



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

LARON "RONNIE" ELLIOT  
W62780

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** June 22, 2021

**DATE OF DECISION:** December 6, 2021

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa<sup>1</sup>

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On May 30, 1997, after a jury trial in Suffolk County Superior Court, Laron Elliot was convicted of the second-degree murder of 16-year-old Cassius Love. He was sentenced to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole. He also received concurrent sentences of 9-10 years for assault with intent to kill and 4-5 years for possession of a firearm. Mr. Elliot was 17 years old at the time of the murder.

Mr. Elliot appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on June 22, 2021 and was represented by Attorney Richard Goldman. This was Mr. Elliot's first appearance before the Board since his final recission hearing in 2021 due to a return to higher security. The entire video recording of Mr. Elliot's June 22, 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 a unanimous vote that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole. Reserve to Dismas House or alternative Long-Term Residential Program (LTRP). Mr. Elliot was returned to higher custody due to a disciplinary infraction in September 2020. Due to the disciplinary infraction Mr. Elliot was unable to meet his prescription of 18 months in lower security. The infraction has been dismissed but he was not returned to lower custody. During this incarceration he has engaged in all programming requirements and has maintained an overall positive adjustment. He has

<sup>1</sup> Chair Moroney recused.

also engaged in Building Trades and is a licensed barber. Incarceration has served its purpose and he will benefit from an LTRP or Dismas House.

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 the context of an offender convicted of first- or second-degree murder, who was a juvenile at the time the offense was committed, the Board takes into consideration the attributes of youth that distinguish juvenile homicide offenders from similarly situated adult offenders. Consideration of these factors ensures that the parole candidate, who was a juvenile at the time they committed murder, has "a real chance to demonstrate maturity and rehabilitation." *Diatchenko v. District Attorney for the Suffolk District*, 471 Mass. 12, 30 (2015); See also *Commonwealth v. Okoro*, 471 Mass. 51 (2015). The factors considered by the Board include the offender's "lack of maturity and an underdeveloped sense of responsibility, leading to recklessness, impulsivity, and heedless risk-taking; vulnerability to negative influences and outside pressures, including from their family and peers; limited control over their own environment; lack of the ability to extricate themselves from horrific, crime-producing settings; and unique capacity to change as they grow older." *Id.*

In forming this opinion, the Board has also taken into consideration Mr. Elliot's institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Elliot's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Elliot's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Elliot is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time, subject to special conditions.

**Special Conditions:** Reserve to Dismas House or Long Term Residential Program (LTRP) for six months; Waive work for two weeks or program; Curfew 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; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with victim's family; Must have substance abuse evaluation – adhere to plan; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment/transition.

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

  
Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

  
Date