

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



**PAROLE BOARD**

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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
LAWRENCE BRUEN  
W38545**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** October 7, 2021

**DATE OF DECISION:** April 27, 2022

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

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On November 5, 1981, after a jury trial in Middlesex Superior Court, Lawrence Bruen was convicted of the second-degree murder of 52-year-old James McCarthy. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.


Mr. Bruen appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on October 7, 2021 and was represented Attorney Brian J. Kelly. This was Mr. Bruen’s seventh appearance before the Board having been denied after hearings in 1996, 1999, 2003, 2005, 2010, 2015. He postponed his initial hearing in 1994 and his review hearings 2018 and 2020 hearings were administratively postponed. The entire video recording of Mr. Bruen’s October 7, 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 a Veteran Affairs (VA) Residential Treatment program. Mr. Bruen has served 42 years for the murder of James McCarthy. Mr. Bruen has exhibited a positive adjustment in recent years and has been compliant with his medications since 2013. He will benefit from the services that the VA has to offer considering his medical and mental health needs. Mr. Bruen is amenable to treatment for his mental health needs and recognizes that the VA will be able to assist his with his ongoing treatment.

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." In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Bruen'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. Bruen's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Bruen's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Bruen is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time.

**Special Conditions:** Reserve to Veteran Affairs Residential Treatment Program; Waive work for disability; Curfew must be at home between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.; ELMO-electronic monitoring at P.O. discretion if medically possible; Must take prescribed medication; 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; Mandatory – adhere to all medical and mental health recommendations to include medication regimen.

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

Pamela Murphy, P.P.   
Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

4/27/22  
Date