

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**PAROLE BOARD**

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*Chair*

**Daniel Nakamoto**  
*Acting Executive Director*

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**RONALD BENSON**

**W37199**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** March 16, 2023

**DATE OF DECISION:** June 6, 2023

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

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On July 18, 1979, in Plymouth Superior Court, Ronald Benson<sup>1</sup> pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of 20-year-old Richard P. Carr and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Mr. Benson appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on March 16, 2023. He was represented by Attorney Matthew Koes. Mr. Benson was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2007. Mr. Benson waived or postponed his hearings in 1993, 1996, 1999, 2004, 2012, 2017, and 2022. The entire video recording of Mr. Benson's March 16, 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 Ronald Benson has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Benson murdered Richard Carr in October 1978 by stabbing and mutilating his body. Mr. Benson is currently in the Maintenance track of the Sex Offender Treatment Program, from which he

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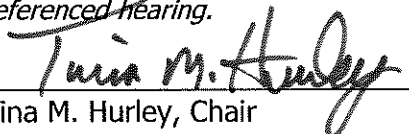
<sup>1</sup> At the time of his conviction, Mr. Benson was known as Ronald Grant Hendricken.

graduated in 2011. The Board notes that Mr. Benson has been diagnosed with medical and mental health issues. The Board also notes Mr. Benson has incurred one disciplinary report. Although Mr. Benson participated in rehabilitative programming earlier in his incarceration, he has not participated in more than a few programs since approximately 2011. The Board questions Mr. Benson's judgment because of his nearly thirty-year relationship with another convicted sexual offender. The Board would encourage him to pursue programming to address healthy relationships. The Board would also like to see Mr. Benson engage in counseling to continue to address his own trauma history. Although Mr. Benson has made strides in his treatment, the Board has not received a forensic evaluation since 2011, and needs additional expert information to determine his risk factors and likelihood of recidivism. The Board considered the reentry plan authored by Lauren Honigman.

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

Mr. Benson's 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.*

  
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Tina M. Hurley, Chair

6/6/23  
Date