

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 WHITE
W30775

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing
DATE OF HEARING: September 23, 2021
DATE OF DECISION: June 15, 2022

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On March 9, 1967, in Essex County Superior Court, Richard White was convicted of first-degree murder in the shooting death of Clifford Crawford and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. The life sentence was ordered to run concurrently with a three-to-five-year sentence he was already serving on an escape conviction. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court set aside the first-degree murder conviction and remanded the matter to the Superior Court for the entry of a guilty verdict on second-degree murder.¹ On December 20, 1967, Mr. White was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. At the time of the murder, Mr. White was on escape status, having walked away from Northeastern Correctional Center in October of 1965.

Mr. White appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on September 23, 2021. He was not represented by counsel. This was Mr. White's first appearance before the Board since his final revocation hearing in 2010. He postponed his 2011 and 2016 hearings. Mr. White was previously released on parole in 2002, 2006, and 2008 but was revoked due to parole violations. The entire video recording of Mr. White's September 23, 2021, 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

¹ Commonwealth v. White, 353 Mass. 409 (1967).

expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole.²

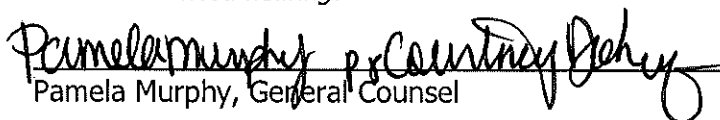
Reserve to an approved home plan. On December 5, 1965, Richard White shot and killed Clifford Crawford. He has been re-incarcerated since 2009 on a parole violation. He is 76-years-old and has been sober since 2010. Since his return to custody, he has engaged in mental health counseling and has had an overall positive institutional adjustment. Mr. White has worked to address his mental health issues and alcohol dependence. He has extensive medical needs to include chronic end stage kidney disease and COPD which would be suited to be treated in the community. Mr. White does not currently qualify for placement in a skilled nursing facility. He is encouraged to continue his medical and mental health in the community.

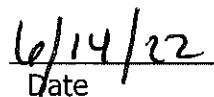
The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society."

In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. White'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. White's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. White's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. White is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time.

Special Conditions: Reserve to an approved home plan; Waive work for medical and age; Curfew must be at home between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.; ELMO-electronic monitoring; Must take prescribed medication; 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 with victim's family; Must have substance abuse evaluation – adhere to plan; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment/transition and depression; Mandatory – sign all releases and follow recommended treatment of all providers.

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


Pamela Murphy, General Counsel


Date

² Five Board Members voted to grant parole and one Board Member voted to deny parole.