

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

**PAROLE BOARD**

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Tina M. Hurley  
Chair

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**JAMIE RICHARDS**

**W58925**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** October 27, 2022

**DATE OF DECISION:** January 19, 2023

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

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On July 5, 1995, in Worcester Superior Court, Jamie Richards pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of Paxton Police Chief Robert Mortell and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he also received multiple concurrent sentences: a 9 to 10-year sentence for two counts of breaking and entering in the daytime, a 14 to 15-year sentence for theft of a motor vehicle, and 4 to 5-year sentences for three counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, unlawful possession of a firearm in a motor vehicle, removing/mutilating a firearm serial number, and two counts of larceny over \$250.

Mr. Richards appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on October 27, 2022. He was represented by student attorneys from Boston College Law School. Mr. Richards was denied parole at his 2017 initial hearing. The entire video recording of Mr. Richards' October 27, 2022, 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.

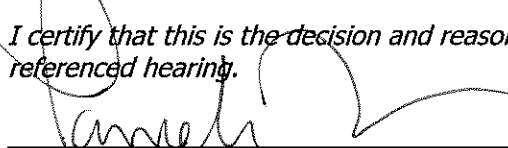
The Board is of the opinion that Jamie Richards has not yet demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. On February 1, 1994, Mr. Richards and his codefendants committed a string of offenses which

concluded in the shooting death of 38-year-old Paxton Police Chief Robert Mortell. Mr. Richards first apologized for his actions at this hearing. The Board recognizes he has made some positive strides in his rehabilitation through the completion of programs to include CRA, GMP, and Anger Management. However, he has a problematic institutional adjustment with one return to higher custody and multiple SMU placements. He incurred a disciplinary report for a positive drug test as recently as June 2022. Given his recent disciplinary issues, the Board needs to see a longer period of positive adjustment and incident-free behavior. The Board encourages him to continue and complete Restorative Justice and seriously engage in mental health counseling. He should obtain employment at the first opportunity and commit to vocational training before his next hearing.

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

Mr. Richards' next appearance before the Board will take place in three years from the date of this hearing.<sup>1</sup> During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Richards 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.*

  
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Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

1/19/23  
Date

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<sup>1</sup> One Board member voted to deny parole with a review in four years.