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**Tina M. Hurley**  
*Chair*

**Lian Hogan**  
*Executive Director*

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**GORDON DEAN**  
**W41843**

**TYPE OF HEARING:**      **Review Hearing<sup>1</sup>**

**DATE OF HEARING:**      **June 18, 2024**

**DATE OF DECISION:**      **October 24, 2024**

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman,<sup>2</sup> Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley,<sup>3</sup> James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

**VOTE:** Parole is denied with a review in three years from the date of the hearing.<sup>4</sup>

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On July 25, 1985, in Plymouth Superior Court, Gordon Dean pleaded guilty to rape of a child with force, kidnapping, assault with a dangerous weapon, and two counts of assault and battery on a police officer. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole for rape of a child by force. The remaining convictions were placed on file. These crimes occurred while Mr. Dean was on parole for a 1975 kidnapping, for which he was sentenced to a term of 7 to 11 years in state prison. On June 18, 2024, Gordon Dean appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Attorney Debra Beard-Bader. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Gordon Dean's June 18, 2024, hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On April 27, 1984, at about 10:15 p.m., 15-year-old L.T.<sup>5</sup> was walking home on Federal Furnace Road in Plymouth. Near a phone booth, Gordon Dean

<sup>1</sup> This is Mr. Dean's first appearance before the Parole Board. He postponed his hearings in 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014, and 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Board Member Coleman was not present for the hearing but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

<sup>3</sup> Chair Hurley was not present for the hearing but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Dean has a 1999 parole violation warrant that remains lodged.

<sup>5</sup> The victim's initials are used to protect the identity of the victim.

jumped out of the bushes, put a hunting knife to her throat and his hand over her mouth, and then told her she would not be hurt if she did what he said. He dragged her into the woods, waited a moment, and told her to follow him to his car parked 30 yards away from the phone booth. L.T. complied and walked with Mr. Dean to his car. He drove them down a dirt road, showed her the knife again, and ordered her to take off her clothes. After L.T. complied, Mr. Dean raped her vaginally and orally. He then dropped L.T. off near the spot he had originally abducted her from. L.T. notified police and provided a description of Mr. Dean. A month later, she identified the defendant Mr. Dean at his workplace. Mr. Dean was arrested and interviewed. He admitted picking L.T. up, claiming that he offered her money for oral sex. During his arrest, he fought with police officers and injured two of them – one officer was pushed down approximately 14 stairs.

**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:** Gordon Dean presented for his initial hearing after previously postponing four hearings. Mr. Dean was on parole from a 1977 offense when he committed the governing offenses. His history of offenses have been similar in nature, including violent sexual behavior. Mr. Dean also revealed in the hearing that he committed additional sexual offenses that he was not convicted of. Mr. Dean openly discussed the molestation of his daughter, as well as the profile of the victims he would target, all of whom he stated were 15 years old and under. Mr. Dean has served 40 years, yet he only recently completed the Sex Offender Treatment Program (S.O.T.P). Mr. Dean did appear to gain some insight and coping skills from S.O.T.P.; however given his own adverse childhood experiences and his very long history of victimizing others, the Board is of the opinion he has more work to do. The Board recommends he continue in Maintenance Program and specifically focus on Victim Empathy. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Gordon Dean has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

Two of Mr. Dean’s friends testified in support of parole. Plymouth County Assistant District Attorney Karen Palumbo testified in opposition to parole. The victim of Mr. Dean’s 1975 kidnapping and her husband testified in opposition to parole, as well.

*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