

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

GLEN ALEBORD

W83121

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: July 14, 2020

DATE OF DECISION: January 14, 2021

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Karen McCarthy, Colette Santa

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 not a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is denied with a review in two years.¹

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On February 5, 2004, in Plymouth Superior Court, Glen Alebord was convicted by a jury in the second-degree murder of Benjamin Shiren. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

On the evening of July 2, 1989, Glen Alebord and his upstairs neighbor, Timothy Braley, were drinking beer in Mr. Alebord's apartment in Whitman. The two men decided that they wanted to buy cocaine. At around 11:00 p.m., the men told Mr. Alebord's girlfriend that they were "going to party" at a friend's house in Brockton. The two men, along with two of Mr. Alebord's dogs, left the apartment in Mr. Alebord's blue Ford F-150 pickup truck and went to the Brockton home of a woman with the intent of purchasing cocaine. When the woman, Cookie,

¹ One Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in three years. One Board Member voted to grant parole, but not before completion of 18 months in lower security.

paged her dealer, she did not receive a response. So, Mr. Alebord and Mr. Braley decided to buy drugs from someone on the street. After the purchase, they returned to Cookie's house, but discovered that the substance was not real cocaine. The men were angry and wanted to get revenge on the seller. Mr. Alebord and Mr. Braley decided to find the man who sold them the fake drugs. They saw two black men standing in front of a bakery, one of whom was Mr. Shiren. The other man began to walk away when he saw the pickup truck (with the two white men and dog) approach. Mr. Braley, the passenger, asked the men if they had seen "Maurice, or something like that." When Mr. Shiren replied, "No," Mr. Braley raised Mr. Alebord's rifle through the passenger side window and said, "Well how do you like this?" He then opened fire. Mr. Shiren sustained a fatal gunshot wound, while the other gentleman was able to take cover behind a nearby car.

Mr. Alebord successfully concealed his role in Mr. Shiren's murder for over a decade before he was apprehended. On December 29, 2000, a Plymouth County Grand Jury returned an indictment charging Mr. Alebord with the murder of Benjamin Shiren.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON JULY 14, 2020

Glen Alebord, now 53-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on July 14, 2020, for a review hearing. This was Mr. Alebord's second appearance before the Board, having been denied parole in 2016. He was represented by Attorney Stefan Rozembursky, who provided an opening statement on Mr. Alebord's behalf by outlining his rehabilitative efforts. Mr. Alebord began the hearing by apologizing to the victim's family. He expressed his remorse and acknowledged the pain and heartache his role in the murder caused. Noting that he was arrested for the murder of Mr. Shiren over a decade after the crime occurred, the Board inquired as to whether Mr. Alebord has reflected on the impact that the length of time had on Mr. Shiren's family. Mr. Alebord admitted to being scared and stated that "I did everything in my power to not get caught." He claims to understand that he prevented the family from receiving any answers or closure. Mr. Alebord indicated that, once the crime occurred, he developed a sense of guilt. Yet, he was unable to turn himself in. He characterized his avoidance of responsibility as "poor decision making." Additionally, Mr. Alebord admitted that, due to his feelings of guilt, his drinking significantly increased and, while intoxicated, it was not uncommon for him to discuss the crime with strangers. He told the Board that this was his way of "getting it [the murder] off his chest."

Mr. Alebord indicated that his actions leading up to the murder and, until the time of his arrest, were a series of bad choices. When Board Members addressed the various versions of the crime he told in the past, Mr. Alebord responded that they were lies he told himself and others. When asked about his acceptance of responsibility and culpability, Mr. Alebord told the Board that, initially, he blamed his codefendant for everything. However, he now understands this to be a mistake and has since reevaluated his role. Mr. Alebord explained to the Board that the choices he made that night, such as carrying a firearm in his vehicle or drinking throughout the day, contributed to the murder. Although he did not "pull the trigger," Mr. Alebord acknowledged that he is just as culpable as his codefendant.

