

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Terrence M. Reidy
Secretary

Telephone # (508) 650-4500

Facsimile # (508) 650-4599

Tina M. Hurley
Chair

Daniel Nakamoto
Chair

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

VAL MAYFIELD
AKA KHALID A. MAYFIELD
AKA VAL MATEEN
W40860

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **March 2, 2023**

DATE OF DECISION: **June 7, 2023**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Dr. Maryanne Galvin, James Kelcourse, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On November 3, 1984, in Suffolk Superior Court, Val Mayfield was convicted of first-degree murder in the death of 11-year-old Maryann Hanley and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.¹ Mr. Mayfield was 17 years old at the time of the offense, making him eligible for parole.²

Mr. Mayfield appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on March 2, 2023. He was represented by Attorneys Stephen Maidman and Darren Griffis. Mr. Mayfield was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2015. The entire video recording of Mr. Mayfield's March 2, 2023, 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 not a suitable candidate for parole.

¹ Mr. Mayfield's first jury trial occurred in April 1984. He was acquitted of rape but the jury could not reach a unanimous verdict as to the murder indictment. A second jury trial resulted in the sentence now serving.

² *Diatchenko v. District Attorney for the Suffolk District*, 466 Mass. 655 (2013).

The Board is of the opinion that Val Mayfield has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Mayfield murdered and raped 11-year-old Maryann Hanley in Ronan Park in Dorchester. The Board acknowledges he was 17 years old at the time of the offense and considered the forensic evaluation of Dr. Frank DiCataldo. He began using drugs and alcohol at a young age and dropped out of school in the tenth grade. Mr. Mayfield was exposed to drug abuse throughout his childhood and suffered physical and sexual abuse at the hands of family members. His criminal history began at age twelve. Mr. Mayfield has made positive strides in his rehabilitation through the completion of programs and the acceptance of full responsibility for the murder of Maryann. He is in maintenance for the Sex Offender Treatment Program and must continue to demonstrate positive adjustment. He has been incarcerated for thirty-nine years. The Board wants Mr. Mayfield to be open with group in maintenance as to the full extent of his crime. He must work on developing skills so that he can have healthy relationships and process and understand how his own trauma history impacted his criminal behaviors. Mr. Mayfield has demonstrated a strong work history and commitment to vocational training while incarcerated. He earned his GED and has taken college courses. He has been sober since 1988. The Board notes he is in a leadership position in the Sex Offender Treatment Program maintenance. Until his next hearing, Mr. Mayfield should continue his work in maintenance and remain disciplinary report-free.

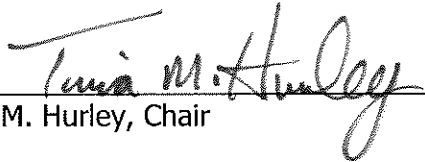
The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the 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 in Mr. Mayfield's case 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.* The Board also recognizes the petitioner's right to be represented by counsel during his appearance before the Board. *Id.* at 20-24. In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Mayfield'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. Mayfield's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Mayfield's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Val Mayfield is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Mayfield's next appearance before the Board will take place in two years from the date of this hearing.³ During the interim, the Board encourages him to continue working towards his full rehabilitation.

³ Four Board members voted to deny parole with a review in two years and two Board members voted to deny parole with a review in three years.

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

6/7/23
Date