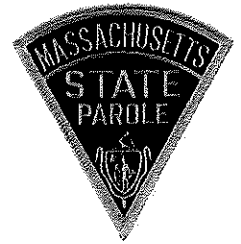


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

MICHELLE TOURIGNY
F36778

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **April 13, 2023**

DATE OF DECISION: **October 23, 2023**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner,¹ Tonomey Coleman, Dr. Maryanne Galvin,² James Kelcourse, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On November 16, 1999, in Middlesex Superior Court, a jury found Michelle Tourigny guilty of second-degree murder in the death of 54-year-old Manuel Martin. She was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Michelle Tourigny (age 32) and Manuel Martin had been involved in a relationship since December 1997. During their relationship, Ms. Tourigny physically assaulted Mr. Martin on several occasions, including a stabbing. On March 21, 1998, Mr. Martin complained to a building security officer that Ms. Tourigny punched him and then picked up a knife and tried to kill him. When security guards brought Ms. Tourigny into the office, she said, "He hit me first." Ms. Tourigny later told her social worker that she had an argument with Mr. Martin and stabbed him with a knife. In April 1998, Mr. Martin moved into Ms. Tourigny's apartment in Lowell.

On the night of September 10, 1998, Ms. Tourigny and Mr. Martin were in their apartment with Mr. Martin's son and two neighbors. Both Ms. Tourigny and Mr. Martin had been drinking and, as the night progressed, began to argue when Ms. Tourigny wanted money from Mr. Martin to buy more alcohol. At approximately 10:00 p.m., Mr. Martin's son and the two neighbors left the apartment to go to another apartment on the same floor. Mr. Martin's son then heard Mr. Martin yelling in Spanish, "She stabbed me, she stabbed me," and "It hurts." He ran back to find his

¹ Board Member Bonner was not present at the hearing, but fully reviewed the video recording and record before participating in the decision.

² Board Member Galvin was present for the hearing, but did not participate in the decision.

father outside the apartment. Mr. Martin's son lifted his father's shirt and noticed blood coming from a wound in his upper abdomen. He also noticed Ms. Tourigny leave the apartment holding a knife with an 8 inch blade. When a nurse's aide asked who had injured him, Mr. Martin replied that it was his "wife," referring to Ms. Tourigny. Police were called, and Mr. Martin was transported to Lowell General Hospital, where he later died.

After speaking to several individuals, police located Ms. Tourigny in the neighboring apartment. When asked to step into the common hallway, she spontaneously told them, "He beats me. It was self-defense. He beats me all the time." Ms. Tourigny, however, did not appear to have any injuries, nor had she complained of any injuries. She was subsequently arrested.

PAROLE HEARING: Michelle Tourigny appeared before the Board on April 13, 2023. She was represented by student attorneys from Harvard PLAP under the supervision of Attorney Joel Thompson. The entire video recording of Ms. Tourigny's April 13, 2023, hearing is fully incorporated by reference in the Board's decision.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: 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.

After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of offense, the criminal record, the 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 subject to special conditions.


In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Ms. Tourigny's 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. Tourigny's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Ms. Tourigny's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Michelle Tourigny is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time, subject to special conditions.

LTRP (New Beginnings) after a six month step down to lower security. Inmate has served 24 years. She has remained sober throughout her incarceration. Subject followed the Board's recommendations and engaged in significant programming, including empathy, to address substance abuse and mental health issues. She has a strong parole plan and community support. The District Attorney's Office did not oppose.

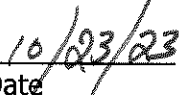
SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for two weeks; Curfew must be at home between 10 pm and 6 am or PO's discretion; ELMO - electronic monitoring at PO's discretion; Must take prescribed medication; Supervise for drugs; Testing in accordance with Agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence; Testing in accordance with Agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with victim's family; Must have substance abuse evaluation – must

comply with recommended treatment plan; Counseling for Bi-polar and depression, and transition; Residential program – Sober House Program.

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