

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

**PAROLE BOARD**

*12 Mercer Road*  
*Natick, Massachusetts 01760*



**Maura T. Healey**  
*Governor*

**Kimberley Driscoll**  
*Lieutenant Governor*

**Terrence M. Reidy**  
*Secretary*

*Telephone: (508)-650-4500*

*Facsimile: (508)-650-4599*

**Tina M. Hurley**  
*Chair*

**Lian Hogan**  
*Executive Director*

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**PATRICK BROWN**  
**W98028**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** December 5, 2024

**DATE OF DECISION:** March 24, 2025

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

**VOTE:** Parole is denied with a review in 2 years from the date of the hearing.

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On February 7, 2011, in Suffolk Superior Court, Patrick Brown pleaded guilty to second-degree murder for the death of Zandera "Peter" Sullivan. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he received 2 years of probation, to run concurrently with the life sentence, for home invasion. On December 5, 2024, Patrick Brown appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by student attorneys Samantha Raymond, Abigail Rosovsky, and Sydnee Kay from the Boston College Defenders Lifer Parole Clinic under the supervision of Attorney Frank Herrmann. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Patrick Brown's December 5, 2024, hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On May 29, 1995, Tracey Jones, Patrick Brown's former girlfriend and mother of his 10-month-old baby, returned to her apartment in Roxbury, after spending several days with her sister on Norfolk Street. Upon entering the home, Ms. Jones noticed that several photographs she had of Mr. Brown were newly propped up on both her and her daughter's bed.; Ms. Jones had never provided Mr. Brown with keys to her apartment due to the severe physical abuse she had suffered from him for over a year while she was pregnant. She became very alarmed that he had gained entry and, fearing for her safety, Ms. Jones invited her boyfriend, Zandera "Peter" Sullivan, to her apartment. While waiting for Mr. Sullivan to arrive, Ms. Jones received several phone calls from Patrick Brown, insisting that he be

allowed to visit their daughter. Ms. Jones told him that it was too late and to wait until tomorrow. Mr. Brown became very angry and hung up the phone.

Mr. Sullivan soon arrived at Seaver Street around 11:00 pm and talked with Ms. Jones on her bed. The phone continued to ring, so Mr. Sullivan asked her to unplug it. About 15 minutes later, there was a knock on the front door. Ms. Jones told Mr. Sullivan that Patrick Brown was at the front door. A short time later, there was a loud boom at the back door. Within a minute, Mr. Brown was standing beside the bed. Patrick Brown pulled out a hunting knife from the waistband of his pants. He yelled to Mr. Sullivan, "You are busted. I seen you two here together." Mr. Sullivan told Patrick Brown not to hurt Ms. Jones. Mr. Sullivan then ran out of the bedroom and left the apartment through the back door. Mr. Brown ran after him. Ms. Jones then heard Mr. Sullivan moaning and saying "No." She went to the first-floor entrance of the apartment building and saw Mr. Sullivan lying on the ground with a big pool of blood near his upper body and his arm shaking. Although Ms. Jones asked a resident on the first floor to call police, Mr. Sullivan died at the scene due to his carotid artery and jugular vein being severed. Mr. Brown was 20 years old at the time of the murder.


Investigators were unable to locate Mr. Brown in Boston immediately following the murder. It was not until 2009, that authorities received information from a source that he was living in Costa Rica under a false name and traveling frequently to Belize and Panama. On February 6, 2010, Mr. Brown was captured in Belize and extradited back to Boston.

**APPLICABLE STANDARD:** Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. In making this determination, the Board takes into consideration an inmate's institutional behavior, their participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize the inmate's risk of recidivism. M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. The Board also considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of the 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 and/or in written submissions to the Board (if applicable).

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** This was Mr. Brown's first appearance before the Board. He is currently 50-years-old. Mr. Brown was a fugitive from justice for 16 years following the offense and was arrested in Central America. Mr. Brown engaged in Violence Reduction, Men's Work, Criminal Thinking, Restorative Justice, and Correctional Recovery Academy. Mr. Brown has also been a medical companion for 12 years. While the Board recognizes his progress in self-development, he has yet to address the causative factors directly related to this offense. Mr. Brown's version of offense contradicts known facts. The Board encourages Mr. Brown to engage in Domestic Violence Programming and enhance his insight into Victim Impact. The Board considered public testimony in rendering its decision. Two members of Mr. Brown's family, and a family friend, spoke in support. Suffolk County ADA Charles Marshall, along with 2 members of the victim's family, spoke in opposition. The Board concludes that Patrick Brown has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

*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