

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

STEPHEN DAVID
W52348

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **September 22, 2020**

DATE OF DECISION: **February 8, 2021**

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On April 13, 1992, in Norfolk Superior Court, Stephen David pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of 43-year-old Abraham Champlain. He was sentenced to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole.

Mr. David appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on September 22, 2020 and was represented by Northeastern University School of Law Student Jenny Ruymann. This was Mr. David's first appearance before the Board since his final rescission hearing in 2019. The entire video recording of Mr. David's September 22, 2020 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 an unanimous decision that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole. Reserve to Long Term Residential Program after six months in lower security. Mr. David has served approximately 30 years for the beating and torture of Abraham Champlain with his co-defendants. Mr. David has been sober for over 20 years and has maintained a positive adjustment. He has continued to engage in all recommended programming to include Countdown to Freedom, Alternatives to Violence (advanced), Victim Offender Education Group and Restorative Justice. Release after a gradual transition meets the legal standard. Mr. David needs to demonstrate that he can be successful in a lesser restrictive environment.

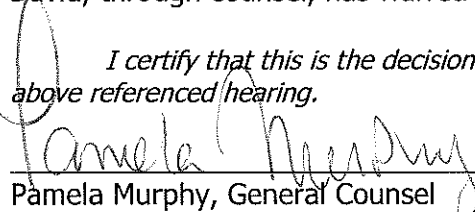
The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society."

In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. David'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. David's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. David's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. David is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time.

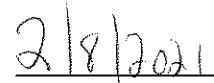
Special Conditions: Reserve to Long Term Residential Program (LTRP) after six months in lower security; Waive work for LTRP; Curfew must be at home between 10 p.m and 6 a.m.; ELMO-electronic; Supervise for drugs; testing in accordance with agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence; testing in accordance with agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with victim's family; AA/NA at least 3 times/week; Mandatory – obtain a recovery coach.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The above decision is an abbreviated administrative decision issued in an effort to render an expedited resolution in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. David, through counsel, has waived his right to a full administrative decision.

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



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel



Date