

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



PAROLE BOARD

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Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

**KEVIN COE
W38150**

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: July 1, 2021

DATE OF DECISION: April 11, 2022

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa¹

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 in four years from the date of the hearing.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On April 6, 1981, in Bristol Superior Court, Kevin Coe pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the beating death of Frank Sikorski. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.² Mr. Coe was also convicted of the unarmed robbery of Thomas Lordan and sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole, to run concurrent with the murder sentence.

On July 30, 1980, shortly after midnight, Kevin Coe (age 30) and his co-defendants, Shawn Dickinson and Derrick Dickinson, met Frank Sikorski outside a Taunton bar and requested a ride home. Mr. Coe had been using drugs and consuming alcohol prior to his encounter with Mr. Sikorski. Mr. Sikorski agreed to drive them. Mr. Coe and Shawn Dickinson beat Mr. Sikorski to death, ostensibly to steal his money and car. After killing Mr. Sikorski, the

¹ One Board Member was not present for the hearing, but reviewed the record and participated in deliberations.

² Mr. Coe's co-defendants were also convicted for their respective roles in the homicide.

men disposed of his body in Oakland Pond in Taunton. Subsequently, the men robbed a West Bridgewater gas station at 2:50 a.m., leading police to a high-speed chase at approximately 4:00 a.m. The men were eventually apprehended and arrested at a roadblock in Raynham that same day. Derrick Dickinson provided information to police concerning the men's respective roles in the homicide.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON JULY 1, 2021

Kevin Coe, now 72-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on July 1, 2021, for a review hearing. He was not represented by counsel. Mr. Coe was denied parole after his initial hearing in 1995, and after review hearings in 1998, 2001, 2006, 2011, and 2016. He elected not to make an opening statement to the Board.

When the Board questioned him as to the governing offense, Mr. Coe did not dispute his participation in the murder of Frank Sikorski. He maintained, however, that he assaulted Mr. Sikorski after Mr. Sikorski made a sexual advance towards him. A Board Member indicated that Mr. Coe had offered such an explanation at his 2011 hearing, but rejected it based on the weight of the available evidence. Mr. Coe nonetheless reaffirmed that Mr. Sikorski's alleged behavior led to his participation in the murder. When Board Members inquired as to why he believes that he has not been granted parole previously, Mr. Coe responded that, in the past, he was a violent and angry person with a serious substance use problem. Mr. Coe claims to have changed, citing his lack of disciplinary reports over the last five years as evidence of his transformation.

Mr. Coe agreed that, while he has completed some programs, he has not engaged in any new programming efforts since 2011. A Board Member pointed out that they recommended that Mr. Coe avail himself of additional programming when he was denied parole in 2016. Mr. Coe reaffirmed his refusal to participate in additional programming efforts, stating that he has "done enough" and was too old to benefit from them. When Board Members questioned him as to his history of substance use, Mr. Coe admitted that alcohol and drug use played a role in the governing offense. He claimed that the crime would never have occurred if he had not used substances that evening. Mr. Coe stated that he attends Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, but admitted that he drank alcohol two years prior to this hearing. When questioned about his recent substance use, Mr. Coe explained that he accepted the alcohol because it was offered to him and then became intoxicated as a result. He denied the presence of significant stressors at the time. When asked how he would manage his alcoholism in the community, if granted parole, Mr. Coe stated that he would continue to attend AA meetings and "just stay away from [alcohol]."

When questioned about his potential parole plan, Mr. Coe had very few specifics to offer to the Board. He expressed a wish to self-isolate and reported a significant lack of community support.

The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from two family members of Frank Sikorski. The Board also considered a letter in opposition to parole from Bristol County Assistant District Attorney Dennis Collins.

III. DECISION

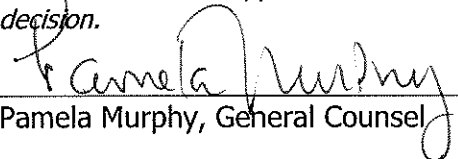
The Board is of the opinion that Kevin Coe has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Coe has served over 40 years for his involvement in the murder of Frank Sikorski. During his incarceration, he has participated in minimal programming. His overall institutional adjustment has been problematic, but has improved in recent years. He has remained disciplinary report

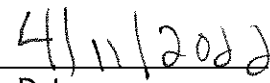
free since 2016, but has become complacent in any rehabilitative efforts and appears to be comfortable with it. Although he has maintained employment, he refuses to invest in any additional rehabilitative programming. This refusal is highly concerning to the Board. Mr. Coe also self-admitted to the use of alcohol as recently as two years ago. The Board encourages him to re-engage in rehabilitative programming.

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

Mr. Coe's next appearance before the Board will take place in four years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Coe 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.


Pamela Murphy, General Counsel


Date