



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

RICHARD MAYES

W40068

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **January 24, 2023**

DATE OF DECISION: **April 10, 2023**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Dr. Maryanne Galvin, James Kelcourse, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On November 2, 1983, after a jury trial in Berkshire Superior Court, Richard Mayes was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of his 2-year-old son Lawrence "Onaje" Jackson Ritchon. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Mr. Mayes appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on January 24, 2023. He was not represented by counsel. Mr. Mayes was denied parole after his initial hearing in 1998, and after his review hearings in 2003, 2009, 2014, and 2019. The entire video recording of Mr. Mayes' January 24, 2023, 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 vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole.

The Board is of the opinion that Richard Mayes has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. On November 2, 1983, after a jury trial in Berkshire Superior Court, Mr. Mayes was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of his 2-year-old son Onaje. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. The Board is concerned that Mr. Mayes has resisted the recommendations

by the Board to engage in rehabilitative programming to address need areas. Although he now recognizes that he abused his children and has some insight into the factors that contributed to his offense, the Board is concerned that he continues to minimize the severity of abuse that caused the victim's death. The Board again encourages subject to continue in programming to address all of his need areas to include anger, empathy, mental health, and domestic violence.

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

Mr. Mayes' next appearance before the Board will take place in three years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages him to continue working towards his full rehabilitation.

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


Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

April 10, 2023
Date