



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

Telephone # (508) 650-4500

Facsimile # (508) 650-4599



Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Terrence Reidy
Secretary

Tina Hurley
Chair

Kevin Keefe
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

VICTOR BRUCE

W69218

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **August 16, 2022**

DATE OF DECISION: **December 5, 2022**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS¹: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, James Kelcourse, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On March 12, 2001, in Middlesex Superior Court, Victor Bruce was found guilty of second-degree murder in the death of 35-year-old Earlyn Class. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Bruce was convicted of unlawful possession of a firearm. He received a sentence of 3-5 years to be served from and after his life sentence. In 2003, after an appeal, this sentence was amended to be served concurrent with his life sentence.

Mr. Bruce appeared for his second parole hearing on August 16, 2022, and was represented by Attorneys Juliana Charpentier, Tasnuva Islam, and Seth Orkand. Mr. Bruce was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2019. The entire video recording of Mr. Bruce's August 16, 2022, 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 that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole².

¹ Former Chair Gloriann Moroney was no longer a board member at the time of the vote.

² Three board members voted to deny parole and two board members voted to grant parole.

The Board is of the opinion that Victor Bruce has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. On September 10, 1999, 18-year-old Mr. Bruce shot and killed 35-year-old Earlyn Cass. Mr. Bruce and Ms. Class has a casual intimate relationship around the time of the murder. The Board notes that Mr. Bruce accepts responsibility for the offense but incurred a disciplinary report for fighting in 2022. The Board is concerned that Mr. Bruce is still responding to conflict with violence despite his completion of numerous programs. Mr. Bruce needs to demonstrate that he is capable of resolving conflict without turning to violence if he were to be released into the community. He acknowledged that he reverted to old behavior when in crisis. The Board considered the evaluation and supplement of Dr. DiCataldo that finds Mr. Bruce has made progress and developed insight. The Board encourages him to remain disciplinary report-free and continue working on conflict resolution.

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 Mr. Bruce'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. Bruce's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Bruce's case, the Board is of the opinion that Victor Bruce is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Bruce's next appearance before the Board will take place in two years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages him 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.



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

12/5/22
Date