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PAROLE BOARD

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Charlene Bonner
Chairperson

DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

VERONICA RAYMOND
(FKA ABDUL MATEEN; FKA WAYNE RAYMOND)¹

W36264

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: March 3, 2015

DATE OF DECISION: May 20, 2015

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Lee Gartenberg, Ina Howard-Hogan

DECISION OF THE BOARD: After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense(s), 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 in five years from the date of the hearing.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On July 18, 1977, in Plymouth County Superior Court, Wayne Raymond (hereinafter Raymond) was convicted of rape of a child with use of force and sentenced to life in prison. On that same date, he received the following sentences: a 10 to 12 year concurrent sentence for armed robbery; a 10 to 12 year concurrent sentence for armed assault in a dwelling; an 8 to 10 year concurrent sentence for kidnapping; an 8 to 10 year from and after sentence for kidnapping; and an 8 to 10 year sentence for assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon, ordered to run concurrent with the from and after sentence. Raymond's crimes involved two separate victims, on two separate occasions, occurring 11 days apart.

¹ In June 1999, Wayne Raymond legally changed his name to Abdul Mateen. In May 2014, Abdul Mateen legally changed his name to Veronica Raymond.

Victim One²

On June 5, 1976, Plymouth police officers responded to a phone call from 28-year-old Raymond, who was standing with a nine-year-old boy (Victim One). Victim One had a serious laceration to his right arm. Raymond claimed that he was walking down the street when the boy ran up to him, saying that he had been stabbed. Victim One told police that he had been playing behind his house when he was grabbed by a man with a large knife. He said that he was taken down the railroad tracks and stabbed. At the time, Victim One described someone other than Raymond as his assailant. Ten days later, on June 15, 1976, after two operations and recovery time, Victim One identified Raymond as his assailant. He said that he failed to tell the police the truth at first because Raymond threatened to kill him, his parents, and his brothers and sisters if he told the police. No other charges could be brought against Raymond, as Victim One would not disclose what Raymond had done to him besides the abduction and stabbing.

Victim Two

On June 16, 1976, a 13-year-old boy (Victim Two) was kidnapped at knife point and sexually assaulted in Plymouth. Victim Two was home alone after school when Raymond appeared at the home, claiming that he had car trouble. After Victim Two let Raymond in the house, Raymond immediately brandished a knife and demanded that Victim Two "get the money." Victim Two brought Raymond to his parent's room and gave him 10 dollars. Raymond then tied Victim Two up, but cut him loose when he heard the victim's younger brothers returning home from school. Raymond ordered Victim Two to tell his brothers that Raymond was a friend and that Victim Two agreed to help fix his car which had broken down. Raymond then walked Victim Two down the street to a nearby golf course. Once there, Raymond ordered Victim Two to undress and forced fellatio on him. After this, Raymond sodomized Victim Two. Raymond then threatened Victim Two with a knife, informing him that he could not tell anyone what had happened. However, Victim Two went home and told his mother what Raymond did to him.

Raymond was arrested the following day for both assaults. These horrific crimes were not Raymond's first sex offenses. In 1970, he was civilly committed to the Massachusetts Treatment Center, in lieu of a sentence, for an assault to rape a minor child charge. He was committed for five years and then released by the court pursuant to M.G.L. c. 123A, s. 9.³ Raymond was out only nine months before he re-offended with his crimes against Victims One and Two.

II. INSTITUTIONAL AND PAROLE HISTORY

After his conviction, Raymond was screened for protective custody due to the nature of his offenses. In March 1979, Raymond was found to be a sexually dangerous person (SDP) and was committed to the Massachusetts Treatment Center (MTC) at Bridgewater. Raymond

² The name of the victims has been withheld pursuant to G.L. c. 265, s. 24C. Pursuant to G.L. c. 127 s. 130, portions of a parole record of decision may be withheld to preserve its confidentiality.

³ Under this law, any person committed to the Treatment Center shall be entitled to file a petition for examination and discharge at least once in every twelve months.'

remained at the MTC for 24 years, where he sporadically participated in mental health treatment and other programming.

