

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Terrence M. Reidy
Secretary

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

Telephone # (508) 650-4500

Facsimile # (508) 650-4599



Tina M. Hurley
Chair

Daniel Nakamoto
Acting Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

LEONARD GIROUX

W83952

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: March 28, 2023

DATE OF DECISION: June 7, 2023

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Dr. Maryanne Galvin, James Kelcourse, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On July 15, 2004, after a jury trial in Barnstable Superior Court, Leonard Giroux was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of 40-year-old Cheryl Tavares and sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Mr. Giroux appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on March 28, 2023. He was represented by student attorneys from Boston College Law School. Mr. Giroux was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2017 and after his review hearing in 2021. The entire video recording of Mr. Giroux's March 28, 2023, 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 unanimous vote that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole.

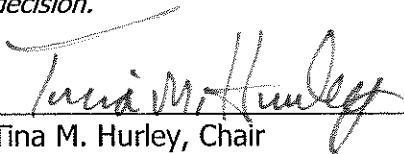
The Board is of the opinion that Leonard Giroux has demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Reserve to Long-term residential program after nine months in lower security. Mr. Giroux strangled 40-year-old Cheryl Tavares to death on April 8, 2002, when he was 20 years old. Mr. Giroux witnessed and was a victim of physical and sexual abuse as a young child. He lived through multiple bouts of homelessness and his criminal history began at age twelve. Mr. Giroux accepts responsibility and is remorseful for his actions. He has seriously committed to his rehabilitation through the

completion of numerous programs to include Restorative Justice, Emotional Awareness, Alternatives to Violence, Violence Reduction, and Jericho Circle. He was a Restorative Justice and Emotional Awareness facilitator. Most recently, he completed two correspondence courses through ACCI: Domestic Violence Cognitive Skills and the Offender Responsibility Cognitive Life Skills Course. He is enrolled in the VOEG program and nearing completion. The Board encourages him to pursue counseling for adjustment and transition.

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

Special Conditions: Reserve to LTRP after nine months in lower security; Waive work for program; Curfew – Must be at home between 10pm and 6am; 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 mental health evaluation and follow recommended treatment; Must have substance abuse evaluation and follow recommended treatment; Counseling for adjustment/transition; AA/NA at least 3 times/week.

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

6/7/23
Date