

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF
TYRONE O'NEILL
W42510

TYPE OF HEARING: Tyrone O'Neill
DATE OF HEARING: October 15, 2020
DATE OF DECISION: December 7, 2021

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Karen McCarthy,¹ Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On June 9, 1986, in Middlesex Superior Court, Tyrone O'Neill pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of 78-year-old Emily Aldrich. Mr. O'Neill was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole for her murder. He also received a concurrent sentence of 15-20 years for armed assault with intent to murder (stemming from a different incident 12 days prior to the murder of Ms. Aldrich). At the time of both offenses, Mr. O'Neill was on parole for a prior larceny of motor vehicle conviction.

Mr. O'Neill appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on October 15, 2020 and was represented by law students Elaine Marshall and Andrew Baldizon from Northeastern University School of Law. This was Mr. O'Neill's fifth appearance before the Board, having been denied in 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2016. The entire video recording of Mr. O'Neill's October 15, 2020 hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

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 a suitable candidate for parole. Reserve to GRIT – Mental Health Association Residential Treatment Program after 12 months in lower security. Mr. O'Neill has served approximately 36 years for the stabbing death of Emily Aldrich. His offense appears to be related to long term mental health issues. During this incarceration Mr. O'Neill has been

¹ Board Member Karen McCarthy was present at the hearing, but was not a board member at the time of the vote.

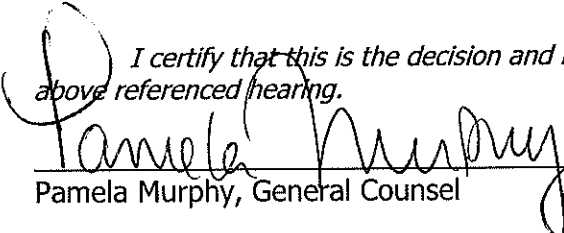
treated for major mental illness. Although he initially had a challenging adjustment, which also appears to have been related to his mental illness, he appears to have significantly improved his adjustment, as evidenced by his lack of disciplinary reports since 2008. He is also compliant with his medication and has been sober 29 years. He has benefited from rehabilitative programs and occupational training. Mr. O'Neill appears to have gained significant insight as to his mental health needs. The Board considered the psychological assessment conducted by Alexandra Adair and Dr. Jessica O'Brien who recommended after evaluation that transition through lower security and a Long-Term Residential Program would be appropriate

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."

In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. O'Neill'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. O'Neill's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. O'Neill's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. O'Neill is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time.

Special Conditions: GRIT – Mental Health Association Residential Treatment Program – must complete; Waive work for program/two weeks; Must be at home between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.; ELMO-electronic monitoring; Must take prescribed medication(s); Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with the victim's family; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment/transition, depression, substance abuse and trauma; AA/NA at least 3 times/week; Mandatory – follow recommended treatment of all providers.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing.



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

12/17/2021
Date