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Secretary

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**PAROLE BOARD**

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**Paul M. Treseler**  
Chairman

**Michael J. Callahan**  
Executive Director

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**GLENN ALEBORD**  
**W83121**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** February 9, 2016

**DATE OF DECISION:** June 30, 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 February 5, 2004, in Plymouth Superior Court, Glenn Alebord was convicted by a jury in the second degree murder of Benjamin Shiren. A sentence of life in prison with the possibility of parole was imposed on Mr. Alebord for the murder of Mr. Shiren.

On the evening of July 2, 1989, Mr. 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., they 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, then left the apartment in Mr. Alebord's blue Ford F-150 pickup truck. Mr. Alebord and Mr. Braley went to the home of a woman named Cookie, on Warren Avenue in Brockton, with the intention of purchasing cocaine. Cookie paged her dealer, but did not receive a response, so Mr. Alebord and Mr. Braley decided to buy drugs from someone on the street. After purchasing a substance from a man on the street, Mr. Alebord and Mr. Braley returned to



Cookie's house and discovered that the substance was not real cocaine. They were angry and wanted to get revenge on the seller. So, Mr. Alebord and Mr. Braley decided to go and 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 gentleman that was standing with Mr. Shiren 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. He said, "Well how do you like this" and then opened fire. Mr. Shiren sustained a fatal gunshot wound. 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 Mr. Shiren.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

Mr. Alebord, now 49-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on February 9, 2016 for an initial hearing and was represented by Student Attorney Amanda Bradley. In Mr. Alebord's opening statement to the Board, he apologized to Mr. Shiren's family and expressed remorse for his actions. During the course of the hearing, Mr. Alebord spoke about the night of the murder. According to Mr. Alebord, he and his neighbor, Mr. Braley, spent the day drinking alcohol together. Prior to that day, Mr. Alebord and Mr. Braley had not socialized (aside from exchanging greetings in passing). Earlier in the day, Mr. Braley had helped Mr. Alebord fix his truck, and the two men then went shooting in a dirt pit where Mr. Alebord sometimes went for target practice. They spent about an hour shooting, and then returned to Mr. Alebord's apartment to "drink some more beers" and play darts. At some point, Mr. Braley mentioned that his birthday was the following day and said that he would like to get some cocaine. Mr. Alebord suggested that they go to Brockton to try to buy cocaine through a woman he knew named Cookie. He had never purchased cocaine through her before, but some of his friends had obtained it that way. Mr. Alebord believed Cookie could put them in touch with her drug dealer.

At around 11:30 p.m. (and unannounced), Mr. Alebord and Mr. Braley showed up at Cookie's house. Cookie let them in the house and the three of them sat in her living room, while she paged her dealer. Mr. Alebord, Mr. Braley, and Cookie had hoped to purchase \$70 worth of cocaine. According to Mr. Alebord, Cookie's dealer never responded, so Mr. Braley offered to see if he could find cocaine on the street. Mr. Alebord gave Mr. Braley the money and the keys to his truck. Mr. Alebord said that he became concerned when Mr. Braley had not returned after an hour, since he was only supposed to be going around the corner to purchase the cocaine. Mr. Alebord and Cookie watched TV while they waited for Mr. Braley to return.

When Mr. Braley returned, approximately two hours after he had left to find cocaine, he claimed he had been sold "fake cocaine." Mr. Alebord said that based on the way Mr. Braley was acting and the amount of time that he was gone, Mr. Alebord and Cookie believed that he had ingested cocaine. After the two men left the apartment, Mr. Alebord said that he "called his bluff" and asked Mr. Braley if he really got ripped off. When Mr. Braley insisted that he was sold fake cocaine, Mr. Alebord asked for a description of the dealer and then drove to the corner where Mr. Braley had allegedly purchased the fake cocaine. The Board asked Mr.



Alebord what he and Mr. Braley intended to do when they found the drug dealer that allegedly ripped off Mr. Braley. However, Mr. Alebord said that he thought Mr. Braley had lied when he claimed to have not ingested the cocaine. He did not believe that a drug dealer had ripped off Mr. Braley, so Mr. Alebord said that he was "pressuring him to tell me the truth and own up to ingesting the coke." When there was no one at the corner that Mr. Braley claimed the sale had occurred, the two drove down Warren Avenue until they came across a group of people in an empty parking lot. Mr. Alebord stated that his intention was to ask the group if they had seen a man matching the supposed dealer's description. Mr. Alebord claims that as he was pulling up to the group, Mr. Braley pulled out the rifle from a holder on the bench seat of the truck and shot the rifle out the window about four or five times. At that point, Mr. Alebord sped away from the scene. This was essentially the same account of events that Mr. Alebord testified to during his trial. He maintains that he did not know that Mr. Braley was going to shoot anyone.

