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PAROLE BOARD

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Gloriann Moroney
Chair

Kevin Keefe
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

OSCAR HOFFMAN

W47389

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: February 25, 2020

DATE OF DECISION: June 4, 2020

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On November 13, 1989, in Middlesex Superior Court, Oscar Hoffman pleaded guilty to second degree murder in the death of 29-year-old Linda Rossi Montgrain and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Mr. Hoffman was 20-years-old at the time of the offense.

Mr. Hoffman, now 53-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on February 25, 2020. He was represented by Attorney Deirdre Thurber. This was Mr. Hoffman's fourth appearance before the Board, having been denied parole in 2002, 2007 and 2012. Mr. Hoffman postponed his 2017 review hearing. The entire video recording of Mr. Hoffman's February 25, 2020 hearing is fully incorporated by reference to 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 by unanimous decision that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is denied with a review in four years. Mr. Hoffman has served approximately 32 years for the brutal murder of Ms. Rossi Montgrain. It is the opinion of the Board that he has yet to make a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with public safety. Mr. Hoffman should engage in meaningful rehabilitative treatment and programming. Since his last hearing in 2012 he has completed five programs and sporadically attends AA/NA. Mr. Hoffman should pursue accommodations via DOC due to his learning disability.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The above decision is an abbreviated administrative decision issued in an effort to render an expedited resolution in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Hoffman, through counsel, has waived his right to a full administrative decision.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing.



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

6/4/2020
Date