In October 2003, Raymond was found by the courts to no longer be a SDP and he was transferred to MCI-Norfolk. Raymond stayed at MCI-Norfolk for several years and participated in the Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP). In September 2005, he was transferred back to the MTC to continue core treatment. After one year at MTC, Raymond self-terminated from SOTP and requested a transfer back to MCI-Norfolk. He told corrections staff that he was institutionalized, lacked community support, and would never get a favorable parole vote. Thus, he would rather "do his time" at MCI-Norfolk. In January 2007, Raymond was transferred back to MCI-Norfolk and re-enrolled in SOTP pre-treatment. He began working on his Gender Identity Disorder (GID), and in May 2014, he changed his name to Veronica Raymond and moved into a unit that housed other inmates with GID. He is currently enrolled in SOTP and participates in the Gender Identity Disorder Program at MCI-Norfolk.

Raymond's initial parole hearing before the Board was in February 2005,⁴ after which he was denied parole with a review date in five years. In March 2010, Raymond voluntarily waived his review hearing and refused to appear before the Board. He was given a review date in five years.

III. PAROLE HEARING ON MARCH 3, 2015

Raymond was not represented by an attorney. He told the Board that he is not requesting parole at this time, but rather, he is asking the Board for a review date in two or three years so that he may complete the SOTP he is currently enrolled in. He then told the Board that "my sentence is just, I did what I did and I own it." He feels institutionalized, as he has been incarcerated for almost 40 years. When asked about his mental health, Raymond said that he has been diagnosed with schizophrenia and depression. He stated that he has been on medication in the past, but does not like to remain on it because the medication does not make him feel good. He is not currently on any medications for his mental health issues.

Raymond told the Board that he had a very troubled youth as the oldest of nine children and was abused by both of his parents. He said that at the age of five, he knew that he was a girl and his name was Veronica. Both of his parents disapproved of his feelings and he told the Board that, throughout his childhood, he was constantly abused both emotionally and physically by his parents and siblings. He also told the Board that he was sexually abused by a neighbor from the age of 11 until the age of 16. Raymond said that he told his parents about the abuse, but they did not believe him and by the time the District Attorney's Office was notified, the statute of limitations had run and no charges could be brought. When Raymond was 17, he was expelled from high school for hitting a woman with a bottle. He said that he then joined the army, serving two tours of duty in Vietnam. He returned to the United States in 1968 and married a woman named Harriet in 1969. Their marriage was fraught with difficulty due to his

⁴ Raymond first became eligible for a hearing before the Parole Board in 1990. The Board gave him a 3 year set-back without a hearing because he was at the MTC receiving intensive treatment. In 1993, he voluntarily chose to waive his hearing. Raymond continued to waive every hearing scheduled thereafter, until his hearing in 2005, when he finally decided he wanted to appear before the Board.

Gender Identity Disorder. After several months, the marriage ended because Raymond beat her with a rolling pin after becoming enraged when she walked in on him while cross-dressing.

When asked about the crimes for which he is serving his sentence, Raymond said he chose Victim One "because he was just there." He told the Board that two weeks later, he kidnapped and raped Victim Two because he "was angry and carrying a lot of shame and guilt."

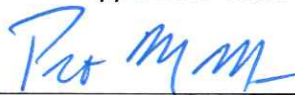
Since his last appearance before the Board, Raymond has completed the Correctional Recovery Academy (CRA), Emotional Awareness/Emotional Healing, and Alternatives to Violence. He has enrolled and dropped-out of SOTP several times, but is currently participating and hopes to complete SOTP in the next several years. Raymond told the Board that he has no support in the community, as he has no family or friends with whom he has contact outside of prison. He says that he has made some friends in prison through his support groups (CRA and GID groups), but he has no specific parole plan or outside supports in place.

III. DECISION

Raymond, now 66-years-old, has been incarcerated for the past 38 years for his brutal attacks on two young boys. Although the Board acknowledges the abuse Raymond has suffered in his lifetime, it is of the opinion that he has not been rehabilitated to the point where he can safely manage in the community without harm to himself or others. Raymond's history, both within the community and within the correctional setting, is replete with instability and the denial of his need to address his underlying sexually deviant behavior. Raymond's testimony before the Board was fraught with conflicting and confusing information about his time in Vietnam, his wife, and his relationships with other men and women. In addition, Raymond himself is not seeking Parole at this time. Instead, his request of the Board is only for a review in two or three years.

The standard we apply in assessing candidates for parole is set out in 120 C.M.R. 300.04, which provides that "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." Applying that appropriately high standard here, it is the unanimous opinion of the Board that Veronica Raymond does not merit parole at this time. The review will be in five years, during which time Raymond should commit to a more comprehensive rehabilitation. Raymond should also successfully complete SOTP and continue with mental health evaluations.

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.


Peter M. Mimmo, Staff Attorney


Date