

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

JODY OLESON
W68169

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **June 6, 2023**

DATE OF DECISION: **September 7, 2023**

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On July 27, 1998, Jody Oleson killed 71-year-old Alfred Fisher in Mr. Fisher's apartment in South Boston. On May 30, 2000, following a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Mr. Oleson was found guilty of murder in the second degree. He was sentenced to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole.

Mr. Oleson appeared before the Board on June 6, 2023, for a review hearing. He was not represented by counsel. Mr. Oleson was denied parole following hearings in 2013 and 2018. The entire video recording of Mr. Oleson's June 6, 2023 hearing is fully incorporated by reference into 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 not a suitable candidate for parole.


The Board is of the opinion that Mr. Oleson has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

Parole denied. Review in 2 years. Concern with additional 16 d-reports since last hearing, including fight. Sober now but prior relapses in 2020 and noted substance use as recently as 2021. [Mr. Oleson] has engaged in programming so [the] Board [is] encouraged that [he is] making forward progress towards parole path, but needs longer time for self-reflection and self-investment. Maintain sobriety. Address d-report frequency. On wait list for programs which would be beneficial, including Alternatives to Violence. Find employment. Completed CRA, Jericho, Restorative Justice. [It is the] hope of [the] Board that continued programming with enhance his communication and coping skills.

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

Mr. Oleson's next appearance before the Board will take place in two years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages him to continue working toward his full rehabilitation.

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

09/07/2023

Date