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**PAROLE BOARD**

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Tina M. Hurley  
Chair

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Executive Director

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**ROBERT MARKS**

**W34943**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** October 24, 2024

**DATE OF DECISION:** February 6, 2025

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

**VOTE:** Parole is granted to a Long-Term Residential Program after 6 months in lower custody, subject to District Attorney clearance.

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On April 18, 1975, in Suffolk Superior Court, Robert Marks pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of 22-year-old J.E. (female).<sup>1</sup> He was sentenced to two concurrent life sentences with the possibility of parole. Mr. Marks was released on parole in 2010, but his parole was revoked in 2012, after he absconded from supervision and fled to North Carolina. Mr. Marks was denied parole after his review hearings in 2014 and 2022. He had postponed his 2019 review hearing. Mr. Marks appeared before the Board for a review hearing on October 24, 2024. He was represented by Attorney Shannon Lopez. The Board incorporates, by reference, the entirety of the video recording of the October 23, 2024 hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On September 23, 1974, Boston police responded to an apartment on Beacon Hill and found the body of the victim, J.E., lying on the floor in a pool of blood. An autopsy determined that she sustained three stab wounds, one to her back and two to her chest. The injuries penetrated her lungs and aorta, resulting in a massive hemorrhage. Additionally, there was evidence of a sexual assault. J.E. was 20 weeks pregnant.

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to G. L. c. 265, §J.E. is a pseudonym.

A witness stated that she and J.E. were sex workers, who worked in Boston's Combat Zone. The witness gave J.E. a key to a Beacon Hill apartment, so that she could use it. At approximately 3:15 p.m., the witness saw J.E. talking to 19-year-old Robert Marks at a prearranged meeting place. J.E. told the witness, "If I'm not back in a reasonable hour of time, come up and check on me. I might be dead. He doesn't look right." At approximately 5:00 p.m., when the witness returned to the apartment, she could not get the door open. When she and three other residents (including a nurse) gained entry, they found J.E. lying on the floor, naked from the waist down. The nurse ascertained that J.E. had no pulse and immediately summoned the police.

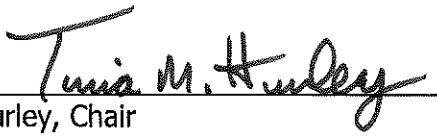
On September 24, 1974, Mr. Marks, who fled Massachusetts, surrendered to the New York City Police Department. He provided a signed confession that he committed a murder in Boston. He also provided the police with the murder weapon. Mr. Marks stated that he intended to rob J.E., but upon entering the apartment and seeing that she was alone, decided to kill her with a knife. After being stabbed in the back, J.E. fell to the floor and told Mr. Marks that she hid her money in a sock. Mr. Marks then stabbed her at least two other times in the chest and took the money. Mr. Marks then admitted to raping J.E. after she died. He also admitted to taking several steps to conceal his crimes, which included wiping the door, coffee table, and knife blade with a rag. He went immediately to a bus terminal, cleaned his hands in the bathroom, and fled to New York.

**APPLICABLE STANDARD:** Parole 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." G. L. c. 127, § 130. The Board considers multiple factors in making its decision, including the incarcerated individual's institutional behavior; their participation in available work, education, and treatment programs during their incarceration; and whether the incarcerated individual's chances of recidivism could be reduced by participation in risk reduction programs. G. L. c. 127, § 130. The Board considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the incarcerated individual at the time of the offense, the entirety of the incarcerated individual's criminal record, the incarcerated individual's institutional record, the incarcerated individual's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public expressed at the hearing and/or in written submission to the Board.

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** Mr. Marks is before the Board after a denial with a two-year setback in 2022. Since his last hearing, Mr. Marks has engaged in programming to address his coping skills. He has continued his mental health treatment. He has participated in dialectical behavior therapy to address his needs. He has maintained his sobriety. He previously completed SOTP ( Sex Offender Treatment Program). Mr. Marks is 69-years-old and presented with insight into the causative effects of his behavior. He has previously invested in educational pursuits and has maintained employment.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; LTRT or CRJ; Waive work for retirement or waive for two weeks; Electronic monitoring for 9 months; Supervise for drugs with testing in accordance with Agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence with testing in accordance with Agency policy; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment, trauma, and depression; Attend AA at least 3 times per week.

*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 2/6/25