



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF
KURT HUENEFELD
W40021

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing
DATE OF HEARING: October 17, 2023
DATE OF DECISION: January 4, 2024

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On September 24, 1983, in Middlesex Superior Court, Kurt Huenefeld was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of Robert Crowe and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On the same date, he was convicted of burglary with armed assault in a dwelling and sentenced to a consecutive term of 10 to 12 years in prison, 3 years to serve, with the balance suspended.

On the evening of October 25, 1982, Kurt Huenefeld (21 years of age) and his childhood friend went to the Bedford home of Robert Crowe to procure cocaine before going out for the night. While at Mr. Crowe's residence, Mr. Huenefeld injected cocaine and obtained more to use later. Mr. Huenefeld and his friend then traveled to a pub inside the Lord Bedford Motel and spent the evening drinking. While there, Mr. Huenefeld injected the rest of the cocaine he had obtained from Mr. Crowe. Around midnight, the men left the pub and stopped at Mr. Crowe's home again. This time, Mr. Huenefeld went into the residence while his friend waited in the car. Approximately 15 minutes later, Mr. Huenefeld emerged from the home and advised that he had done "a little bit more cocaine."

The men then returned to Mr. Huenefeld's parents' home and Mr. Huenefeld's friend fell asleep. At some point thereafter, Mr. Huenefeld left the residence and went back to Mr. Crowe's home with the intention of stealing cocaine from a safe in Mr. Crowe's bedroom. During the burglary,

Mr. Crowe awakened, and Mr. Huenefeld stabbed him 23 times with a screwdriver, resulting in Mr. Crowe's death.

PAROLE HEARING: Kurt Huenefeld appeared before the Board on October 17, 2023, for a review hearing. He was represented by BC Law student attorneys Sam Hodgkins-Sumner and Elizabeth Schaeffer, who were supervised by Attorney Frank Herrmann. Mr. Huenefeld was denied parole after his initial hearing in 1998, and after his review hearings 2002, 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020. The entire video recording of Mr. Huenefeld's October 17, 2023 hearing is fully incorporated by reference into the Board's Decision.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: 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.

After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of offense, the criminal record, the 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 subject to special conditions.

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 a risk and needs assessment and 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 opinion that Mr. Huenefeld is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time, subject to special conditions. Parole is granted on/after an 18 month step-down to lower security to CRJ for at least 90 days or LTRP. Eighteen months will provide subject with time to accomplish his goals and address transitional needs.

This was Mr. Huenefeld's seventh appearance before the Board. He has been incarcerated for 41 years. Since the last hearing, Mr. Huenefeld has continued his commitment to his rehabilitation and addressed the Board's primary concerns. Mr. Huenefeld became a medical companion, which appeared to increase his level of empathy. He advanced his investment in education and is now enrolled at Boston College. Mr. Huenefeld also continued his programming via GMP and Smart Recovery. Mr. Huenefeld has been sober for over 30 years. He has gained occupational skills via the welding program and is requesting to transition through lower security in hopes of having the opportunity in work release to re-certify his welding credentials. Mr. Huenefeld has addressed his mental health issues and requested counseling to continue his positive progress. Mr. Huenefeld provided many letters of support along with a comprehensive re-entry plan. There was no one who testified in the hearing on his behalf. ADA Alicia Walsh of the Middlesex District Attorney's Office spoke in opposition of Mr. Huenefeld's parole and represented that the victim's family is also opposed to his parole.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Parole reserve on/after an 18-month step down to lower security to CRJ for at least 90 days or LTRP; waive work for 2 weeks; curfew -- must be at home between

10PM and 6AM or at P.O.'s discretion; ELMO -- electronic monitoring at P.O.'s discretion; 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; must comply with recommended treatment plan; must have mental health counseling for transition purposes and OCD; long term residential treatment program; CRJ program.

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.



Tina M. Hurley, Chair

1/4/24

Date