



**Charles D. Baker**  
Governor

**Karyn Polito**  
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**Daniel Bennett**  
Secretary

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**PAROLE BOARD**

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**Paul M. Treseler**  
Chairman

**Michael J. Callahan**  
Executive Director

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**VAL MAYFIELD**  
**AKA KHALID A. MAYFIELD**  
**AKA VAL MATEEN**  
**W40860**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** December 17, 2015

**DATE OF DECISION:** May 16, 2016

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Ina Howard-Hogan, 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 five years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On November 3, 1984, in Suffolk Superior Court, Val Mayfield was convicted of the first degree murder of 11-year-old Mary Ann Hanley. Subsequently, he was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. At the time of Ms. Hanley's death, Mr. Mayfield was 17-years-old. In April 1984, Mr. Mayfield had been tried for the rape and murder of Ms. Hanley. Mr. Mayfield was found not guilty of the rape, but the jury could not reach a verdict on the murder indictment.

On December 24, 2013, the Supreme Judicial Court issued a decision in *Diatchenko v. District Attorney for Suffolk District & Others*, 466 Mass. 655 (2013) in which the Court determined that the statutory provisions mandating life without the possibility of parole are

invalid as applied to juveniles convicted of first degree murder. Further, the Court decided that *Diatchenko* (and others similarly situated) must be given a parole hearing. Accordingly, Mr. Mayfield is now before the Massachusetts Parole Board.

During August 1983, Mr. Mayfield was living with Ms. Hanley and her family in the Dorchester neighborhood of Boston. Mr. Mayfield and Ms. Hanley's half-sister had a child together. On the day of her death, August 1, 1983, Ms. Hanley had been reported missing at 9:00 p.m. Earlier in the day, she had pointed Mr. Mayfield out to a person from whom Mr. Mayfield had stolen a gym bag and sneakers. Mr. Mayfield returned the property when confronted about the theft. Later that evening, Mr. Mayfield joined a group of youths who had gathered on the porch of a house across the street from a park. Ms. Hanley was present in the group. When most of the group left to see a movie, both Mr. Mayfield and Ms. Hanley left for home in different directions.

Ms. Hanley's body was discovered the following morning, at approximately 2:00 a.m., by a neighbor. Initial observations indicated Ms. Hanley had been beaten about her face, head, and neck. She was also found to be bleeding from her vaginal area. An autopsy revealed the cause of Ms. Hanley's death to be strangulation with a ligature. Subsequent investigation indicated that Mr. Mayfield followed the victim into the park and confronted her about exposing his theft earlier that day. Mr. Mayfield started to hit the victim multiple times, eventually knocking her to the ground with a tree limb. When she would not get up, Mr. Mayfield smashed her head into the tree limb four times. After turning Ms. Hanley on her back, Mr. Mayfield placed his fingers under her nose to check if she was breathing. Mr. Mayfield then removed Ms. Hanley's clothing and raped her.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON DECEMBER 17, 2015**

Mr. Mayfield, now 50-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on December 17, 2015 for an initial parole hearing and was represented by Attorneys Steven Maidman and Darren Griffis. In Mr. Mayfield's opening statement, he apologized for his actions and expressed his remorse. During the course of the hearing, he spoke about the murder. According to Mr. Mayfield, the murder was related to the theft of a pair of sneakers that he had stolen earlier in the day. Mr. Mayfield told the Board that he had gone swimming earlier in the day with his girlfriend and other friends. When they arrived at the pool, Mr. Mayfield noticed another male with a new pair of Nike sneakers and a bag that he liked. Mr. Mayfield left the pool early and stole the sneakers and the bag. Mr. Mayfield put the sneakers on and threw away the remaining items in the bag before leaving the area.

Mr. Mayfield stopped at the home of his girlfriend (where he lived) to check in on their infant daughter. He next went to his sister's house before traveling to an area near a park he frequented with his friends. It was at this point that Mr. Mayfield learned that the individual he had stolen the sneakers from was aware of the theft. Both that individual and a counselor were looking for Mr. Mayfield. As Mr. Mayfield started to walk toward the home where he lived with his girlfriend, he saw Ms. Hanley getting into a car. When Ms. Hanley saw Mr. Mayfield, she stopped and pointed at him. The counselor that had been looking for Mr. Mayfield then exited the driver's seat of the car and started to approach Mr. Mayfield. According to Mr. Mayfield, he killed Ms. Hanley because she pointed him out to the counselor.



When questioned by the Board, Mr. Mayfield described his childhood. When he was a young child, both his parents were arrested and Mr. Mayfield was sent to live in a foster home. Mr. Mayfield explained that his parents were both heroin addicts and dealers. Mr. Mayfield was able to leave the foster home by moving in with his grandmother. Subsequently, Mr. Mayfield's grandmother was arrested for narcotics and firearm offenses. In addition to his parents and his grandmother, Mr. Mayfield's brother was also incarcerated during Mr. Mayfield's youth. Mr. Mayfield revealed to the Board that he was molested by his brother between the age of 5 or 6 to the age of 14 or 15. Mr. Mayfield also explained to the Board that he suspected that his older sisters were being molested by his father.

Mr. Mayfield attended school until age 14 or 15. He recalled that he received below average grades and was held back at least once. Mr. Mayfield explained to the Board that he switched schools numerous times due to frequent changes in his residency. When asked about the sexual nature of Ms. Hanley's murder, Mr. Mayfield initially denied being a sexually deviant person. Mr. Mayfield told the Board that during his incarceration, a doctor recommended he attend the Sex Offender Treatment Program. Mr. Mayfield, however, successfully challenged the doctor's findings in court on the grounds that he was found not guilty at trial of the rape of Ms. Hanley. Despite prevailing over the doctor's recommendation for treatment, Mr. Mayfield admitted to the Board that he did, in fact, rape Ms. Hanley and that his ability to rape a child, who was potentially dead at the time, raised questions of sexual deviance. Mr. Mayfield then stated that he would be open to attending sex offender treatment and agreed that his sexual deviance was an issue that needed to be addressed.

The Board considered testimony from Mr. Mayfield's friends and from Lisa Gigliardi, Coordinator for Sentencing Advocacy in the Youth Advocacy Division of the Committee for Public Counsel Services, all of whom expressed support for his release. The Board also considered testimony from Ms. Hanley's sisters and Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Helle Sachse, all of whom expressed opposition to Mr. Mayfield's parole.

### **III. DECISION**

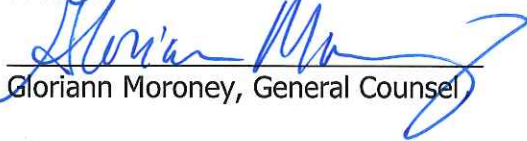
The Board is of the opinion that Mr. Mayfield has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board believes that a longer period of positive institutional adjustment and programming would be beneficial to Mr. Mayfield's rehabilitation.

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.* The Board also recognizes the petitioner's right to be represented by counsel during his appearance before the Board. *Id.* at 20-24. The Board has also considered 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 opinion that Mr. Mayfield is not yet rehabilitated and his release is not compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Mayfield, therefore, does not merit parole at this time. Mr. Mayfield's next appearance before the Board will take place in five years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Mayfield 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.*

  
Gloriann Moroney, General Counsel

5/16/16  
Date