



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

RICK AMADO
W93435

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: May 6, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: October 7, 2025

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

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

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On December 10, 2008, following a jury trial in Plymouth County Superior Court, Rick Amado was convicted of murder in the second degree and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Amado was sentenced to a concurrent prison term of 19 years, 11 months to 20 years for arson of a dwelling or house. He was found not guilty of assault and battery. On May 6, 2025, Rick Amado appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Attorney Matthew Koes. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Amado's May 6, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On May 7, 2005, in Kingston, 40-year-old Rick Amado set fire to the home of 49-year-old George Frazier III, killing him. On the day of the murder, Mr. Amado had spent the day drinking with his friends. He started at Mr. Frazier's house and then went to the Myles Standish State Forest before returning to Mr. Frazier's house in the afternoon. According to Mr. Amado, Mr. Frazier was asleep on the couch when they returned. One of the men punched Mr. Frazier, but he was too intoxicated to get up from the couch. Several of the men, including Mr. Amado, then began to steal items from Mr. Frazier's bedroom. While doing so, Mr. Amado lit a blanket on Mr. Frazier's bed on fire. The men left the house, but no one attempted to rescue Mr. Frazier, who was unconscious.

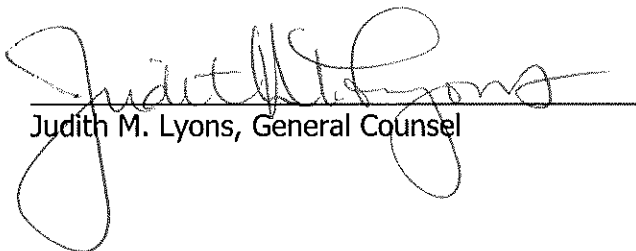
A neighbor noticed smoke coming from the house at around 6 P.M. Firefighters and a paramedic entered the burning home, but found Mr. Frazier dead as a result of the fire. Police interviewed Mr. Amado, who admitted that he had started the fire that killed Mr. Frazier.

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.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: The Board finds that Mr. Amado needs to further his efforts at rehabilitation. He admitted to substance use within weeks of his hearing. Mr. Amado continues to score as high risk on the LS/CMI risk assessment tool. The Board considered the evaluation of Dr. DiCataldo. The Board notes Dr. DiCataldo’s recommendation regarding placement of Mr. Amado in the Residential Treatment Unit. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Mr. Amado has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

The Board considered testimony in support of parole from Mr. Amado’s niece and friend. The Board considered testimony from Plymouth County Assistant District Attorney Arne Hantson in opposition to parole.

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.


Judith M. Lyons, General Counsel

10/7/25
Date