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PAROLE BOARD

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Tina M. Hurley
Chair

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Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

JEFFREY KELCOURSE

W43823

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: June 23, 2022

DATE OF DECISION: December 8, 2022

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On July 9, 1987, after a jury trial in Plymouth Superior Court, Jeffrey Kelcourse was convicted of the second-degree murder of 36-year-old Terrence Thatcher. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Mr. Kelcourse appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on June 23, 2022. He was represented by Attorney Kim Jones. Mr. Kelcourse was denied parole at his 2001 initial hearing but was granted parole after his 2007 review hearing. His parole was revoked in 2009. Mr. Kelcourse was denied parole after review hearings in 2009, 2014, and 2019. The entire video recording of Mr. Kelcourse's June 23, 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 that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole¹.

Reserve to Interstate Compact Pennsylvania. Mr. Kelcourse was 27 years old when he shot and killed 36-year-old Terrence Thatcher, who he met on the night of the murder. He has accepted responsibility for his crime. His institutional adjustment has markedly improved in recent years. Mr. Kelcourse was previously on parole but was returned in 2009 for new arrests. Since his

¹ One board member voted to deny parole with a review in two years.

reincarceration he has engaged in programming to address his criminal thinking and history of violence. He completed CRA, Violence Reduction, and GMP. Mr. Kelcourse will benefit from the support network provided by the veteran community. The Board encourages him to engage in counseling in the community to address his history of trauma and practice of self-medicating with alcohol.

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. Kelcourse'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. Kelcourse's risk of recidivism. Applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Kelcourse's case, the Board is of the opinion that Jeffrey Kelcourse is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time.

Special Conditions: Reserve to Interstate Compact Pennsylvania; Waive work for two weeks; Curfew at PO's discretion; ELMO-electronic monitoring at PO's discretion; 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 mental health evaluation and follow recommendations; AA/NA at least 3 times/week.

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

/s/ Pamela Murphy p.p. Courtney Doherty
Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

12/8/22
Date