

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

MATTHEW MCKINNON
W90924

TYPE OF HEARING: ~~Review Hearing~~

DATE OF HEARING: ~~June 15, 2023~~

DATE OF DECISION: ~~September 14, 2023~~

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, James Kelcourse

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On July 17, 2005, Matthew McKinnon shot and killed 24-year-old Claudy Jean-Piox in Brockton. On November 6, 2007, following a jury trial in Plymouth Superior Court, Mr. McKinnon was convicted of murder in the second degree and sentenced to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole.

Mr. McKinnon appeared before the Board on June 15, 2023, for a review hearing. He was not represented by an attorney. Parole was denied following Mr. McKinnon's initial hearing in 2020. The entire video recording of Mr. McKinnon's June 15, 2023 hearing is fully incorporated by reference into 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 a suitable candidate for parole.

Parole reserve on/after 90 days to CRJ. This was Mr. McKinnon's second appearance before the Board. Mr. McKinnon has invested in many rehabilitative programs to address his needs. Since the last hearing, Mr. McKinnon completed 8 additional programs including Restorative Justice,


substance abuse, anger management, and emotional awareness. He continued with the welding program, and it is noted that he independently engaged in correspondence courses to further his rehabilitation. Mr. McKinnon demonstrated insight into the relationship between his history of childhood neglect, homelessness, and the feelings of desperation and anger that led to [the] offense. Mr. McKinnon reported he was born addicted to crack cocaine and lacked the supports, emotional capacity, and motivation to benefit from the opportunities he had for self-development, such as Metco and Job Corp. Mr. McKinnon has since matured, invested in self-development, and established positive supports to assist with a positive transition into the community.

The Board considered testimony from Mr. McKinnon's sister, who spoke in support of his parole. His girlfriend and several family members were present for his hearing. The Board also considered testimony from ADA Palumbo from Plymouth County, who spoke in opposition of parole.

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. McKinnon'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. McKinnon's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. McKinnon's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. McKinnon is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time, subject to special conditions.

Special Conditions: Parole reserve on/after 90 days to CRJ, for at least 90 days; Waive work for when program allows; Curfew – Must be at home between 10PM and 6AM; 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 recommendations; Must have substance abuse evaluation and follow recommendations; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment.

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

09/14/2023

Date