The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

WILLIAM NADWORNY
W40533

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **July 22, 2021**

DATE OF DECISION: **April 19, 2022**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa[1]

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 in two years from the date of the hearing.[2]

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On June 12, 1984, after a jury trial in Essex Superior Court, William Nadworny was found guilty of second-degree murder in the death of 17-year-old Lisa Belmonte. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

In 1981, Lisa Belmonte was a high school student, residing with her family in Lynn. She had been acquainted with members of the Nadworny family, including William Nadworny, for some time prior to her death. Ms. Belmonte and Mr. Nadworny became romantically involved in the summer of 1981, when she was 16 and he was 24. Mr. Nadworny allowed Ms. Belmonte to stay at his residence periodically throughout their relationship. In the fall of 1981, Ms. Belmonte ran away from home and was found hiding in a storage bin in Mr. Nadworny's basement.

[1] One Board Member was not present for the hearing, but reviewed the record and participated in deliberations.
[2] One Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in three years from the date of the hearing.

In January 1982, Ms. Belmonte began to reconsider her relationship with Mr. Nadworny. A friend of Ms. Belmonte reported that Mr. Nadworny had spoken to her about his relationship with Ms. Belmonte, indicating that he would be devastated if it ended. When Mr. Nadworny and Ms. Belmonte exchanged letters in March 1982, Ms. Belmonte indicated that she intended to end their relationship. She visited Mr. Nadworny's residence on March 18, 1982, after expressing to a counselor that she intended to end the relationship. She did not return home that evening and was never again seen alive. On that same day, Mr. Nadworny's friend/coworker reached out to him at approximately 7:00 p.m., inquiring as to whether he could spend the night at his residence. Mr. Nadworny informed him that Ms. Belmonte was present at his residence and asked him to come over later that evening at around 9:00 p.m. When the friend/coworker arrived, he did not receive an answer at the door, despite observing a light on in the apartment and Mr. Nadworny's car parked outside.

On July 20, 1982, police located Ms. Belmonte's badly decomposed body in the trunk of a vehicle registered to Mr. Nadworny. The body was wrapped in a bag and bound with electrical cord. Mr. Nadworny spoke with police and admitted placing Ms. Belmonte's body in a canvas bag and storing it in a storage bin in the basement of his apartment. He also admitted that he moved the body to the trunk of his vehicle and parked it at a work site. Mr. Nadworny maintains that he found Ms. Belmonte's deceased body in his apartment in early April 1982, and admits that he did not contact police.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON JULY 22, 2021

William Nadworny, now 65-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on July 22, 2021, for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Ben Brooks. Mr. Nadworny was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2000, and after his review hearings in 2005, 2010, and 2015. Mr. Nadworny's 2020 hearing was postponed at his request. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Nadworny expressed regret for his "role" in the death of Lisa Belmonte and outlined several programs that he has participated in during his incarceration. Upon Board Member questioning, Mr. Nadworny admitted that he was in an "unbalanced" relationship with Ms. Belmonte prior to her death. He further acknowledged the inappropriateness of his involvement with an underage child. Mr. Nadworny, however, made several comments about Ms. Belmonte, characterizing her as a "drug user" and stating that she had previously dated older men. He further claimed that she acted "well beyond her years" and seemed "much older than she was." Mr. Nadworny acknowledged that her family did not approve of his involvement with Ms. Belmonte and admitted that he was upset when she chose to end their relationship.

Mr. Nadworny denied murdering Ms. Belmonte, explaining that she had come to his residence on March 18, 1982, to terminate their relationship. Although he regretted that the relationship was ending, he had begun to understand that his involvement with Ms. Belmonte was inappropriate. Mr. Nadworny reported that she left his residence that evening after ending the relationship, and that he left for a ski trip shortly after. When he returned, Mr. Nadworny claimed that he found Ms. Belmonte's deceased body in his residence. He assumed that she died from an overdose. Mr. Nadworny admitted that he did not call police; rather, he "panicked" and concealed her body, eventually placing it in the trunk of his vehicle and parking it near a work site. When Board Members questioned why he did not report her death upon the discovery of the body, Mr. Nadworny responded that he was worried that the circumstances would ruin his successful reputation, as well as the reputation of his family's business. He explained that he was selfishly attempting to protect himself and took responsibility for not contacting authorities in the following months. Mr. Nadworny referred to his behavior as a "horrible thing" and apologized for the pain and anguish he caused Ms. Belmonte's family.

When Board Members inquired as to his programming efforts, Mr. Nadworny stated that he has been employed as a computer clerk for a lengthy period within the institution. He reported that he has participated in several programs, including Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, and is actively involved in the community garden program. Mr. Nadworny also stated that he completed a program administered through the University of Massachusetts called "Taking a Chance on Change." He described the program as "intense" and indicated it included a unit on domestic violence. A Board Member questioned Mr. Nadworny as to the recommendations made by the Board at his 2015 hearing, which noted the necessity of programs to include victim empathy, domestic violence, and criminal thinking. Mr. Nadworny indicated that he had addressed those concerns through the Taking a Chance on Change program in the form of ongoing counseling, which continued past the point of the program's 2014 termination.

The Board considered testimony in support of parole from one of Mr. Nadworny's relatives. The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from a family member of Ms. Belmonte. The Board considered testimony and a letter from Essex County Assistant District Attorney Kristen Jiang in opposition to parole. The Board also considered a letter in opposition to parole from Lynn Police Department Chief Christopher Reddy.

III. DECISION

The Board is of the opinion that William Nadworny has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Nadworny is serving a life sentence for the murder of 17-year-old Lisa Belmonte. Although Mr. Nadworny had overall positive conduct, in its last decision, the Board recommended that Mr. Nadworny participate in programming to address candor, empathy, domestic violence, and criminal thinking. However, Mr. Nadworny did not follow the Board's suggestion, and he continues to make disparaging remarks about the victim. It's recommended that he engage in programming to address needs highlighted in 2015. In addition, the Board recommends that he engage in all components of Restorative Justice.

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

Mr. Nadworny's next appearance before the Board will take place in two years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Nadworny 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 PM SMB
Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

4/19/22
Date