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Tina M. Hurley
Chair

Daniel Nakamoto
Acting Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

JAMES LEBLANC
W38597B

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **September 21, 2023**

DATE OF DECISION: **January 3, 2024**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse

VOTE: Parole is granted to CRJ Brooke House on or after two weeks from date of decision, but not before District Attorney clearance.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2015, and after a review hearing in 2020. James LeBlanc, 62-years-old, appeared before the Board for a review hearing on September 21, 2023. He was represented by Attorney Michael Farrington. The Board's decision fully incorporates, by reference, the entire video recording of Mr. LeBlanc's September 21, 2023 hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On February 5, 1988, in Middlesex Superior Court, James LeBlanc pleaded guilty to armed robbery and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. LeBlanc also pleaded guilty to kidnapping and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. All sentences were to run concurrently with the life sentence. Additionally, on December 21, 1988, in Middlesex Superior Court, Mr. LeBlanc pleaded guilty to aggravated rape and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. The court ordered this second life sentence to run concurrently with his prior life sentence. On April 9, 1990, in Plymouth Superior Court, Mr. LeBlanc pleaded guilty to escape and was sentenced to not more than five years, and not less than three years, in state prison. This sentence was to be served from and after his life sentence.

In July 1985, Mr. LeBlanc was paroled from a state prison sentence of not more than seven years, and not less than four years, for breaking and entering and larceny. In October 1985, Mr. LeBlanc went whereabouts unknown, and his parole was revoked. Prior to his apprehension by police, however, Mr. LeBlanc committed rape, robbery, and assault, for which he is currently incarcerated.

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: This was Mr. LeBlanc's third appearance before the Board. Since the last hearing, he re-engaged in SOTP, completed Criminal Thinking and two correspondence courses, including victim impact and victim awareness. He is engaged in GSP and GPMP. He also completed Serve Safe and the Culinary Arts I Program. Mr. LeBlanc has been sober for 35 years. He has been incarcerated since 1988. The Board requested an updated risk assessment, which was submitted on August 21, 2023, by Dr. Bard. Dr. Bard provided his expert opinion relevant to Mr. LeBlanc's risk to recidivate, stating he is at low risk to re-offend sexually. Mr. LeBlanc has actively engaged in treatment for many years. He appears to have benefitted. The Board also considered the expert opinion of Nancy E. Dizio, M.Ed., LMHC, who has a history of providing treatment to Mr. LeBlanc. Ms. Dizio provided a letter of support for Mr. LeBlanc dated October 4, 2023. In it, she provided her opinion with regards to his commitment to rehabilitation and his suitability for parole. Mr. LeBlanc provided a release plan that will address his re-entry and ongoing needs. The Board considered the expert testimony provided by Dr. Bard, who spoke in support of his parole. The Board also considered the testimony of two members of the community and Mr. LeBlanc's brother, who spoke in support of his parole. In addition, the Board considered the testimony of three individuals, including the victim and the victim's husband, who spoke in opposition to parole, and the opposition testimony provided by a Middlesex County ADA.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work when program allows; Curfew - must be at home between 10PM and 6AM; Electronic monitoring; Must take prescribed medication; 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 or association with [five named individuals] at Parole Officer's discretion; No contact with victim(s)' family; No contact with victim(s); Must have mental health counseling for adjustment; Must participate in sex offender group counseling; Residential program - CRJ Brooke House for at least 90 days; AA at least 3 times per week; Mandatory - Sex A conditions.

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

1/3/24
Date