



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

TIMOTHY DUBUC

W87343

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **September 19, 2024**

DATE OF DECISION: **December 18, 2024**

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

VOTE: Parole is granted to an approved home plan (Interstate Compact - New York) after six months in lower security.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On March 17, 2006, in Hampshire Superior Court, Timothy Dubuc pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree for the death his of girlfriend, 49-year-old Michele Vanleeuwen. Mr. Dubuc was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Mr. Dubuc was denied parole after his initial hearing on September 10, 2019. He appeared before the Board on September 19, 2024, for his review hearing and was represented by Attorney Deirdre Thurber. The Board fully incorporates, by reference, the entirety of the video recording of the September 19, 2024, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On October 14, 2004, at approximately 9:39 p.m., the Northampton Police Department received a telephone call from Timothy Dubuc's brother-in-law, who reported to the police that Mr. Dubuc just told his wife (Mr. Dubuc's sister) that he killed his girlfriend, Michele Vanleeuwen, by strangulation. Mr. Dubuc's brother-in-law further informed police that Mr. Dubuc made statements suggesting that he intended to kill himself. Police subsequently responded to Ms. Vanleeuwen's apartment, where Mr. Dubuc was living. When police arrived, they attempted to contact the occupants of the apartment by phone. Each time the police called, someone inside would pick up the phone and hang up without saying anything. Officers also knocked on the apartment door and no one answered. Finally, Mr. Dubuc let them

in. When police asked if he was injured, Mr. Dubuc responded that he was not. The police asked if anyone else was in the apartment. Mr. Dubuc reportedly said, "She's in the bedroom." When asked if there was anything the police could do for Ms. Vanleeuwen, Mr. Dubuc responded, "No."

Officers discovered the dead body of Ms. Vanleeuwen in the rear bedroom with apparent injuries to her neck. Mr. Dubuc was arrested and transported to the Northampton Police Department. In a statement to the police, Mr. Dubuc admitted to killing Ms. Vanleeuwen. The investigation revealed that Ms. Vanleeuwen was murdered on October 13, 2004, the day before the police were notified.

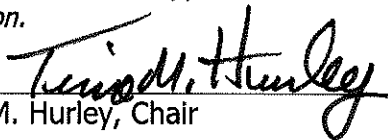
APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole shall be granted "only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." G. L. c. 127, § 130. The Board considers multiple factors in making its decision, including the incarcerated individual's institutional behavior; their participation in available work, education, and treatment programs during their incarceration; and whether the incarcerated individual's chances of recidivism could be reduced by participation in risk reduction programs. G. L. c. 127, § 130. The Board considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the incarcerated individual at the time of the offense, the entirety of the incarcerated individual's criminal record, the incarcerated individual's institutional record, the incarcerated individual's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public expressed at the hearing and/or in written submission to the Board.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Dubuc appeared before the Board for the second time. He has been working to address the Board's concerns since his denial of parole in 2020. The Board notes that Mr. Dubuc has been sober for 20 years. He has remained disciplinary report free. He has been employed within the prison industries. He earned his B.A. from Boston University in 2019. The Board considered the forensic mental health evaluation of Dr. Frank DiCataldo. Mr. Dubuc scores low on the LSCMI risk assessment tool and COMPAS. Mr. Dubuc helped create the Family Violence Education Group materials. He has engaged in programming, including VEOG, Emotional Awareness, and Violence Reduction. The Board considered opposition testimony from Northwestern Assistant District Attorney Joseph Webber. The Board also considered opposition testimony from the victim's nephew.

The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Mr. Dubuc has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Release to other authority (Interstate Compact – NY); Approve home plans before release; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; Waive work for 2 weeks; Electronic monitoring for 6 months; Supervise for drugs with testing in accordance with Agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence with testing in accordance with Agency policy; No contact with victim(s)' family; Must have substance use evaluation and follow recommendations; Counseling for adjustment; AA or NA at least 3 times per week.

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

12/18/24
Date