



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

NORMAN NORD

W88096

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: June 11, 2019

DATE OF DECISION: March 10, 2020

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Gloriann Moroney, Colette Santa

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 by unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in four years from the date of the hearing.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On August 1, 2006, in Suffolk Superior Court, Norman Nord was found guilty of second-degree murder in the death of 29-year-old Deshanta Bailey. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Nord received a concurrent sentence of 15 to 20 years for possession of a firearm.

On August 7, 2004, Norman Nord (age 28), while living at a rooming house in Dorchester, shot to death Deshanta Bailey, a woman he had been dating. While engaging in sexual activity that night, Mr. Nord shot Ms. Bailey in the right temple with a semiautomatic pistol. He then left with the gun, disposing of it in a neighboring yard. Sometime after 3:00 a.m., the landlord (who lived in the building) was awakened by the repeated rings of the doorbell. When he went outside to investigate, the landlord encountered Mr. Nord. After being let in, Mr. Nord motioned for the landlord to follow him to his room, where he found Ms. Bailey, nude and lifeless, on the floor. At some point, police were called, but they were unable to

locate a gun. Mr. Nord stated that Ms. Bailey shot herself in the head. After a police investigation, however, Mr. Nord was arrested.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON JUNE 11, 2019

Norman Nord, now 43-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on June 11, 2019, for an initial hearing. He was not represented by counsel. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Nord took full responsibility for his reckless, violent, and cowardly act. He regrets the day that he took the life of Ms. Bailey, admitting that there was no justification for her death by his hands, and that he had no right to ask for forgiveness. He told the Board that he has been incarcerated for 14 years and 10 months on this sentence and he took full responsibility for his actions in 2009 or 2010, explaining that he had been in denial before that time.

When questioned as to the events leading up to the governing offense, Mr. Nord said that he lived at a rooming house and had been dating Ms. Bailey. On the evening of the murder, Ms. Bailey was staying the night with him, so they ate dinner together. Mr. Nord added that they both were drinking alcohol, but denied any drug use. That night, after he started to get his clothes together for the next day, Mr. Nord took out a pistol and put it on top of the dresser. Both he and Ms. Bailey went back to drinking alcohol and watching movies. Then, in the midst of a sexual act, Mr. Nord took the pistol and put it to Ms. Bailey's head and fired it. When Board Members questioned him as to why he used the gun, Mr. Nord responded, "To this day, like I said, I have no excuse why I picked this firearm up." He claims that he was under the influence of alcohol and had no control of himself. Mr. Nord denied threatening Ms. Bailey with the gun, or even putting the gun to her head, prior to this incident. He stated that he purchased the gun on the street, but denied firing it prior to the murder. Mr. Nord admitted that he panicked at the time and disposed of the gun. He stated that he initially told police that he did not shoot Ms. Bailey, but rather, that she committed suicide.

In regard to his programming efforts, Mr. Nord said that he participated in Culinary Arts, Restorative Justice, Alternatives to Violence, and the Correctional Recovery Academy, among others. Board Members noted his completion of approximately 50 programs, as well. Mr. Nord described having an alcohol problem previously, but denied using alcohol while incarcerated. Mr. Nord described his triggers as the negative people he used to hang around with in the city, but told the Board that he has since learned how to deal with those issues. Upon questioning, he spoke about his 2012 disciplinary report incurred for possession of a weapon, as well as his disciplinary reports incurred for possession of "homebrew." He spoke about his most recent disciplinary report, resulting from a fight with another inmate. Since that incident, Mr. Nord lost his job. Mr. Nord also spoke about his criminal charges involving firearms.

The Board considered testimony in support of parole from Mr. Nord's son, sister, and mother. The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from Ms. Bailey's daughters and sister. Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Charles Bartoloni testified in opposition to parole.

III. DECISION

The Board is of the opinion that Norman Nord has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Although he has made strides in his rehabilitation, his adjustment within the facility is a concern. Mr. Nord should refrain from incurring any additional disciplinary infractions and [he should] obtain employment.

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. Nord'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. Nord's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Nord's case, the Board is of the opinion that Norman Nord is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Nord's next appearance before the Board will take place in four years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages him to continue working towards his full rehabilitation.

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.



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

3/10/2020
Date