

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*



PAROLE BOARD

*12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760*

*Telephone # (508) 650-4500
Facsimile # (508) 650-4599*

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Terrance Reidy
Secretary

Gloriann Moroney
Chair

Kevin Keefe
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

JOSEPH SEVERINO

W40947

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: May 25, 2021

DATE OF DECISION: November 2, 2021

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On December 7, 1984, after a jury trial in Essex Superior Court, Mr. Severino was found guilty of armed robbery and received a sentence of life imprisonment 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 an initial hearing on May 25, 2021, and was represented by Attorney Michael Nam-Krane. This was Mr. Severino's fourth appearance before the Board, having been denied in 2002, 2005, and 2010. The entire video recording of Mr. Severino's May 25, 2021, hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

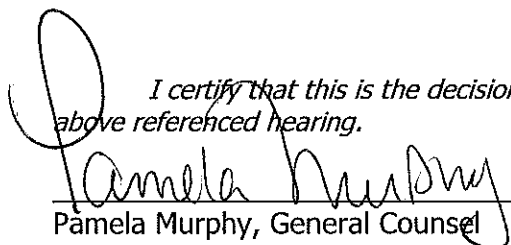
DECISION OF THE BOARD: After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of offense, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as

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. Reserve to Community Resources for Justice – Transitional Housing for six months after District Attorney clearance. Mr. Severino has served approximately 38 years for an armed robbery in Swampscott. The Board considered the expert testimony of Dr. Plaud who indicated that Mr. Severino is overall a very low risk to recidivate. The Board considered proposed re-entry recommendations from Janis Hrabovsky, LICSW. It is noted that Mr. Severino postponed his 2013 and 2019 hearings. Mr. Severino has had an overall positive adjustment. He is currently enrolled in the General Population Maintenance Program. There is no indication of substance abuse during this commitment. He appears remorseful and accepts responsibility for his criminal behavior. Mr. Severino has significant medical issues. He is 75 years old and offered no home plan. Release at this time meets the legal standard.

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." 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 appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Severino's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Severino is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time, subject to special conditions.

Special Conditions: Reserve to Community Resources for Justice – Transitional Housing (CRJ-TH) for six months after District Attorney clearance; Waive work for two weeks or disability; Must be at home between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.; ELMO-electronic monitoring; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with agency policy; Must take prescribed medication; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with the victim's family; No contact with victims; Must have mental health evaluation – adhere to plan.

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



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

11/2/2021
Date