The Board asked Mr. Alebord to discuss the testimony that two of his former girlfriends had given during his trial. Mr. Alebord said that one girlfriend had testified that Mr. Alebord told her that the murder was "a drug deal gone bad" and that Mr. Braley was supposed to shoot the victim in the leg. Mr. Alebord told the Board that as the two men were driving away after the shooting, he asked Mr. Braley why he had done it and Mr. Braley replied that he had meant to shoot him in the leg. Mr. Alebord said that he was usually drunk when he spoke about the crime and believes he could have given numerous versions of how the events had transpired that night. However, Mr. Alebord claims that he is "absolutely sure" that Mr. Braley went to get the cocaine on his own.

In regard to the testimony of Mr. Alebord's other girlfriend, whom he had been living with at the time of the murder, Mr. Alebord stated that she "repeated a lie that I had told her that night." Mr. Alebord said that he was punched in the face and robbed. He did not want to tell his girlfriend that he went to Brockton to purchase cocaine and hang out with Cookie because he believed she would be angry. He also told this girlfriend that he had given his rifle to Mr. Braley. They were going back to scare the men and Mr. Braley then fired into the group. Mr. Alebord believes that this is, in fact, the version he told his girlfriend on the night of the murder. He admitted to the Board that the "whole story was just bogus" and was an excuse to get money and his shotgun case (which contained a shotgun) from the apartment. Mr. Alebord stated that since he was concerned that someone may have seen his license plate, he wanted to get rid of the .22 rifle in case the police came to his home. He placed the .22 rifle in the shotgun case, along with the shotgun. Mr. Braley then drove Mr. Alebord to a laundromat, so that Mr. Alebord could hide both guns in a woodpile. Mr. Alebord said that at approximately 3:00 a.m., he and Mr. Braley drove back to Brockton to return Cookie's money. They saw police at the scene of the shooting.

Mr. Alebord continued describing his version of the murder to the Board. He stated that the next morning, he and his brother went back to the woodpile to retrieve the .22 rifle. They drove to a swamp near a cranberry bog, where Mr. Alebord then threw the gun into a swamp. He also confirmed that both he and his girlfriend took their daughter to Maine, and had purchased passports with the intention of going to England. While in Maine, he painted his truck and put a cap on it. When asked if he had considered talking to the authorities while in Maine, Mr. Alebord said that he had thought about it, but he did not want to go to prison. Mr. Alebord believed that he may have "provoked the whole thing" and "antagonized" Mr. Braley into committing the crime by trying to get Mr. Braley to admit that he had ingested the cocaine.



According to Mr. Alebord, Mr. Braley admitted to him a few days later that he had, in fact, gotten cocaine on the night of the murder. When Mr. Alebord returned from Maine, he and Mr. Braley agreed never to speak of the crime again.

The Board expressed concern regarding Mr. Alebord's history of assaultive behavior. Mr. Alebord admitted that he had been drinking heavily after the murder and became verbally abusive to his girlfriend, which (he believes) led to their breakup. He told the Board that he had threatened to implicate his ex-girlfriend in the crime, if she ever went to the police. Mr. Alebord acknowledged that he was both verbally and physically abusive to his subsequent girlfriend. In regard to his past abuse of women, he admits that he had been "very jealous" and "insecure." Mr. Alebord believes that his low self-esteem, combined with alcohol, contributed to his violence toward women. Mr. Alebord said that he did not think about consequences during that period of his life. During the throes of alcoholism, Mr. Alebord hit and kicked a man during a fight and spent a year incarcerated. Mr. Alebord admitted that he had been in denial about his alcoholism, until he was incarcerated for Mr. Shiren's murder. He now realizes that he was a bad alcoholic and had a "nasty side" when he drank.

While incarcerated, Mr. Alebord sought mental health treatment and participated in one-on-one counseling. He has completed the Substance Abuse Education Program, Criminal Addictive Thinking, Alternatives to Violence, and Violence Reduction. Mr. Alebord regularly attends Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings. Mr. Alebord said that he has tried to obtain additional programming, but only recently became eligible for certain programs due to the structure of his sentence. Mr. Alebord thinks it would be helpful for him to participate in another domestic violence program. He had previously taken a court ordered domestic violence course when his girlfriend took out a restraining order against him. Mr. Alebord believes the program did not really work because he was still drinking at that time. He also earned his GED and took a computer skills program while in prison.

The Board considered the testimony of Mr. Alebord's son, who expressed support for his release. The Board also considered the testimony of Plymouth County Assistant District Attorney Keith Garland, who spoke in opposition to Mr. Alebord's parole.

### **III. DECISION**

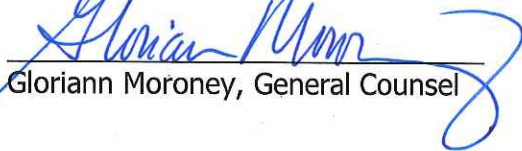
The Board is of the opinion that Mr. Alebord has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board believes a longer period of positive institutional adjustment and programming would be beneficial to Mr. Alebord's rehabilitation.

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. 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 unanimous opinion that Mr. Alebord is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Alebord'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. Alebord 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

6/30/16  
Date