



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

**PAROLE BOARD**

*12 Mercer Road*  
*Natick, Massachusetts 01760*

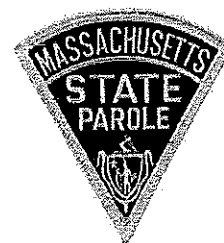
**Maura T. Healey**  
*Governor*

**Kimberley Driscoll**  
*Lieutenant Governor*

**Terrence M. Reidy**  
*Secretary*

*Telephone: (508)-650-4500*

*Facsimile: (508)-650-4599*



**Tina M. Hurley**  
*Chair*

**Daniel Nakamoto**  
*Acting Executive Director*

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**STEVEN BALLWAY**  
**W40518**

**TYPE OF HEARING:**            **Review Hearing**

**DATE OF HEARING:**        **July 13, 2023**

**DATE OF DECISION:**       **November 16, 2023**

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Tina M. Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, James Kelcourse

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On June 5, 1984, in Suffolk Superior Court, Steven Ballway pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of Mary Louise Sellon. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

On October 12, 1983, officers responded to a report of a deceased woman at Charles River Park, Boston. The victim, 30-year-old Mary Louise Sellon, appeared to have been beaten about the head and was nude from the waist down. The cause of her death was determined to be strangulation, accompanied by multiple blunt force injuries to the head. The following day, during the course of the investigation, Mr. Ballway confessed to the murder.

**PAROLE HEARING:** Steven Ballway appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on July 13, 2023. He was not represented by counsel. Parole was denied after Mr. Ballway's initial hearing in 1998, as well as his review hearing in 2003, because he refused to appear. He has waived subsequent review hearings since that time. The entire video recording of Mr. Ballway's July 13, 2023 hearing is fully incorporated by reference into the Board's decision.

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** 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." 120 C.M.R. 300.04.

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 not a suitable candidate for parole at this time. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in four years from the date of the hearing.

In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Ballway'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 Ballway's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Ballway's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Ballway is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

The Board is of the opinion that Mr. Ballway has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Subject has been waiving hearings since 2003. The Board appreciates subject's willingness to engage in the process. Subject continues to demonstrate issues with anger. Subject acknowledges he has been resistant to treatment recommendations and was ambivalent as to whether he will engage in programs. The Board recommends Anger Management, Violence Reduction, Substance Abuse, and Victim Empathy.

*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.*

  
Tina M. Hurley, Chair

11/16/2023

Date