

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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Gloriann Moroney  
Chair

Kevin Keefe  
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

LEE UNDERWOOD  
W45135

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing  
**DATE OF HEARING:** October 21, 2021  
**DATE OF DECISION:** February 22, 2022

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

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On July 22, 1988, after a jury trial in Middlesex County Superior Court, Mr. Underwood was found guilty of second-degree murder and sentenced to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole.

Mr. Underwood appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on October 21, 2021 and was represented by Northeastern University Law students Mia Lin and Brianna Heller. This was Mr. Underwood's second appearance before the Board since his final revocation hearing in 2018. Mr. Underwood was previously released on parole in in 2005, 2007, 2008 and 2015, but was revoked due to parole violations. The entire video recording of Mr. Underwood October 21, 2021 hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

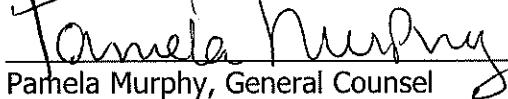
**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of offense, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude by a unanimous vote that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole. Reserve to Long Term Residential Program (LTRP) or Sober Housing. Mr. Underwood has been back in custody for four years following a relapse. This is Mr. Underwood's fourth return to custody. During this time, he has availed himself to programming to include Correctional Recovery Academy, Restorative Justice, Project Youth and SMART Recovery. He also obtained his welding license. Mr. Underwood will benefit from transition to continue treatment. Mr. Underwood has a strong support system and re-entry plan.

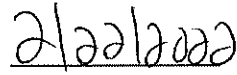
The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society."

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

**Special Conditions:** Reserve to Long Term Residential Program (LTRP) or Sober Housing - must complete; Waive work for two weeks or program; 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; No contact with victims; Must have a substance abuse evaluation – including screen for medically assisted treatment and follow recommendations; Must have counseling for adjustment; Must participate in individual and/or group substance abuse counseling; Mandatory obtain a sponsor; Mandatory – SMART Recovery; Mandatory – follow recommended treatment of any providers.

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

  
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Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date