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PAROLE BOARD

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Charlene Bonner
Chairperson

DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

MICHAEL CORRADINO

W34481

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing after Revocation**

DATE OF HEARING: **May 12, 2015**

DATE OF DECISION: **May 27, 2015**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Lee Gartenberg, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at 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 at this time. Parole is granted to an approved home plan with special conditions.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On May 6, 1973, Michael Corradino shot and killed 29-year-old Michael Barry over a dispute at a card game in Chelsea.¹ On February 26, 1974, a Suffolk Superior Court jury found Corradino guilty of murder in the second degree. Corradino's subsequent appeals and post-conviction motions have been unsuccessful.

On the day of the murder, the police received an anonymous telephone call that a shooting had taken place at Dorothy's Café, a bar in Chelsea. Officers responded to the call and entered the bar, but reported no evidence of a shooting. The police had long suspected that unlawful card games regularly took place on the second floor of the building where the bar was located. Corradino ran these after-hours card games.

¹ Alfred Abate, Jr. is Corradino's co-defendant. He was convicted of accessory after the fact of murder and sentenced to serve 5 to 7 years. He was paroled in 1976 and the term has now expired.

Corradino and Mr. Barry had a history of altercations, and Corradino had banned Mr. Barry from participating in the after-hours card games. A month before the murder, Mr. Barry had accused Corradino of cheating during a game and had thrown chips at him. Patrons separated the two, avoiding a fight. On the night of the murder, Mr. Barry and Corradino had yet another altercation, this time, over a debt incurred during the illegal card games held at the bar. Witness statements indicated that Mr. Barry appeared to be quite drunk. In an attempt to de-escalate the situation, an employee at Dorothy's grabbed Mr. Barry and pulled him back as he tried to lunge at Corradino. In response, Corradino, standing approximately four feet from the victim, drew a gun from his pocket and fired the weapon twice. Mr. Barry died as a result of a gunshot wound to the head. Mr. Barry's body was found the following day at 6:25 a.m. Corradino was arrested approximately five months later.

II. PAROLE HISTORY

Michael Corradino was initially granted parole on September 27, 1989. In February of 1993, Federal authorities arrested him for possession with intent to distribute cocaine. However, Corradino was not held in custody and fled from Massachusetts. After being whereabouts unknown for two months, he was arrested in Florida. Corradino's parole was revoked.

Corradino served an additional nine years before re-parole in October 2002. In April of 2007, Boston police arrested him for ticket scalping near Fenway Park, but the Board did not revoke his parole. In May 2007, Corradino moved to New Hampshire and supervision was transferred via the Interstate Compact. In May 2010, a Massachusetts parole officer recognized Corradino near TD Garden, apparently scalping Bruins tickets despite a special condition prohibiting his involvement in ticket sales. His parole was not revoked.

Corradino then violated parole repeatedly in 2011 through a series of events in New Hampshire. Most significantly, Corradino went whereabouts unknown for four months from late February of 2011 to June 23, 2011. During that time, Corradino ceased communication with his parole officer and changed residences. Corradino was hiding from parole because he had been charged in a criminal case involving trespass and vandalism that he feared would result in a parole revocation. Instead of reporting the new criminal charges to his parole officer, Corradino fled.

During his period of absconding, Corradino had arrest warrants against him for the criminal charges of trespass and vandalism. Local police arrested Corradino on the arrest warrant on April 7, 2011. Corradino tried to avoid arrest on the warrant by lying about his identity. He told the police officers who stopped him that he was Richard Weimer and showed them a photo ID for that person. The arresting officers noticed that the photo on the ID did not resemble Corradino. In addition, Corradino was unable to provide the officers with certain identifiers for Richard Weimer. Corradino subsequently admitted his true identity and that he lied to avoid arrest on the warrant.

Even after being arrested on the warrant, he did not tell the arresting officers that he was on parole. He quickly made bail, but did not contact his parole officer. He continued hiding from parole and failed to appear for court dates. New Hampshire Parole had not seen Corradino since a February 23, 2011 office visit and they had been trying to contact him

unsuccessfully since late February, 2011. He avoided all attempts by New Hampshire Parole to contact or find him. New Hampshire notified Massachusetts Parole on May 25, 2011, and Massachusetts Parole issued a warrant. Massachusetts Parole searched for Corradino for the next month. On June 23, 2011, Massachusetts Parole found him in Nashua, New Hampshire and he was arrested.

Corradino was found guilty of criminal trespassing in Derry District Court on August 11, 2011, and received 48 days committed (credit for time served). After his New Hampshire cases were closed, Corradino was returned to Massachusetts on the outstanding parole warrant.

III. PAROLE HEARING ON MAY 12, 2015

Corradino has been back in custody since June 23, 2011, for numerous parole violations. Corradino was before the Parole Board for a review hearing on May 31, 2012 and was denied parole with a three year review. He is now 70-years-old.

