

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

LADALE STRANGE
W46659

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: May 29, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: October 30, 2025

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander,¹ Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in 3 years from the date of the hearing.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On June 1, 1989, in Hampden Superior Court, LaDale Strange pleaded guilty to two counts of rape of a child with force. Mr. Strange was sentenced to two concurrent terms of life in prison with the possibility of parole for these offenses. On that same date, Mr. Strange pleaded guilty to three counts of kidnapping and two counts of assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon and was sentenced to a concurrent term of 8 to 10 years. Parole was previously denied following an initial hearing in 2003, and after review hearings in 2006, 2011, and 2021.²

On May 29, 2025, Mr. Strange appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Michael Nam-Krane. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Strange's May 29, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On March 13, 1988, in Holyoke, 17-year-old LaDale Strange led an 8-year-old boy into the basement of a vacant apartment building, forced him to disrobe at knifepoint, and then proceeded to rape him. After slicing the child on his arm and leg, Mr. Strange threatened to kill him when he attempted to flee. On April 6, 1988, Mr. Strange lured another 8-

¹ Board Member Alexander was not present for the hearing, but she reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

² Mr. Strange voluntarily postponed his Review Hearing in 2016.

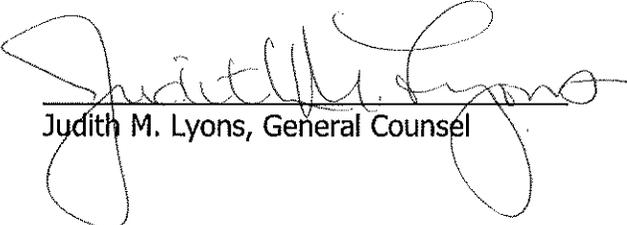
year-old child into an alley in Holyoke. He tied the child to a fence while he attempted to unlock a storage door. Mr. Strange then forced the child into the storage area, threatened him with a gun, and ordered him to disrobe. Mr. Strange fled the scene when a noise startled him, which allowed the partially clothed child to escape. The child provided Holyoke police with a description of his attacker. On April 11, 1988, Mr. Strange lured yet another young boy into the basement of an apartment building in Holyoke. He threatened the child and ordered him to disrobe. When the child refused, Mr. Strange beat the boy, first with his hand, and then with a brick he discovered nearby. When the child lost consciousness from blows to the head, Mr. Strange sodomized him with a piece of window molding. After Mr. Strange fled, the child was discovered several hours later by a maintenance worker; he suffered permanent, life-altering injuries. After receiving several tips from the community, Holyoke police detained Mr. Strange for questioning on April 14, 1988. He admitted to all three crimes and was placed under arrest the same day.

APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole “[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society.” M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. In making this determination, the Board takes into consideration an inmate’s institutional behavior, their participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize the inmate’s risk of recidivism. M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. The Board also considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of the 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 and/or in written submissions to the Board.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: This is Mr. Strange’s 5th appearance before the Board. He has been incarcerated for 37 years. He has completed SOTP (Sex Offender Treatment Program). However, the Board continues to have concerns regarding Mr. Strange’s rehabilitation and the public’s welfare considering the nature of the crimes. The Board reviewed the evaluation of Dr. Plaud. Given the sexual violence of the crimes committed against young victims, the Board continues to have concerns regarding Mr. Strange’s likelihood of re-offending. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Mr. Strange has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

In making their decision, the Board considered public testimony in support of parole from members of the community. Hampden County Assistant District Attorney Lee Baker spoke in opposition to parole.

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.


Judith M. Lyons, General Counsel

10/30/25
Date