

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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Tina M. Hurley
Chair

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Acting Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

JOSEPH SEVERINO

W40947

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **March 7, 2023**

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

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On December 7, 1984, after a jury trial in Essex Superior Court, Mr. Severino was convicted of armed robbery and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On the same day, he was found guilty of two counts of armed assault with intent to rob a person over 65 years old, and assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon on a person 65 years or older. He received concurrent terms of 18 to 20 years and 8 to 10 years respectively.

On July 30, 1986, after a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Mr. Severino was found guilty of assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon and was sentenced to 8 to 10 years from and after his life sentence. He received an additional concurrent sentence of 3-5 years for unlawfully carrying a firearm.

Mr. Severino appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on March 7, 2023. He was represented by Attorney Kim Jones. Mr. Severino was denied parole after his 2002 initial hearing and his 2005 and 2010 review hearings. He was granted parole after his 2021 review hearing, but his parole permit was revoked in October 2022. The entire video recording of Mr. Severino's March 7, 2023, 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

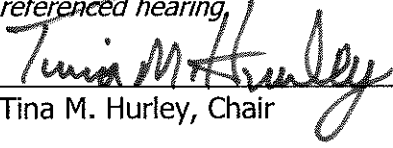
expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude by unanimous vote that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole.

The Board is of the opinion that Joseph Severino has demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Reserve to Gavin House. Mr. Severino is serving a life sentence for a 1982 armed robbery. Mr. Severino was on parole supervision beginning in February 2022 but was returned to custody after four months. He acknowledges his missteps on parole and his adjustment since reincarceration has been positive. He completed the Correctional Recovery Academy since his return. He identified a strong reentry plan and agrees that he needs to increase regular counseling if released. The Board notes he has a strong support network.

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. Severino'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. Severino's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Severino's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Joseph Severino is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time.

Special Conditions: Reserve to Gavin House; Waive work for age; Curfew – Must be at home between 10pm and 6am; ELMO-electronic monitoring; 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; No contact with victim(s); Must have mental health evaluation and must comply with recommended treatment plan; Must have substance abuse evaluation and must comply with recommended treatment plan; Counseling for adjustment/transition; Sign releases.

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



Tina M. Hurley, Chair

6/6/23
Date