

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



**PAROLE BOARD**

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**Gloriann Moroney**  
*Chair*

**Kevin Keefe**  
*Executive Director*

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**REYNARD GROSSI**

**W87623**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** March 9, 2021

**DATE OF DECISION:** August 24, 2022

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, 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 three years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On October 29, 2001, after a jury trial in Middlesex Superior Court, Reynard Grossi was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of 49-year-old Roger McElroy. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. At the time he committed the murder, Mr. Grossi was on probation for a 1994 armed robbery conviction, for which he received an 18-20 year sentence. His life sentence was ordered to be served from and after completing the approximately 8 years remaining on that sentence. Accordingly, Mr. Grossi began serving his life sentence on May 10, 2006.

In the spring of 1999, Reynard Grossi was living in Newton with his girlfriend and 10-year-old son. However, in May, he started dating another woman and moved in with her in June. On June 18, 1999, at about 9:00 p.m., Mr. Grossi and his new girlfriend saw Roger McElroy and Mr. Grossi's former girlfriend together outside a bar in Newton. When Mr. Grossi's

former girlfriend saw them, she held up her middle finger. Then, she and Mr. McElroy spent the evening drinking with friends before returning to her apartment. Similarly, Mr. Grossi and his new girlfriend spent the evening drinking with a different group of friends, where Mr. Grossi was observed holding an 8 inch knife.

At about 3:15 a.m., Mr. Grossi and his friend decided to go to his former girlfriend's apartment to retrieve some of his clothes. Mr. Grossi reached into a (previously) broken windowpane and unlocked the door. He went upstairs to the bedroom and found Mr. McElroy in bed with his former girlfriend. Mr. Grossi punched him, and a fight ensued. After the noise awoke the neighbors, police soon arrived to find Mr. McElroy's body in the driveway. An autopsy revealed that Mr. McElroy died of blunt trauma to the head, neck, and torso, caused by at least 11 blows from a fist or shod foot. He also had stab wounds on his lips caused by a knife. Mr. Grossi was eventually apprehended by a police officer, admitting that he "lost it," "flipped out," and repeatedly kicked and punched Mr. McElroy in the head.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON MARCH 9, 2021<sup>1</sup>**

Reynard Grossi, now 53-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for an initial hearing on March 9, 2021. He was not represented by counsel. Mr. Grossi told the Board that he killed Mr. McElroy because he was jealous of Mr. McElroy's relationship with his former girlfriend. He also cited his substance abuse and uncontrolled anger issues as the reasons he committed murder, stating that his "priorities were totally backwards at the time." Mr. Grossi explained how he endured abuse from his stepfather as a child and would benefit from mental health counseling to "unpack" this experience.

The Board noted that substance abuse has been an "ongoing battle" for Mr. Grossi, as he has a lengthy history of heavy alcohol and drug use. While incarcerated, he has abused suboxone, but is currently on methadone. He told the Board that he has not used alcohol in three years and has not used drugs in "a few years." Much of Mr. Grossi's disciplinary history is tied to substance abuse, the sale of substances within the institution, and an affiliation with a Security Threat Group. He claims to be in the process of renunciation, however. Although Mr. Grossi did not participate in meaningful treatment or rehabilitative programming for much of his incarceration, he recently engaged in programming to include CRA and Alternatives to Violence. Mr. Grossi admitted that he still has work to do in his rehabilitation and with the re-entry process.

Mr. Grossi's family members testified in support of parole. Mr. McElroy's family members testified in opposition to parole. The Board considered testimony, and a letter of opposition, from the Middlesex District Attorney's Office.

## **III. DECISION**

The Board is of the opinion that Reynard Grossi has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Grossi is serving a life sentence for the murder of Roger McElroy and was on probation for two separate violent offenses when he committed the murder. Notably, he had only been on

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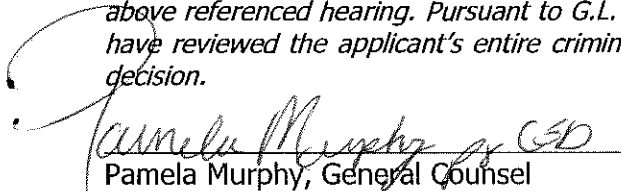
<sup>1</sup> The entire video recording of Mr. Grossi's March 9, 2021 hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

probation for approximately four months when he committed this crime. His rehabilitation only began 18 months prior to his hearing. As of the hearing date, he had only completed three programs. He acknowledged during his hearing that he needs to work on his anger management and deal with his childhood trauma. He has only been sober for approximately two to three years, and his last d[isciplinary] report for substance use was in 2019. He is encouraged to engage in further programming, such as Emotional Awareness and Jericho Circle. He should continue working on renouncing his STG affiliation and continue all available substance abuse programming and treatment.

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

Mr. Grossi's next appearance before the Board will take place in three years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Grossi to continue working toward 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

8/24/22  
Date