

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

SARATH LON
W93469

TYPE OF HEARING: **Initial Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **March 23, 2021**

DATE OF DECISION: **August 26, 2021**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa¹

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On December 16, 2008, after a trial by jury in Bristol County Superior Court, Sarath Lon was found guilty of second-degree murder of 22-year-old Nathan Harrigan. He was sentenced to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole.

On Saturday, March 18, 2006, Leonard Gonsalves and Sarath Lon had both attended a party in the City of Fall River at a mutual friend's house located at 19 Danforth Street. While there, Mr. Gonsalves asked Mr. Lon to drive him to the area of County Street, Fall River, telling him he "had to take care of some business." Shortly after 1:30am, Mr. Lon drove Mr. Gonsalves in his silver Honda Civic to the area of County Street. As they traveled on County Street, Mr. Gonsalves abruptly told Mr. Lon to turn around because he saw someone he had had a problem with. Mr. Gonsalves informed Mr. Lon that he was carrying a gun. Mr. Gonsalves directed Mr. Lon to Canonicus Street, where he parked the car. Mr. Gonsalves exited the car and walked around the corner onto Quequechan Street. While Mr. Lon waited in his car, he heard what he believed to be 10 to 15 gunshots. After the shooting stopped, Mr. Gonsalves ran back to the car and the two left. The victim of the gunshots was 22-year-old Nathan Harrigan, who was transported to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Mr. Lon appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on January 26, 2021 and was not represented by counsel. This was Mr. Lon's first appearance before the Board. The entire video recording of Mr. Lon's January 26, 2021, hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

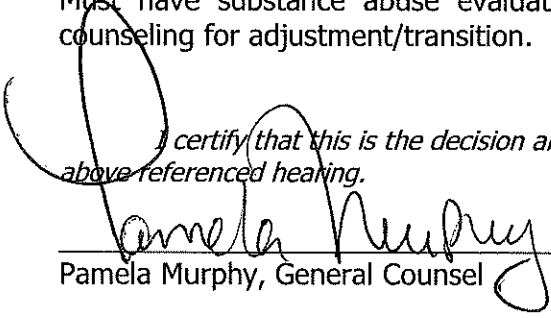
¹ Board member Karen McCarthy was present at the hearing, but was not a board member at the time of the vote.

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 a suitable candidate for parole. Reserve to his United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainer. Mr. Lon has invested in his rehabilitation by completing numerous programs and maintaining a positive adjustment. He was 23-years-old at the time of the offense when he participated in a joint venture. He admitted although he was not the shooter, he did nothing to stop the crime. Mr. Lon has significant supports in the community if not deported and the district attorney's office does not oppose parole.

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. Lon'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. Lon's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Lon's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Lon is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time.

Special Conditions: Reserve to his United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainer; Approved home plan before release (in the event Mr. Lon is released from ICE custody); Waive work for two weeks; Must be at home between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.; ELMO-electronic monitoring; 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 or association with gangs; No contact with victim(s) family; Must have substance abuse evaluation, adhere to plan, if any; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment/transition.

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



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel



Date