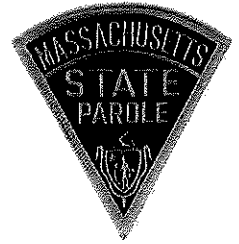


*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*



PAROLE BOARD

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

**PAMELA OSL
F36178**

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: May 24, 2018

DATE OF DECISION: February 7, 2019

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa, Lucy Soto-Abbe

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 the 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 a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is granted to the inmate's home with special conditions.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On September 13, 1994, in Hampden Superior Court, Pamela Osl was convicted of the second-degree murder of Reginald Laraway and sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

In the early morning hours of March 9, 1994, Ms. Osl accompanied Mr. Laraway to the Motel 6 in Chicopee, after a night of drinking at a local establishment. Ms. Osl had also consumed crack cocaine during the course of the evening. While alone in the motel room, Ms. Osl murdered Mr. Laraway by striking him in the head several times with the toilet tank cover and slicing his throat with a razor blade. She fled in his car, obtained and used more crack cocaine, socialized with several people, and admitted to one person that she had killed a man. She returned to the motel room to take money and to clean the crime scene, while the body of Mr. Laraway was still there. Ms. Osl admitted to the murder when interviewed by police on March 10, 1994.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON MAY 24, 2018

Ms. Osl, now 50-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on May 24, 2018, for a review hearing. She was represented by Attorney Timothy Bradl. Ms. Osl was first granted parole after her initial hearing on January 27, 2009. Ms. Osl was returned to custody on September 27, 2009, for self-injurious behavior and drug use. She was granted parole again in 2013, but was returned to custody after her 2017 parole violation, when she tested positive for cocaine.

Attorney Bradl provided a brief opening statement on behalf of Ms. Osl, addressing her parole violation. Attorney Bradl told the Board that "Ms. Osl denies intentionally ingesting any cocaine, but acknowledges that there were circumstances in which she could have ingested cocaine." In her own opening statement, Ms. Osl told the Board that since her return to custody, she was re-classified to lower security, obtained employment, and participated in programming to address the causative factors related to her substance abuse and the commission of the governing offense. Most recently, Ms. Osl completed Anger Management, Restorative Justice Reading Group, Substance Abuse Group, Mental Health Art Therapy Group, and Alcoholics Anonymous Way of Life ("AWOL"). She also completed courses in Culinary Arts, as well as courses in Pharmacology of Psychoactive Substances from the Center for Addiction Studies and Research, as part of her LADC-Certification.

In discussing her 2017 parole violation, Ms. Osl told the Board that she had broken a tooth and, in an attempt to ease the pain, Ms. Osl asked a friend, "Vanessa," to go to a store to purchase temporary tooth filler. Upon arrival at the store, Vanessa did not have enough money for the filler and, instead, purchased Tylenol, which cost less money. Ms. Osl directed Vanessa to make a paste out of the crushed Tylenol and water, so that she could put it on her tooth to ease the pain. Ms. Osl subsequently tested positive for cocaine, but denied ever knowingly ingesting cocaine. Ms. Osl stated that prior to getting arrested for the parole violation, she learned from Vanessa that she, too, had a toothache and made a paste for herself, as well. Vanessa told Ms. Osl that she put cocaine in the paste she made for herself, but not in the paste for Ms. Osl. Ms. Osl speculated that perhaps the pastes were mixed inadvertently, but ultimately, could not explain how she tested positive for cocaine.

With respect to the governing offense, Ms. Osl apologized and expressed remorse for the murder of Mr. Laraway. She indicated that she was using drugs, as well as drinking, to "fill a void" and to "avoid facing things." Ms. Osl indicated that, although she had tried to seek therapy to address her anger issues, she nonetheless "took out [her] anger, sadness and frustration on Mr. Laraway." Ms. Osl stated that in addition to not properly addressing her anger issues, she believes she projected her anger onto Mr. Laraway because she was in an abusive relationship at the time, from which she suffered post-traumatic stress disorder. Ms. Osl stated that she has since "made every day count," as she doesn't want to inflict the same pain she caused to the family of Mr. Laraway. Ms. Osl also told the Board that she now has a good relationship with her daughter and would be able to stay with her, if granted parole. The Board noted Ms. Osl's strong support, as she had several attendees at her hearing. In addition, the Board commended Ms. Osl for the positive work she has done since her re-incarceration.

Ms. Osl's daughter submitted a letter support, which was read by Attorney Bradl. Two of Ms. Osl's friends gave oral testimony in support of parole. Victims' Services Coordinator Michelle Beatty read a letter from the daughter of the victim in opposition to parole. Hampden County Assistant District Attorney Howard Safford gave oral testimony in opposition to parole.


III. DECISION

The Board is of the opinion that re-incarceration has served its purpose. Since her return to custody, Pamela Osl has continued to address her causative factors to include substance abuse and mental illness.


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 consideration Ms. Osl's institutional behavior, as well as her participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board also considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction could effectively minimize Ms. Osl's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Ms. Osl's case, the Board is of the opinion that Pamela Osl merits parole at this time. Parole is granted to her home with special conditions.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Approve home plan before release; Waive work for 2 weeks; Must be home between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.; Electronic monitoring - GPS at P.O's discretion; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with agency policy; Supervise for liquor, testing in accordance with agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact w/victim's family; Must have one-on-one mental health counseling to include substance abuse; Must attend AA/NA at least 3 times per week.

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.



Shara Benedetti, Acting General Counsel



Date