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Tina M. Hurley
Chair

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Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

JESSE ROGERS

W56017

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: July 21, 2022

DATE OF DECISION: December 1, 2022

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS¹: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, James Kelcourse, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On March 7, 1994, in Suffolk Superior Court, Jesse Rogers pleaded guilty to two counts of second-degree murder in the deaths of 77-year-old Alba Pellegrini and 32-year-old John Ward Jr. and was sentenced to two concurrent terms of life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Mr. Rogers appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on July 21, 2022. He was not represented by counsel. Mr. Rogers had been denied parole at his initial hearing in 2007 and at his review hearings in 2011 and 2017. The entire video recording of Mr. Rogers' July 21, 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 Jesse Rogers has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Since Mr. Rogers' last hearing in 2017, the Board is concerned that his cognitive and auditory issues have worsened significantly. Also, it appears he has struggled with mental health issues since the death of his mother and brother. As the hearing progressed, it appeared that Mr. Rogers

¹ Former Chair Gloriann Moroney was no longer a board member at the time of the vote.

struggled to represent himself effectively. Accordingly, the Board recommends that Mr. Rogers be referred for counsel who can obtain a forensic evaluation and assist him at 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. Rogers' 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. Rogers' risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Rogers' case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Jesse Rogers is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Rogers' next appearance before the Board will take place in one year from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Rogers 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

12/1/22
Date