The Board also addressed Mr. Alebord's history of domestic violence. Mr. Alebord admitted to being physically and mentally abusive in his past relationships with women. Specifically, the Board raised concerns regarding Mr. Alebord's conception that fear did not play

a role in his relationships. Upon questioning, Mr. Alebord stated that there was a "possibility" his girlfriends were in fear; however, he is doubtful because they were strong women and ended the relationship when they had enough. Mr. Alebord explained that he believed these women stayed with him (for as long as they did) because they loved [him] so much. In response, Board Members provided Mr. Alebord with grand jury testimony where his ex-girlfriend characterized his behavior throughout their relationship as "intimidating" and "violent." Additionally, the Board brought to Mr. Alebord's attention other instances that could have indicated fear, such as, his ex-girlfriend moving out in a secretive manner, his intimidation tactics that prevented his ex-girlfriends from coming forward about the crime, and the various restraining orders issued. Moreover, the Board expressed concern that Mr. Alebord did not fully appreciate the severity of his abuse and, as a result, minimized his culpability. Mr. Alebord explained, however, that his drinking issues accelerated the abuse and that, when he was not drinking, everything was fine. Through his participation in domestic violence programming, Mr. Alebord said that he has been able to reflect on his past abuse of women; he believes that jealousy, insecurity, and low self-esteem contributed to his violence. Although they found that Mr. Alebord's comprehension of domestic violence has improved since his last hearing, Board Members ultimately noted that a more meaningful understanding is warranted and that his participation in domestic violence programs should continue.

When the Board discussed his history of substance abuse, Mr. Alebord admitted that he is an alcoholic. He also expressed an understanding that alcoholism runs in his family and requires treatment. Prior to his arrest, Mr. Alebord was involved in several OUI incidents, as his drinking escalated after the murder of Mr. Shiren. Mr. Alebord stated that alcohol was the underlying factor of "all his troubles." Board Members, however, encouraged Mr. Alebord to address his propensity for violence and criminal behavior as separate from his struggle with alcohol. Upon questioning, Mr. Alebord said that he has remained sober throughout his incarceration, stating that "sobriety means everything" to him. He believes that his programming efforts and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings have helped, as well. Mr. Alebord further acknowledged that alcohol is no longer a part of his life and, if he finds himself slipping, he has a sponsor for support. Mr. Alebord stated that he has "buried" himself in programs in order to identify his problems and to "answer questions" he had about himself. The Peer Mentor Group gave him a sense of purpose because he enjoys giving back and helping others. When Board Members questioned him as to his mental health, Mr. Alebord said that he participates in counseling twice a month, where he addresses family issues, as well as his role in Mr. Shiren's murder.

The Board considered the testimony of Mr. Alebord's children, as well as a childhood friend, who expressed their support for parole. The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from Plymouth County Assistant District Attorney Keara Kelley. Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy Cruz provided a letter of opposition, as well.

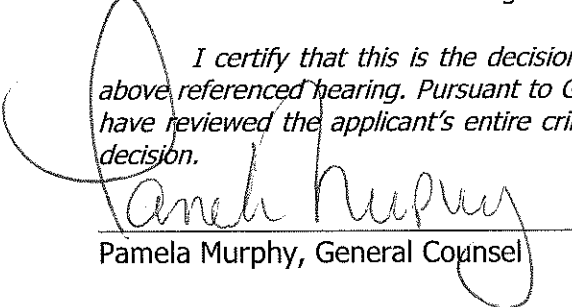
III. DECISION

It is the opinion of the Board that Glen Alebord has not yet demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Alebord has served 19 years for his role in the murder of Benjamin Shiren. The Board acknowledges the recent strides in the areas of domestic violence and substance use. It is the opinion of the Board that he needs to gain additional insight in those areas. Mr. Alebord's criminal history dates back to 1985. He needs to achieve a genuine understanding as to how his criminal

behavior has impacted the victims of his offenses. During the hearing, he minimized his criminal culpability and exhibited difficulty with empathy with his victims as evidenced by statements he made during the hearing.

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. Alebord'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. Alebord's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Alebord's case, the Board is of the opinion that Glen Alebord has not yet been rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time. Mr. Alebord's next hearing will take place in two years from the date of his hearing.

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

1/14/2021
Date