



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

STEVEN PETE
W87187

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: January 23, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: June 26, 2025

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley,¹ James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz²

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in 3 years from the date of the hearing.³

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On February 24, 2006, following a jury trial in Hampden Superior Court, Steven Pete was convicted of statutory rape of a child. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Pete was convicted of a second count of statutory rape of a child, for which he was sentenced to a concurrent term of life in prison, and one count of criminal harassment, for which he was sentenced to a concurrent term of 2.5 years.

On January 23, 2025, Steven Pete appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Attorney Deirdre Thurber. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Steve Pete's January 23, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:⁴ In 2004, in Springfield, 45-year-old Steven Pete engaged in a sexual relationship with a 14-year-old female. The victim, who was in 10th grade at the time, met Mr. Pete for the first time at the Springfield Public Library, where she was playing chess with a friend. Mr. Pete began meeting with her socially and then began engaging in a sexual

¹ Chair Hurley participated in the vote on this matter prior to her departure from the Board.

² Board Member Coughlin was not present for the hearing, but she reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

³ Two Board Members voted to deny parole with a review in 2 years.

⁴ Taken from *Commonwealth v. Steven Pete*, 73 Mass. App. Ct. 1115 (2009)

relationship with her. The victim eventually informed Mr. Pete that their "relationship" was over, but Mr. Pete continued to attempt to make contact with her. Mr. Pete would follow the 15-year-old to the library and, at one point, was removed from the building by a security guard. After this incident, the victim disclosed to her mother that she was afraid of Mr. Pete. She stated that Mr. Pete was stalking her, and that they had been involved in a sexual relationship. The victim's mother brought her to the hospital and, during her examination, Mr. Pete arrived at the hospital to visit the victim. The Springfield police arrived at the hospital and arrested Mr. Pete. During his arrest and subsequent investigation, detectives obtained over 20 lengthy letters from the victim to Mr. Pete. The contents of those letters corroborated her account of their relationship.

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 inmate'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 inmate'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 inmate at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board. (if applicable).

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Pete presented for his initial hearing before the Parole Board. Mr. Pete was convicted of statutory rape of a child (2 counts) and criminal harassment. He was 45-years-old at the time. The victim was 15-years-old. Mr. Pete has a prior conviction for assault to rape. He was also convicted of prior open and gross lewdness. Mr. Pete completed SOTP in 2022, and is engaged in maintenance. Mr. Pete has a history of disciplinary reports that include numerous reports for indecent exposure. Mr. Pete also has a history of 17 admissions to Bridgewater State Hospital, secondary to multiple suicide attempts, and self-injurious behavior. He has had several diagnoses throughout the years. He is currently diagnosed with adjustment disorder. The Board notes that Mr. Pete has continued to invest in treatment and is 12 years sober. Mr. Pete continues to further his self-development and was recently evaluated by Dr. Kerry Nelligan for a risk/needs assessment. The Board considered this evaluation in rendering its decision and encourages Mr. Pete to continue to invest in treatment, remain disciplinary report free, and demonstrate a longer period of stability. The Board considered the statement provided by Hampden County ADA Michael Julian in opposition to parole. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Steven Pete has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

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.


Tonomey A. Coleman, Acting Chair

Date 6/26/25