 years old. He did not understand what was happening to him and felt ashamed, embarrassed, and vulnerable. Mr. Craffey explained that he could not report the abuse and, instead, "buried" his emotions by abusing alcohol and drugs. He subsequently developed an addiction to alcohol and crack cocaine, which enabled him to commit multiple sex offenses against women, including the assault and murder of Ms. Flynn.

The Board asked Mr. Craffey to detail the offenses he committed against women prior to the murder of Ms. Flynn. He acknowledged a kidnapping charge in 1989, after grabbing a woman by the arm and attempting to drag her with him. As he frequently picked up sex workers in the same area, Mr. Craffey believed that he could pick up this woman "in the same way." He denied brandishing a weapon, stating that he took off in his car as soon as the woman screamed. In 1992, Mr. Craffey was charged with, and later convicted of, assaulting another woman, who was an acquaintance. Although he accepts full responsibility for the offense, Mr. Craffey claims that he cannot recall the details. The Board noted, however, that the victim reported that she had accepted a ride from Mr. Craffey, after which he drove down a dead-end street, demanded that she perform sexual acts on him (while threatening her with a knife), and punched her in the face. The victim managed to get out of the car, but without her handbag, and Mr. Craffey drove off. Mr. Craffey agreed that he pleaded guilty to these charges and received a suspended sentence.

The Board noted that Mr. Craffey had known Ms. Flynn since he was a teenager through his close friendship with her younger brothers. Although he was attracted to her, Mr. Craffey admitted that she never gave him any indication she was interested in him romantically. As with his previous assaults, Mr. Craffey used drugs and alcohol on the day of the murder. Late that night, he decided to visit Ms. Flynn at her house. Although he denied that his original plan was to harm her, Mr. Craffey was "set off" when she rejected his sexual advances, so he forced her upstairs and raped her. When Ms. Flynn threatened to report what he had done, he flew into a "blind rage." He admitted to stabbing her, as well as slashing her throat. Mr. Craffey also admitted that he was well-aware that Ms. Flynn had Multiple Sclerosis and was physically incapable of fighting him off.

Upon questioning from the Board, Mr. Craffey stated that he does not consider himself a serial rapist because he has many issues besides sexual deviancy. Although he has been incarcerated since 1995, Mr. Craffey told the Board that he did not begin to appreciate the gravity of his sexual deviancy until 2016. He acknowledged that he does not have much understanding as to how his own victimization, as a child, contributed to his pattern of sexually

abusing others. Mr. Craffey is not seeking parole release at this time, but instead, requests a three-year setback to complete the core phase of the Sex Offender Treatment Program. He told the Board that it would likely take him five to seven years to complete the program and become fully rehabilitated. The Board agreed that, while Mr. Craffey has completed other programs, such as Alternatives to Violence, Anger Management, and the Graduate Maintenance Program, participation in the Sex Offender Treatment Program is essential to his rehabilitation and critical to his insight into his criminal conduct.

The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from Ms. Flynn's family members. The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from a current and retired member of the Boston Police Department. The Board considered multiples letters of opposition, including those from Suffolk County District Attorney Rachael Rollins and Boston Police Commissioner William Gross.

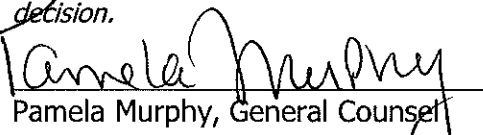
### **III. DECISION**

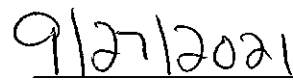
The Board is of the opinion that Gerald Craffey has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Craffey should pursue the Sex Offender Treatment Program at the Massachusetts Treatment Center. He has incurred [a] recent concerning d[isciplinary] report. He has insufficient insight with respect to [his] history of sex offenses and risk for future sex crimes. Mr. Craffey has engaged in minimal programming to address causative factors that led to his incarceration, specifically violence, anger, and substance abuse.

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 a risk and needs assessment and 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 opinion that Gerald Craffey is not rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Craffey's next appearance before the Board will take place in four years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Craffey to continue working toward 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.*

  
Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

  
Date