



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

KURT HUENEFELD

W40021

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing
DATE OF HEARING: October 6, 2015
DATE OF DECISION: January 19, 2016

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sheila Dupre, Tonomey Coleman, Ina Howard-Hogan, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying 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 September 24, 1983, in Middlesex Superior Court, Kurt Huenefeld was convicted of burglary with armed assault in a dwelling and the second degree murder of Robert Crowe. Subsequently he was sentenced to a term of life in prison with the possibility of parole for the murder of Mr. Crowe. Mr. Huenefeld was also sentenced to a term of not more than 12 and not less than 10 years in prison for his conviction of burglary with armed assault in a dwelling, three years of this sentence to be served from and after his life sentence, with the balance to be suspended. Mr. Huenefeld is currently 54 years old.

On the evening before Mr. Crowe's death, October 25th, Mr. Huenefeld left his parent's house at approximately 9:00 PM and traveled to the Long Bedford Motel. Mr. Huenefeld was joined by a childhood friend. Both men intended to spend the night drinking at a bar located in the hotel, called the Jolly Porpoise Lounge. Prior to their arrival and at Mr. Huenefeld's

suggestion, both men stopped along the way at the home of Mr. Crowe. While inside Mr. Crowe's bedroom, Mr. Huenefeld injected "freebase" cocaine into his arm. Mr. Huenefeld also obtained additional cocaine to use later that night.

Mr. Huenefeld and his friend stayed at the bar until approximately 12 AM, during which time both men drank and Mr. Huenefeld injected more cocaine. In the early morning hours of October 26th, Mr. Huenefeld and his friend began to travel home. On the way, Mr. Huenefeld suggested that they stop at Mr. Crowe's residence for a second time. Mr. Huenefeld went into Mr. Crowe's house for approximately 15 minutes while his friend waited outside. Both men then returned to the home of Mr. Huenefeld's parents and went to sleep.

After Mr. Huenefeld's friend fell asleep, Mr. Huenefeld returned to Mr. Crowe's house with the intention of stealing more cocaine. When Mr. Crowe awoke during the burglary, Mr. Huenefeld stabbed him 23 times with a screwdriver. When he returned to his parent's house, Mr. Huenefeld frantically woke his friend and told him what had happened, but claimed to have only stabbed Mr. Crowe 4 to 5 times. Mr. Crowe succumbed to his wounds. His body was discovered later that day by his father.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON OCTOBER 6, 2015

Mr. Huenefeld came before the Parole Board on October 6, 2015 for a review hearing. This was his fifth appearance before the Board. Mr. Huenefeld's initial hearing took place on April 15, 1998 and resulted in parole being denied. Subsequently, he appeared before the Board for review hearings on October 24, 2002, October 11, 2005 and October 14, 2010, all of which were denied.

Mr. Huenefeld gave an opening statement to the Board, in which he apologized for his actions. During the course of the hearing, he spoke about the night of the murder. Acknowledging the role that drugs and alcohol played in Mr. Crowe's murder, Mr. Huenefeld told the Board he was not in his right mind when the offense occurred. He further reported that he has a very limited recollection of what happened the night of Mr. Crowe's murder. Mr. Huenefeld reported that although he has no memory of actually killing Mr. Crowe, he accepts the facts as they have been relayed to him.

Over the course of the hearing, Mr. Huenefeld discussed his history of substance abuse. Mr. Huenefeld reported that he started abusing alcohol as well as consuming narcotics such as marijuana, hallucinogenics, and amphetamines in high school. In approximately the 11th or 12th grade, Mr. Huenefeld became addicted to cocaine.

Mr. Huenefeld acknowledged the role his lack of participation in programming played in the Board's decision making process during his last appearance. Since that time, Mr. Huenefeld has participated in a variety of programs addressing criminal thinking, violence reduction and the development of cognitive skills such as problem solving and goal setting. Mr. Huenefeld has also participated in a psychology support group, tutored other inmates on computer skills and obtained employment in the recreation department. Mr. Huenefeld advised the Board that while he has participated in the programs that have been made available to him, his opportunity to do so has been limited by Department of Correction policy.

When questioned by the Board, Mr. Huenefeld addressed his behavior during his incarceration. According to Mr. Huenefeld, he lost his job in the maintenance department because of a disciplinary report for insolence that he received after his last appearance before the Board. He was ultimately found not guilty of this offense and allowed to obtain his current position in the recreation department. He has also received disciplinary reports for other offenses that include fighting with other inmates. Mr. Huenefeld suggested his behavior during

many of these incidents was influenced by medication inappropriately prescribed to him. Presently, Mr. Huenefeld is only prescribed blood pressure medication.

In addition to Mr. Huenefeld, the Board also received live testimony from witnesses, both in support of and in opposition to Mr. Huenefeld's petition for parole. The Board considered testimony on behalf of Mr. Huenefeld from a member of his family. Testimony in opposition to Mr. Huenefeld's parole, from a representative of the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office, was also taken under consideration.

III. DECISION

The Board is of the opinion that Mr. Huenefeld has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board believes a longer period of positive institutional adjustment and programming would be beneficial to Mr. Huenefeld's rehabilitation.

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. Huenefeld'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 whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Huenefeld's risk of recidivism.

After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Huenefeld's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Huenefeld is not yet rehabilitated and therefore does not merit parole at this time. Mr. Huenefeld's next appearance before the Board will take place in five years from the date of the review hearing related to this decision. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Huenefeld to continue working towards his full rehabilitation by committing to additional programming and remaining discipline report free.

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.


Michael Callahan, Executive Director

January 19, 2016
Date