



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Terrence M. Reidy
Secretary

Telephone: (508)-650-4500

Facsimile: (508)-650-4599

Tina M. Hurley
Chair

Lian Hogan
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

MARIE LYONS
F80320

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **February 27, 2024**

DATE OF DECISION: **April 23, 2024**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse

VOTE: Parole is granted on or after two weeks from issuance of Decision to a LTRP (Long-Term Residential Program).

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On March 16, 2004, following a jury trial in Plymouth Superior Court, Marie Lyons was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of Gerard Charron. Ms. Lyons was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2019, and after a review hearing in 2023. On February 27, 2024, Marie Lyons appeared before the Board for a review hearing. She was represented by student attorneys Zainab Kahloon and Faith Blank under the supervision of Attorney John Fitzpatrick of the Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project. The Board's decision fully incorporates, by reference, the entire video recording of Marie Lyons' February 27, 2024 hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On September 13, 2001, at approximately 12:45 a.m., members of the Brockton Police Department were dispatched to a small park next to South Junior High School, where individuals Marie Lyons and her boyfriend, Gerard Charron, were sleeping that night. Upon arrival, police found 50-year-old Gerard Charron lying face down with massive head trauma.

In response to questioning, Ms. Lyons advised that she and Mr. Charron had gone out to dinner and consumed alcohol before returning to the park, where they drank more alcohol and fell asleep. She then claimed that while they were sleeping, someone came upon them and struck Mr. Charron in the head with a blunt object, killing him.


The State Police ultimately determined that the physical evidence located on scene was inconsistent with Ms. Lyons' story. Among other things, blood was found on the blanket that Ms. Lyons claimed to have been on at the time of the attack, which disproved her claim that she was sleeping at the time of the alleged third-party attack. It was later determined that Ms. Lyons committed the murder herself.

APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. In making this determination, the Board takes into consideration an incarcerated individual's institutional behavior, their participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize the incarcerated individual's risk of recidivism. M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. The Board also considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the incarcerated individual at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the incarcerated individual's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board (if applicable).

DECISION OF THE BOARD: This was subject's third appearance before the Board. Since the last hearing, subject has continued to invest in her recovery and rehabilitation. She has been sober for 19 years and has remained D (disciplinary) report free. She has done a significant amount of work on her trauma history and substance use disorder, both of which were related to the offense. She has completed over 60 programs that addressed addiction, trauma, criminal thinking, mental health, grief, violence prevention, and vocational skills training. She has engaged in higher education through Boston College and completed all her training hours to become a licensed alcohol and drug counselor. She has secured a paid opportunity with New Beginnings to complete her field requirement hours. Subject has a significant support system, including two members of the community/mentors and family to assist her with all of her re-entry needs. The victim's daughter opposed parole. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Marie Lyons has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make her release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Long Term Residential Program; Waive work for LTRP; Must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM or at PO's discretion; Electronic monitoring or at PO's discretion; Supervise for liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with Agency policy; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with Agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with victim(s)' family; Counseling for trauma and addiction; AA at least 3x per 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


Date