Attorney John Rull represented Corradino. Attorney Rull provided a comprehensive opening statement outlining how Corradino merits parole. Attorney Rull stated that Corradino "has been rightfully and sufficiently punished." Attorney Rull provided details about Corradino's prior parole failures and what he has done to rehabilitate himself. Corradino also provided an opening statement where he presented as sincerely remorseful for his governing offense. He stated that since losing his oldest son to addiction while he was incarcerated, he understands to a greater extent the grief and pain that he caused the Barry family. Corradino also stated that he blames himself for his son's poor choices, and he blames himself for the path of destruction that Mr. Barry's son took after his father's death. Corradino was tearful during his statement of remorse. He also offered his gratitude towards specific members of the Parole Board for providing him with constructive advice, and to his Parole Officer for trying to assist him, even though at the time he acted out of fear.

The Parole Board focused on Corradino's prior parole failures, and asked specific questions about his mindset and behavior fraught with criminal thinking and deception. Corradino acknowledged his history of parole failures and stated that he has been determined to commit himself to rehabilitation since his return to custody. He stated that he has reengaged in programming and gained a significant amount of insight about himself through his participation in such programs as the Beacon Program. Corradino stated, "I didn't live up to my responsibility as a parolee or as a human being. I learned that fear is the enemy." He stated that he behaved in an entitled way and that each time he was called out on his behavior, he made an effort to be deceptive, rather than change the way he conducts himself or the way he views things. Corradino repeatedly stated that he lived in a state of fear and that instead of "running toward my parole officer, I ran away from him," as he assumed that he would be sent back to prison. Corradino acknowledges that his criminal thinking and behavior is what has kept him from earning another opportunity on parole. Corradino stated that he never thought about the many people he was affecting through his continued parole violations.

Corradino stated that the biggest source of change he has made since his re-incarceration in 2011 is in his thinking. Corradino detailed for the Parole Board what he has done to manage conflicts and make responsible decisions and how he is able to forgive himself for his past failures. He acknowledged that it has taken him a very long time to view situations

without being fearful, and to listen and accept the support that he has. Corradino described his progress in rehabilitation as being fortified by the death of his son. He stated that "when I lost my son, it reinforced what I already saw in Mrs. Barry's face [in court]." He described how his level of empathy and value for life has significantly progressed during the past four years. Corradino attributes his progress to his age, facing his own mortality (as he has suffered many serious medical issues), the investment he made in learning about himself in programming, and the grief he has suffered by losing his son and his marriage.

Corradino outlined a parole plan that would allow him to address some of his acute medical issues and then, once stabilized, he would like to return to New Hampshire to live with his younger son. Corradino also stated that he would benefit from his continued participation in AA, even though he has not had any alcohol in over twenty years. He explained that the fellowship of AA keeps him accountable and humble and he finds self-worth in being able to give back to others. Corradino hopes to return to work part time when medically able. He stated that he has developed a skill set in computers and would like to work in the family business utilizing such skills. Corradino had many supporters attend his hearing. Speaking in support was his son, John Corradino, who assured the Parole Board that his family was committed to assisting Corradino with the necessary supports he would need to be a successful citizen.

There was no one present in opposition to Corradino's parole; however, a member of the Victim's Service Unit read a letter from Thomas Barry, the victim's brother. Mr. Barry's letter highlighted the grief that the family has suffered as result of Corradino's actions both by the murder of their loved one and by his continued violations. Mr. Barry stated that the family remains frustrated and sad by the process they have had to endure. However, it is his opinion that if Corradino has not hurt another person during his periods on parole, he should be given another opportunity and that perhaps he could bring some love and kindness to his grandchildren, which his brother (the victim) was unable to provide.


IV. DECISION

Michael Corradino is now 70-years-old. He was returned to custody in 2011 for numerous infractions while on parole. Having been back in custody for nearly four additional years, Corradino re-invested in rehabilitation. Following the Parole Board's decision in 2013, Corradino recognized that he would not be afforded another opportunity on parole unless he was able to address his criminal thinking and conduct. Corradino reportedly took a very hard look at himself and invested in programs that were specific to re-evaluation of perceptions, conflict resolution skills, empathy, and behaviors as they affect others. Corradino appears to have benefitted from the additional years he has spent incarcerated in conjunction with his commitment to rehabilitation. Corradino also appears to have a realistic release plan with the necessary supports to accommodate his needs.

The standard we apply in assessing candidates for parole is set out in 120 C.M.R. 300.04, which provides that, "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." Applying that appropriately high standard here, the Board finds that Mr. Corradino is a suitable candidate for parole.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Reserve to an approved home plan; work will be waived at the discretion of the Parole Officer in light of the parolee's health conditions and SSI; no drug use or alcohol use, with testing for compliance and in accordance with agency policy; AA or NA meetings at least three times per week; GPS at the discretion of the Parole Officer; Parole Officer will receive permission to have access to medical records; report to Parole Office on the day of release.

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.


Peter Mimmo, Staff Attorney

5/27/2015
Date