



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

REYNARD GROSSI
W87623

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **March 12, 2024**

DATE OF DECISION: **May 9, 2024**

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

VOTE: Parole is granted on/after 2 weeks of the issuance of Decision to a Long-Term Residential Program, but not before 6 months in lower security.¹

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On October 29, 2001, following a jury trial in Middlesex Superior Court, Reynard Grossi was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of Roger McElroy and 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 to 20-year sentence. His life sentence was ordered to be served from and after the remainder of that sentence. Accordingly, Mr. Grossi began serving his life sentence on May 10, 2006. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2021. On March 12, 2024, Mr. Grossi appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by student attorneys from the Boston College Lifer Parole Clinic under the supervision of Attorney Frank Herrmann. The Board's decision fully incorporates, by reference, the entire video recording of Mr. Grossi's March 12, 2024 hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: In the spring of 1999, Mr. Grossi (age 30) 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 (age 49) 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,

¹ One Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in 2 years.

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.

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 incarcerated individual'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 incarcerated individual'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 incarcerated individual at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the incarcerated individual'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. Grossi's second appearance before the Board. He has been incarcerated for 25 years. Since the last hearing, Mr. Grossi has re-invested in active recovery. He completed the CRA in 2021 and remained in the CRA as a GSP. He also enrolled in MAT. Mr. Grossi presented as remorseful and insightful about the harm he has caused. He has had no violence while in custody. He enrolled in weekly counseling and groups, which he feels has been instrumental in his self-development and his own trauma healing. He is employed full time and renounced from prior gang affiliation. Mr. Grossi completed his GED and engaged in Project Youth. He requested a gradual step-down to a residential treatment program and counseling to continue his treatment in the community. The Board considered the testimony of his son's fiancé in support of parole and the testimony of the victim's brother and cousin, who spoke in opposition. The Board also considered the testimony of the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, who also spoke in opposition to parole. The Board concludes that Reynard Grossi has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for Long-Term Residential Program; Curfew: must be at home between 10PM and 6AM at Parole Officer's discretion; Electronic monitoring at Parole Officer's discretion; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with Agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with Agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact or association with gangs/gang activities; No contact with victim's

family; Counseling for transition/adjustment and substance use; Long-Term Residential Program; Mandatory - recovery coach.

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