



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



PAROLE BOARD

*12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760*

*Telephone # (508) 650-4500
Facsimile # (508) 650-4599*

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Thomas A. Turco III
Secretary

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RECORD OF DECISION

**IN THE MATTER OF
STEPHEN KING
W55150**

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing
DATE OF HEARING: September 10, 2020
DATE OF DECISION: January 5, 2021

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On September 30, 1993, after a jury trial in Hampden Superior Court, Stephen King was found guilty of the second-degree murder of 30-year-old Patrick Sheklude. He was sentenced to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole.

Mr. King appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on September 10, 2020 and was represented by Boston College Law student, Matthew Burton. This was Mr. King's first appearance before the Board since his final revocation hearing in 2019. Mr. King was previously released on parole in 2008 and 2014 but was revoked each time due to parole violations. The entire video recording of Mr. King's September 10, 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 that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole¹. Reserve to Long Term Residential Program, Phoenix Rising. Mr. King murdered Patrick Sheklude in 1991, in Springfield. Mr. King has been in custody for almost three years since his return from parole supervision. During the hearing, he spoke of his rehabilitative progress in the Sharing Circle. Since his return to custody he has also completed Jericho Circle, Emotional Awareness, Restorative Justice and Family Violence Reduction. He has also maintained a positive adjustment over the past three years. He appears to have a solid

¹ Three Board Members voted to deny parole with a review in two years.

support network that is willing to assist him as he re-integrates. Re-incarceration has served its purpose.

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

Special Conditions: Reserve to Long Term Residential Program (LTRP), Phoenix Rising; Waive work for LTRP; Curfew at PO's discretion; ELMO-electronic monitoring at PO's discretion; 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 [named individual]; No contact with [named individual] without PO's consent; Must have counseling for domestic violence.

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. King, 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

11/5/2021
Date