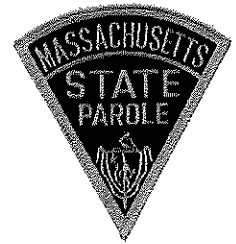




The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

SHAWN SHEA
W93447

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **May 27, 2025**

DATE OF DECISION: **October 27, 2025**

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

VOTE: Parole is granted after completion of TUPIT (Tufts University Prison Initiative of Tisch College) to CRJ.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On December 12, 2008, following a jury trial in Hampden Superior Court, 17-year-old Shawn Shea was convicted of murder in the first degree for the death of 14-year-old Dymond McGowan. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. On that same date, he was sentenced to concurrent terms of 5 years to 5 years and 1 day for use of a firearm during the commission of a felony and 18 months for unlawful possession of a firearm. On December 24, 2013, he became parole eligible following the Supreme Judicial Court's decision in *Diatchenko v. District Attorney for the Suffolk District*, 466 Mass. 655 (2013). Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2022.

On May 27, 2025, Shawn Shea appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Lisa Newman-Polk. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Shea's May 27, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On May 10, 2007, at 11:55 p.m., Springfield police received a call for shots fired and a possible victim at 338 Wilbraham Road. Officers arrived on scene and located numerous spent shell casings. They learned that the victims were already transported to the hospital by a bystander. Officers also learned that the shooter had driven by in a white Toyota Camry with very dark tinted windows. The shooter had fired from the right rear passenger seat. Officers went to the hospital where the victims had been brought. Officers learned that 14-year-

old Dymond McGowan was shot in the abdomen. She was pronounced dead at 1:23 a.m. Another victim was shot in the right knee, but he survived the injuries. Prior to the shooting, Shawn Shea, along with two other individuals, went to a house to get a gun. Later, the three entered a white Camry driven by a fourth individual. Mr. Shea was sitting in the rear passenger seat and fired a gun multiple times at the people on the porch. During the investigation, police learned that Mr. Shea had made incriminating statements to witnesses. On May 15, 2007, Mr. Shea was arrested.

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 incarcerated individual’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 incarcerated individual’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 incarcerated individual at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the incarcerated individual’s testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board.

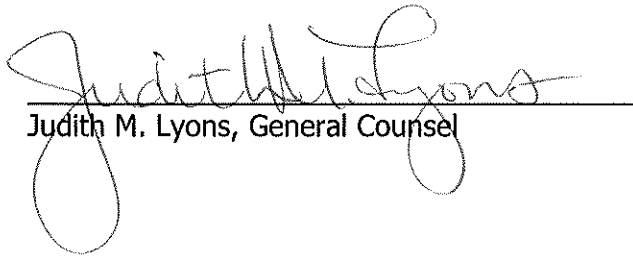
In the context of an incarcerated individual convicted of first or second-degree murder, who was a juvenile at the time the offense was committed, the Board takes into consideration the attributes of youth that distinguish juvenile homicide offenders from similarly situated adult offenders. Consideration of these factors ensures that the parole candidate, who was a juvenile at the time they committed murder, has a meaningful opportunity to obtain release based on demonstrated maturity and rehabilitation. *Diatchenko v. District Attorney for the Suffolk District*, 466 Mass. 655, 674 (2013). See also *Commonwealth v. Okoro*, 471 Mass. 51 (2015). The factors considered by the Board include a juvenile’s “lack of maturity and an underdeveloped sense of responsibility, leading to recklessness, impulsivity, and heedless risk-taking; vulnerability to negative influences and outside pressures, including from their family and peers; limited control over their own environment; lack of the ability to extricate themselves from horrific, crime-producing settings; and unique capacity to change as they grow older.” *Diatchenko v. District Attorney for the Suffolk District*, 471 Mass. 12, 30 (2015). The Board also recognizes the incarcerated individual’s right to be represented by counsel during their appearance before the Board. *Id.* at 20-24.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Shea appeared before the Parole Board for his second hearing. Mr. Shea was 17-years-old at the time of the offense; he is now 35-years-old. Since his initial hearing, Mr. Shea has enrolled in Tufts University Prison Initiative of Tisch College (TUPIT) and requested to complete prior to release. Mr. Shea also pursued Vocational Skills and completed OSHA and ServSafe. Mr. Shea also pursued further self-development through his participation in Leadership and Transformational Thinking and Lifer’s Mental Health Group. Mr. Shea has remained sober throughout his incarceration. Mr. Shea’s LSCMI is low, and the Board considered the forensic evaluation by Dr. Herzog from 2022, who provided her clinical opinions and recommendations for release. Dr. Herzog’s overall evaluation rates Mr. Shea as a low risk for recidivism. Mr. Shea presented with a strong support system and re-entry plan to meet his needs. In rendering this decision, the Board considered public testimony in support of parole from several of Mr. Shea’s friends and family. The Board also considered testimony in opposition to parole from Hampden County Assistant District Attorney Lee Baker. The Board concludes by unanimous

vote that Shawn Shea has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for 2 weeks; Restrict work for school or program; Electronic monitoring for 6 months, then at PO's request for extension; 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 mental health counseling for adjustment; Residential program - CRJ; Mandatory complete associate's degree.

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

10/27/25
Date