



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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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, 2020

DATE OF DECISION: September 2, 2020

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

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 July 18, 1977, in Plymouth County Superior Court, Wayne Raymond (now known as Veronica Raymond) was convicted of rape of a child with use of force and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Raymond 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

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

and after sentence. Raymond's crimes involved two separate victims, on two separate occasions, occurring 11 days apart.

Victim One²

On June 5, 1976, Plymouth police officers responded to a phone call from 28-year-old Wayne Raymond, who was standing with a nine-year-old boy (Victim One). Victim One had a serious laceration to his right arm. Raymond claimed to have been walking down the street when the boy ran to him, stating 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 to 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 initially failed to tell police the truth because Raymond threatened to kill him, his parents, and his brothers and sisters, if he did. No other charges were brought against Raymond, as Victim One would not disclose what Raymond had done besides abducting and stabbing him.

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 door, claiming he had car trouble. After Victim Two let him in, 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 up Victim Two, but cut him loose when the victim's younger brothers returned home from school. Raymond ordered Victim Two to tell them he was a friend, and that Victim Two had agreed to help fix his car, which had broken down. Raymond then walked Victim Two down the street to a nearby golf course, where he ordered Victim Two to undress. Raymond forced fellatio on him and then proceeded to sodomize him. Raymond threatened Victim Two with a knife, informing him that he could not tell anyone what happened. Victim Two, however, went home and told his mother what Raymond did. He was arrested the following day for both assaults.

These were not Raymond's first sex offenses. In 1970, Raymond was civilly committed to the Massachusetts Treatment Center, in lieu of a sentence, for an assault to rape a minor child charge. Raymond 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 re-offending with the crimes against Victims One and Two. After conviction, Raymond was screened for protective custody due to the nature of his offenses. In 1979, Raymond was found to be a sexually dangerous person (SDP) and was committed to the Massachusetts Treatment Center (MTC) at Bridgewater. Raymond remained at the MTC for 24 years, where Raymond sporadically participated in mental health treatment and other programming. In 2003, Raymond was found by the courts to no longer be SDP and was transferred to MCI-Norfolk. Raymond stayed at MCI-Norfolk for several years and participated in the Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP). In 2005, Raymond was transferred back to the MTC to continue core treatment. After one year

² The name of the victims has been withheld pursuant to G.L. c. 265, s. 24C.

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.

at MTC, Raymond self-terminated from SOTP and requested a transfer back to MCI-Norfolk. In 2007, Raymond was transferred back to MCI-Norfolk and re-enrolled in SOTP pre-treatment. Raymond began working on her Gender Identity Disorder (GID). In 2014, Raymond changed her name to Veronica Raymond and moved into a unit that housed other inmates with GID.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON MARCH 3, 2020

Veronica Raymond, now 71-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on March 3, 2020, for a review hearing. She was represented by Harvard PLAP law students Christina Drakeford and Haylie Jacobson. Ms. Raymond first became eligible for a hearing before the Parole Board in 1990. The Board gave her a 3 year review without a hearing because she was receiving intensive treatment at the MTC. In 1993, Ms. Raymond voluntarily chose to waive her hearing. She then continued to waive every hearing scheduled thereafter, until her hearing in 2005, when she finally decided that she wanted to appear before the Board. After her initial hearing in 2005, Ms. Raymond was denied parole with a review in five years. In 2010, Ms. Raymond voluntarily waived her review hearing and refused to appear before the Board. She was given a 5 year review. Ms. Raymond was denied parole after her review hearing in 2015.

In her opening statement to the Board, Ms. Raymond admitted that her sentence was fitting for the crimes she committed against her victims, family, and community. When speaking about her prior sexual history, the Board noted an incident, when Ms. Raymond was 19-years-old, where she attempted to have sex with her 13-year-old sister. Later, Ms. Raymond spoke about an incident involving a teenage girl that she intended to rape, explaining that she let her go when the girl cried. When questioned as to the governing offenses, Ms. Raymond spoke of the first victim in 1976. She intended to rape a random woman, but changed her mind. Instead, she saw a boy and abducted him. When Ms. Raymond spoke about the sexual assault involving the second victim, she explained that she went into the child's home, pulled a knife, and sodomized the boy. Ms. Raymond stated that she understands how her actions have affected the victims and ruined their lives. Ms. Raymond further acknowledged that she would have victimized another person, if she hadn't been stopped, but denied any other unreported sexual assaults.

Ms. Raymond told the Board that, at one point, she was civilly committed. She admitted, however, that she "lied" and manipulated her way out of not being found sexually dangerous. She also acknowledged that she has power and control issues. She now denies any issue of drugs or alcohol at the time of the offense, but had previously lied and fabricated this fact, as well. Regarding her mental health issues, Ms. Raymond stated that she "lied" to mental health treatment providers and acknowledged that, in 2015, she was not being truthful with the Board regarding her mental health. The Board expressed concern as to whether to believe Ms. Raymond at this hearing, noting that they were fully aware of her long history of lies and fabrications. As to whether she is being truthful now, Ms. Raymond stated that she takes full responsibility for what she has done.

Ms. Raymond told the Board that she has not engaged in any sexual deviancies during her 43 years of incarceration. However, she admitted to experiencing deviant thoughts or fantasies involving adults about a year ago. In addition, she experienced deviant thoughts involving children a couple of years ago. The Board expressed concern about the 2018 Sex Offender Treatment Program report, which noted significant issues and recommended that Ms.

Raymond enter the maintenance program. Ms. Raymond admitted that she has triggers, but feels that she can address those triggers quickly. Board Members expressed concern as to whether she would be able to respond immediately in the community, if a triggering event were to occur. She claims that her chances of reoffending are far less than before, if she returns to the community. Ms. Raymond acknowledged the changes in the world since her incarceration and plans to learn about technology. Additionally, once in the community, she would continue her transition.

Plymouth County Assistant District Attorney Keara Kelley testified in opposition to parole.

III. DECISION

It is the opinion of the Board that Veronica Raymond has not yet demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make her release compatible with the welfare of society. Ms. Raymond has served approximately 43 years for abducting and stabbing a 9-year-old boy and kidnapping, robbing, and raping a 13-year-old boy. During the hearing, Ms. Raymond discussed a history of sexually deviant behavior and that she last experienced sexually deviant fantasies approximately one year ago. Ms. Raymond is still exhibiting manipulative behavior. Recent SOTP reports indicate that concerns remain about subject's level of rehabilitation and progress. Ms. Raymond admitted that she manipulated and lied to treatment providers and professionals in the past to avoid being found sexually dangerous.

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 forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Ms. Raymond's institutional behavior, as well as her participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of her incarceration. The Board has also considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Ms. Raymond's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Ms. Raymond's case, the Board is of the opinion that Veronica Raymond is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Ms. Raymond's next appearance before the Board will take place in five years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages her to continue working towards her 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.


Pamela Murphy, General Counsel


Date