



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 WINQUIST

W101376

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: January 5, 2023

DATE OF DECISION: February 9, 2023

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Dr. Maryanne Galvin, James Kelcourse, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On September 25, 2012, following a jury trial in Plymouth Superior Court, James Winquist was convicted of two counts of second-degree murder in the deaths of David Lyons and William Chrapan and received two concurrent sentences of life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Mr. Winquist appeared before the Parole Board for an initial hearing on January 5, 2023. He was not represented by counsel. The entire video recording of Mr. Winquist's January 5, 2023, 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 by unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole.

The Board is of the opinion that James Winquist has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. In April 2005, 21-year-old Mr. Winquist and his codefendant participated in the beating deaths of 46-year-old David Lyons and 44-year-old William Chrapan. Mr. Winquist scores very high on the LS/CMI. He has had a troubling institutional adjustment with his most recent disciplinary report in September 2022. He remains a validated member of a security threat group and has not begun the

renunciation process. The Board is particularly concerned with his substance abuse issues given his lengthy history of addiction. He needs to renounce and acknowledge that affiliation with a hate group is in direct conflict with positive citizenship. Mr. Winqvist needs to improve his overall adjustment, remain disciplinary report-free, maintain his sobriety, and continue mental health counseling. He is encouraged to build positive community ties as the Board is concerned with his lack of support system. He is also encouraged to participate in any vocational opportunities as he is currently on the waitlist for the Culinary Arts program.

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. Winqvist'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. Winqvist's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Winqvist's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that James Winqvist is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Winqvist's next appearance before the Board will take place in five¹ years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages him 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.



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel



Date

¹ One Board member voted to deny parole with a review in four years.