



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



**PAROLE BOARD**

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*Chair*

**Kevin Keefe**  
*Executive Director*

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**WENDELL GREENMAN**

**W31946**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** **Review Hearing**

**DATE OF HEARING:** **May 20, 2021**

**DATE OF DECISION:** **April 14, 2022**

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa<sup>1</sup>

**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 parole. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in three years from the date of the hearing.<sup>2</sup>

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On November 9, 1968, in Franklin Superior Court, Wendell Greenman pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of 10-year-old Anna Marie Townsend and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

On November 7, 1966, Anna Marie Townsend was reported missing by her mother when she failed to return from a local store, where she was sent to purchase milk. The next day, her body was found in a nearby sandpit with her dress above her waist and her undergarments removed. Anna Marie Townsend had been repeatedly stabbed with a sharp object, including

<sup>1</sup> One Board Member was not present for the hearing, but reviewed the record and participated in deliberations.

<sup>2</sup> Two Board Members voted to deny parole with a review in two years.

once in the back and several times in the rectal area. Subsequent autopsy and lab reports found sperm cells present in both rectal and vaginal smears.

Investigators lead police to Wendell Greenman (age 23). He drove a vehicle that had tires consistent with the tracks found at the scene of the body. In addition, he had been acting strangely in the store where the victim was last seen. On May 15, 1967, after extensive investigation, Wendell Greenman was arrested for the murder of Anna Marie Townsend.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON MAY 20, 2021**

Wendell Greenman, now 79-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on May 20, 2021 for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Christine Sunnerberg. Mr. Greenman was denied parole on 12 prior occasions, beginning with his first parole hearing in 1982. Most recently he was denied parole in 2009 and he postponed his 2014 hearing. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Greenman apologized for his presentation at prior parole hearings and expressed remorse for his offense. He explained that, due to his placement at the Treatment Center, he understands that he has recognized distortions in his prior thought process.

When the Board questioned him as to the governing offense, Mr. Greenman stated that he began to experience sexually deviant fantasies in his early adolescence. On the day of the offense, he was sitting in his car, when he observed the girl walking alone without a coat. She was carrying a heavy package. He noted that the girl's age and appearance fit his fantasy. Mr. Greenman then invited her into his car and offered her a ride home. Despite inquiring as to her address, Mr. Greenman instead drove to a sandpit, explaining that he needed to pick up a puppy. When he stopped the car, Mr. Greenman stated that he placed his hand under the girl's sweater and on her leg. He became enraged when she pushed his hand away, so he strangled her until he believed she was dead. Mr. Greenman then removed the victim from the car and proceeded to stab her once in the back and in the anal area. He then drove home.

In response to Mr. Greenman's version of events, a Board Member inquired as to his omission of raping the victim. Mr. Greenman claimed that he does not remember the details of the rape and suggested that his mind may have blocked his memory based on the brutality of the offense. Mr. Greenman acknowledged, however, that he had no difficulty in remembering the girl's murder and mutilation. He also acknowledged that sperm cells found in the girl's body supported the conclusion that he committed the rape. Since Mr. Greenman could not recall the details of the rape at this hearing, a Board Member inquired about his prior claims that he acted in a dissociative state when he committed the crime. Mr. Greenman stated that the claim was untrue and acknowledged that he lied to several psychological experts, who conducted evaluations of him in the past.

When Board Members inquired about his participation and progress in the Sex Offender Treatment Program, Mr. Greenman admitted that he only began to participate in the program when faced with a substantial loss of privileges at the institution. Mr. Greenman reported that he had completed Phase 3 of the program in 2019, and that he was on track to complete Phase 4 in approximately one year. He admitted that he was a sex offender for the first time in the recent years prior to this hearing. He also admitted that he harbored an interest in pre-teen girls. Mr. Greenman reported that he has focused on working on his sexually deviant thoughts

and negative emotionality. His most recent deviant fantasy occurred approximately six to eight months prior to the hearing and can be triggered by certain scenes on television. He stated that he has done substantial work to address his hostility towards women, as well as his lack of concern for others. Mr. Greenman cited an empathy class as pivotal in his ability to change his way of thinking. He also expressed confidence in his ability to rely on interventions, and a support network, to control any deviant thoughts and emotional reactions.

The Board considered a letter of opposition from a Commonwealth witness, which was read into the record at the hearing.

### **III. DECISION**

The Board is of the opinion that Wendell Greenman has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Greenman is serving a life sentence for raping, sodomizing, and stabbing to death a 10-year-old girl. Mr. Greenman admitted that he continues to lie to experts conducting psychological evaluations. Mr. Greenman only acknowledged his sexual deviancy in 2017. The Board considered the expert opinion of Dr. Leonard Bard, however, Mr. Greenman also acknowledged that he has lied throughout his evaluations. The Board encourages subject to be honest and forthcoming in his sex offender treatment. Mr. Greenman is encouraged to complete SOTP and engage in maintenance.

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

Mr. Greenman's next appearance before the Board will take place in three years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Greenman to continue working toward 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.*

Pamela Murphy pp. SMB  
Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

4/14/22  
Date