



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

MARIE LYONS

F80320

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: February 9, 2023

DATE OF DECISION: April 12, 2023

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On March 16, 2004, after a jury trial in Plymouth Superior Court, Marie Lyons was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of Gerard Charron. She was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Ms. Lyons appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on February 9, 2023. She was represented by student attorneys from Harvard Law School. Ms. Lyons was denied parole after her initial hearing in 2019. The entire video recording of Ms. Lyons' February 9, 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 that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole.¹

The Board is of the opinion that Marie Lyons has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make her release compatible with the welfare of society. Ms. Lyons is serving

¹ Three Board Members voted to deny parole and three Board Members voted to grant parole. A majority vote is required for parole to be granted. Because of the split vote, the Board will conduct Ms. Lyons' review hearing in one year from the date of this hearing.

life in prison for the September 2001 murder of 50-year-old Gerard Charron in Brockton. The Board notes that Ms. Lyons has participated in multiple rehabilitative programs and lives with some medical issues. Despite her positive progress, the Board finds that she must sustain a longer period of disciplinary report-free behavior, especially before she is released onto supervision in the community. She took minimal responsibility for a pattern of disciplinary infractions. The Board is troubled by her lack of insight into the underlying offense and her refusal to acknowledge her history of domestic violence toward the victim. Before her next hearing, she should make a significant effort to remain disciplinary report-free and reflect upon her causative factors and how she will address conflict respectfully moving forward.

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 Ms. Lyons' institutional behavior, as well as her participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of her incarceration. The Board has also considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Ms. Lyons' risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Ms. Lyons' case, the Board is of the opinion that Marie Lyons is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Ms. Lyons' next appearance before the Board will take place in one year from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Ms. Lyons to continue working toward her full rehabilitation.

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


Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

April 12, 2023
Date