

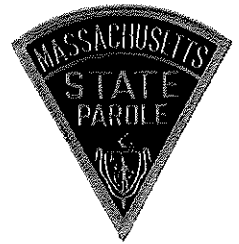
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

STEVEN WOODWORTH
W52204

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **June 4, 2024**

DATE OF DECISION: **October 22, 2024**

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

VOTE: Parole granted to CRJ or long-term residential program after six months in lower security.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On March 19, 1992, in Bristol Superior Court, Steven Woodworth pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of Julie Harlow and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2006 and review hearings in 2011, 2015, 2018, and 2021. On June 4, 2024, Steven Woodworth appeared before the Board for another review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Justin Drechsler. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Steven Woodworth's June 4, 2024, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On March 21, 1991, Julie Harlow, 22, informed her boyfriend, Steven Woodworth, 25, that she was ending their relationship. Unwilling to accept the breakup, Mr. Woodworth convinced Ms. Harlow to take a ride with him and talk. He then then picked Ms. Harlow up in Whitman at around 9 p.m. and the pair drove around discussing their relationship.

Once Mr. Woodworth realized that Ms. Harlow was not going to change her mind about ending the relationship, he shot her numerous times, then spent hours driving around southeastern Massachusetts with her body next to him. The drive ended at about 5:30 the next morning, when Mr. Woodworth pulled into the driveway of his parents' Easton home, drank paint thinner, and shot himself in the chest. Mr. Woodworth's father heard the gunshot from inside his

home and went outside to investigate. Upon discovering his son in the truck with Ms. Harlow's body, he called the police. Ms. Harlow was pronounced dead at the scene. Mr. Woodworth, however, was transported to the hospital and survived his self-inflicted injuries.


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: This hearing was Mr. Woodworth's sixth appearance before the Board. He has served 33 years of a life sentence for the murder of Julie Harlow. Since the last hearing, Mr. Woodworth has invested significantly in rehabilitative programming, including the programs recommended by the Board. Specifically, he has completed programs in family violence, 68 RTU programs, five cycles of family relationships and communications. He has also been medication compliant and has a low risk LSCMI score. The Board also notes that Mr. Woodworth has had a positive adjustment, with only two disciplinary reports in 33 years. The Board considered the expert opinion of Dr. Dicataldo and strong family support that Mr. Woodworth has in the community. The Board also considered the opposition testimony of four members of the victims' family and Bristol County Assistant District Attorney Canan Yesilcimen. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Steven Woodworth has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Long-term residential program or CRJ; waive work for program; curfew: must be home between 10PM and 6 AM at parole officer's discretion; electronic monitoring at parole officer's discretion; must take prescribed medication; supervise for drugs with testing in accordance with agency policy; supervise for liquor abstinence with testing in accordance with agency policy; report to assigned MA parole office on day of release; no contact with victim's family; must have substance abuse evaluation and comply with recommended treatment plan; weekly counseling for domestic relations and anxiety disorder; and mandatory Emerge or Common Purpose at his request.

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


Date