



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

JOHN SCOTT BRADY

W89631

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: May 23, 2019

DATE OF DECISION: March 4, 2020

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

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. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in five years from the date of the hearing.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On April 3, 2007, in Middlesex Superior Court, John Scott Brady pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of 21-year-old Kendra Bryson and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

On June 9, 2004, John Scott Brady (age 31) requested an escort service through the Boston Phoenix, to which Kendra Bryson responded. Before arriving at Mr. Brady's home, Ms. Bryson wrote the name "John," and his address in Medford, on a piece of paper, which she left in her car. Ms. Bryson arrived at Mr. Brady's home shortly after 10 p.m., calling her friend to inform her of her whereabouts. The cell phone connection was unclear, so her friend was unable to understand the complete address that Ms. Bryson had provided. Her friend became concerned when Ms. Bryson did not call to indicate that her appointment with Mr. Brady had ended. Multiple

calls to Ms. Bryson's cell phone went unanswered. A missing person's report was filed in the early morning hours of June 10, and Ms. Bryson's vehicle was located in the area of the Mystic River in Medford. Police found the piece of paper on which Mr. Brady's first name and address were written, eventually locating him at work.

A review of Ms. Bryson and Mr. Brady's cell phone records established that both individuals had traveled from Medford to New Hampshire in the late night hours of June 9 and into the early morning hours of June 10. New Hampshire authorities located Ms. Bryson's partially clothed body on the side of Route 101 in Chester, New Hampshire on the afternoon of June 10. The medical examiner determined the cause of death to be strangulation. Although he initially denied meeting with Ms. Bryson, Mr. Brady eventually confessed to police that she had been in his home for an escort service appointment. He stated that during her visit, he placed Ms. Bryson in a headlock for a couple of minutes because he believed that she had taken \$90 from his dresser. When he released his grip, she was dead. Using Ms. Bryson's car, Mr. Brady drove (with her body) to New Hampshire. He then removed some of her clothing, left her on the side of the road, and returned to Medford.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON MAY 23, 2019

John Scott Brady, now 47-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on May 23, 2019, for an initial hearing. He was not represented by counsel. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Brady apologized to Ms. Bryson's friends and family. He explained that although he had used escort services prior to the murder, his solicitation of sex, as well as his abuse of alcohol, increased after a breakup with a longtime girlfriend. At the time of the murder, Mr. Brady was living in his grandmother's home, although she was not present that evening. Mr. Brady believed that he had seen Ms. Bryson take money from his dresser, which caused him to fly into a rage. He agreed with the Board, however, that there was no evidence that she ever took money from him. Mr. Brady claims that he "blacked out" during the murder, and that he panicked once he realized that Ms. Bryson was dead. When Board Members questioned Mr. Brady as to why he removed some of Ms. Bryson's clothes before leaving her body on the side of the road, he responded that he did not know. When asked why he strangled Ms. Bryson to death, Mr. Brady again responded that he did not know.

Mr. Brady acknowledged a long history of alcohol abuse that started at home in his adolescence, where he was a witness to, and a victim of, both verbal and physical abuse. Mr. Brady detailed a troubled relationship with his mother, borne in part as to what he perceived as her prioritization of his stepfather over him. He attributed his violent criminal history to being an angry person with little support. At the hearing, Board Members spoke of their concern regarding a letter that Mr. Brady wrote to his mother from prison, in which he detailed explicit admissions to drugging and raping her (his mother), as well as causing harm to numerous sex workers. In addition to blaming his mother for the murder of Ms. Bryson, Mr. Brady alleged in his letter that his mother was the reason he hated all women. Mr. Brady agreed with the Board that his letter was disturbing, but claims that he made everything up "to upset" his mother because he had been "mad" at her.

The Board noted that Mr. Brady completed programming to include the Correctional Recovery Academy, Criminal Thinking, Violence Reduction, and Jericho Circle, and that he has not received a disciplinary report since 2016. Board Members raised concerns, however, that Mr.

Brady was not currently enrolled in any programming, nor had he enrolled in Sex Offender treatment. In addition, he had stopped going to AA years ago. Although Mr. Brady stated that Sex Offender treatment "might help" him, he explained that he stopped going to AA because its "social hour" nature was not beneficial to him. He stated that his sobriety is of the utmost importance to him, and that he "wouldn't even know what [he] would do," if he relapsed. If paroled, Mr. Brady told the Board that he would attend AA meetings in the community. Mr. Brady acknowledged little family or community support, but plans to seek a sponsor to aid in his reintegration.

Ms. Bryson's friend and boyfriend testified in opposition to parole. Middlesex County Assistant District Attorney Caitlin Gemmill testified in opposition to parole. Middlesex County Assistant District Attorney Adrienne Lynch submitted a letter in opposition to parole.

III. DECISION

The Board is of the opinion that John Scott Brady has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Brady's presentment was very disturbing in the opinion of the Board. He has yet to address his causative factors to include sexually deviant behavior.

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

Mr. Brady's next appearance before the Board will take place in five 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. 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.


Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

3/4/2020
Date