



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

JAMES COLANTONIO
W44855

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: May 4, 2021

DATE OF DECISION: December 1, 2021

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa¹

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On August 27, 1986, at approximately 10:55 p.m., 20-year-old James Colantonio murdered William Moran during an altercation near the Jeffries Point Yacht Club in East Boston. Mr. Colantonio's friend, James All, Jr., had confronted and grabbed Mr. Moran outside of the club. Mr. Colantonio then struck Mr. Moran on the head with a baseball bat, fracturing his skull. Mr. Moran lapsed into a coma and died two days later from the injuries inflicted by Mr. Colantonio. Both Mr. Colantonio and Mr. All, Jr. were indicted for first degree murder.

Mr. Colantonio appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on May 4, 2021, and was not represented by counsel. This was Mr. Colantonio's fourth appearance before the Board having been denied in 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018. The entire video recording of Mr. Colantonio's May 4, 2021, hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

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 a suitable candidate for parole.² Reserve to Gavin Foundation but not before nine months in

¹ Chair Moroney recused.

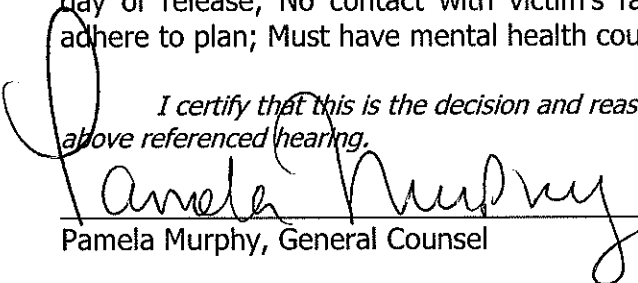
² Five Board Members voted reserve to Gavin Foundation after completion of nine months in lower security and one Board Member voted reserve to a LTRP upon completion of prescription.

lower security. Mr. Colantonio has served approximately 35 years for the murder of Mr. Moran. He was 20 years old at the time of the offense. Since his last concerning disciplinary infraction in 2006, his overall adjustment has been positive. Since his last hearing he has completed numerous programs such as Anger Management, Path to Freedom, Repairing Harm and Leadership and Transformational Thinking. He indicated through participation in programs he has developed skills in the areas of communication and impulse control. Mr. Colantonio appears to have benefitted from programming as he presented with insight and has demonstrated motivation to change. In addition, he works under the electrician in the institution. Mr. Colantonio has maintained his sobriety for over 30 years.

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." In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Colantonio'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. Colantonio's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Colantonio's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Colantonio is rehabilitated and merits parole, after completion of nine months in lower security and subject to special conditions.

Special Conditions: Reserve to Gavin Foundation (must complete); Waive work for two weeks or program; Curfew must be at home between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.; ELMO-electronic monitoring; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with victim's family; Must have substance abuse evaluation and adhere to plan; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment/transition.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing.



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

12/1/2021
Date