



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**TERRANCE WADE**

**W52728**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** November 8, 2016

**DATE OF DECISION:** May 15, 2017

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe

**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 by unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in three years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On June 12, 1992, in Suffolk Superior Court, Terrance Wade pled guilty to the second degree murder of Kimberly Rae Harbour. That same day, he also pled guilty to aggravated rape and armed robbery. Mr. Wade was sentenced to three concurrent terms of life imprisonment with the possibility of parole.

On October 31, 1990, in the Franklin Field area of Boston, 15-year-old Terrance Wade and seven other men decided to seek out women, whom they believed to be prostitutes, and rob them. The men broke up into two groups and spotted two women, Kimberly Rae Harbour and another victim. One group chased the other victim, beating and threatening to kill her. After leaving the victim, that group joined the other group, who had attacked Ms. Harbour. They found Ms. Harbour on the ground, being kicked. The men picked up Ms. Harbour and carried her down an embankment and into a gully. Ms. Harbour was begging for her life and

telling them that she had a small child. While the men began stripping off Ms. Harbour's clothing, one man began striking her in the head and shoulders with a tree branch. The beating lacerated Ms. Harbour's skull, separating it from her scalp. Six of the eight men took turns raping Ms. Harbour. During the rapes, Ms. Harbour was also hit in the head with a bottle. Several knives were taken out and the men began to stab Ms. Harbour. She was stabbed over 130 times and left to bleed to death.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON NOVEMBER 8, 2016**

Mr. Wade, now 41-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on November 11, 2016, and was represented by Attorney Amy Belger. Mr. Wade's initial hearing in 2005 resulted in the denial of parole. Mr. Wade was also denied parole at his review hearing in 2010. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Wade apologized to Ms. Harbour and her family for his participation in the robbery, rape, and murder of Ms. Harbour. He also stated that he agrees with the last Decision of the Board and, since then, has worked hard to "address those issues and to become a better person."

Mr. Wade described his lifestyle during the time leading up to Ms. Harbour's murder. As a child, Mr. Wade said that he had experienced "victimization" by members of his community, including break-ins and robberies of his home. Mr. Wade had lived with his grandmother, whom he described as an alcoholic and a "violent person." When he was 15-years-old (roughly two months before his underlying crimes), Mr. Wade joined a gang. He told the Board, "I was a follower and I wanted to be something that I wasn't." Mr. Wade believed that the gang represented "power" and "family" at that time in his life. In discussing the night of the crime, Mr. Wade indicated that (earlier in the day) he and his father had been robbed at gunpoint. Mr. Wade said that the men had taken a gold chain from him, making him angry. That evening, when Mr. Wade and his co-defendants were drinking beer, they talked about robbing someone. ~~Mr. Wade said that robbery had been on his mind, as he wanted to get his chain back or take another.~~

When the men broke into two groups at the field, Mr. Wade was in the group that went directly after Ms. Harbour. When the eight men re-convened, Mr. Wade stated that the men began hitting and kicking Ms. Harbour. He believes that he hit or kicked her five or six times in the arms, legs, and chest. Mr. Wade said that while the men were beating her, Ms. Harbour was saying, "Please, no. Stop. I'm sorry, I didn't do anything." Mr. Wade also added that Ms. Harbour was trying to fight back. Mr. Wade then picked up one of Ms. Harbour's legs, as the men carried her down the embankment. Ms. Harbour was "still fighting" at this time, saying, "I'm sorry, please, no. Please let me go." Mr. Wade participated in stripping Ms. Harbour of her clothing and admitted that he was one of the men who raped her. While she was being stabbed, Mr. Wade said that she was pleading with them and still trying to fight back. Regarding the over 130 times that Ms. Harbour was stabbed, Mr. Wade acknowledged that it was "horrific" and that "any number, one, is horrific." Mr. Wade maintains that he did not inflict any stab wounds or strike Ms. Harbour in the head with the bottle. He said, however, that he takes responsibility for it because he knew it was happening, yet did nothing to stop it.

Mr. Wade acknowledged that although he pled guilty, there was a period of time where he justified the crime by believing the victim to be a prostitute. When a Board Member asked Mr. Wade how long he held onto that justification, he responded that it was 20 years (until

2010). In 2010, Mr. Wade realized that "I did it because I wanted to do it." A Board Member expressed concern regarding the fact that although Mr. Wade had completed the Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP) in 2009, Mr. Wade had maintained this justification during his entire participation in the program. Mr. Wade said that "I used my co-defendants as an excuse" during treatment. He said that it took 20 years to acknowledge the truth "because of the shame behind it."

Mr. Wade has been involved in treatment and programming during his incarceration. He said that the SOTP program benefited him the most because it helped him accept that he is a sex offender. Mr. Wade indicated that a victim empathy program helped him understand how his actions not only affected Ms. Harbour and the other victim, but how it impacted their families, himself, his own family, and the community. He acknowledged that his crimes also impacted fellow inmates and prison guards and described it as a "ripple effect." At the time of this hearing, Mr. Wade was participating in the SOTP Maintenance Program, Cognitive Skills, and Jericho Circle, as well as facilitating the Alternatives to Violence Program. He was on the waiting list for the Restorative Justice Program, Active Listening, Path to Freedom, and Countdown to Freedom.

Mr. Wade's father and half-sister testified in support of parole. Dr. Frank DiCataldo conducted a forensic mental health evaluation on Mr. Wade and presented his findings to the Board. A statement of opposition was read on behalf of Ms. Harbour's father. Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Charles Bartoloni testified in opposition to Mr. Wade's parole and submitted a letter of opposition, as well. Boston Police Commissioner William B. Evans also submitted a letter of opposition.

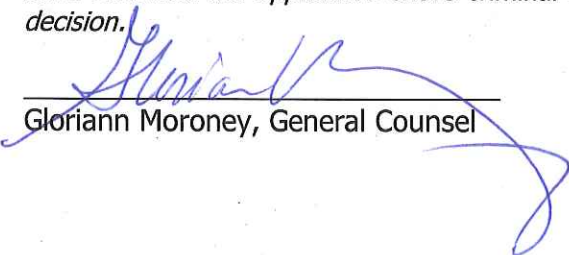
### **III. DECISION**

Mr. Wade has made strides in his rehabilitation. He has completed the SOTP and has served 25 years in prison. Mr. Wade acknowledged that this appearance before the Board was the first time he was completely forthright. The Board recommends that Mr. Wade continue his program participation and maintain a positive adjustment.

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. In the context of an offender convicted of first or second degree murder, who was a juvenile at the time the offense was committed, the Board takes into consideration the attributes of youth that distinguish juvenile homicide offenders from similarly situated adult offenders. Consideration of these factors ensures that the parole candidate, who was a juvenile at the time they committed murder, has "a real chance to demonstrate maturity and rehabilitation." *Diatchenko v. District Attorney for the Suffolk District*, 471 Mass. 12, 30 (2015); See also *Commonwealth v. Okoro*, 471 Mass. 51 (2015). The factors considered by the Board include the offender's "lack of maturity and an underdeveloped sense of responsibility, leading to recklessness, impulsivity, and heedless risk-taking; vulnerability to negative influences and outside pressures, including from their family and peers; limited control over their own environment; lack of the ability to extricate themselves from horrific, crime-producing settings; and unique capacity to change as they grow older." *Id.*

In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Wade'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. Wade's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Wade's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Wade is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time. Mr. Wade's next appearance before the Board will take place in three years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Wade to continue working towards his full rehabilitation.

*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.*

  
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Gloriann Moroney, General Counsel

5/15/17  
Date