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PAROLE BOARD

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Gloriann Moroney
Chair

Kevin Keefe
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

STEVEN ARCHER
W50732

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: October 1, 2020

DATE OF DECISION: February 25, 2021

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On June 11, 1991, on the fourth day of trial in Middlesex Superior Court (after the Commonwealth had rested its case in chief), Steven Archer pleaded guilty to the second degree murder of his infant son, Alexander Archer. Mr. Archer was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Mr. Archer appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on July 21, 2020 and was represented by Attorney Eric Tennen. This was Mr. Archer's fourth appearance before the Board since his return to custody in 2010. The entire video recording of Mr. Archer's October 1, 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 Community Resources for Justice – Transitional Housing – Brook House for 90 days then to Ocean Spray Sober Housing. Mr. Archer has been re-incarcerated for 10 years and has re-invested in his rehabilitation. Mr. Archer has completed numerous programs and co-chairs the AA – 12 Step meeting and participates in AA Big Book meetings. In addition, he has maintained employment and a positive adjustment. Re-incarceration has served its purpose. Re-parole is not incompatible with the welfare of society.

¹ Six Board Members voted to grant parole, and one Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in two years.

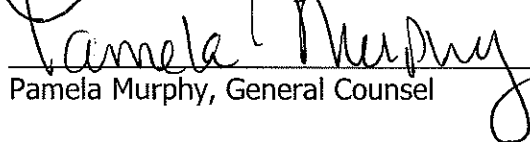
The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the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


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

Special Conditions: Reserve to Community Resources for Justice – Transitional Housing – Brook House for 90 days then to Ocean Spray Sober Housing; Waive work for two weeks; 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; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment/transition; AA/NA at least 3 times/week.

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. Archer, 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