



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

WILROSE LAPIERRE

W35145B

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **February 7, 2023**

DATE OF DECISION: **April 11, 2023**

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On June 28, 1979, after a jury trial in Worcester Superior Court, Wilrose LaPierre was convicted of rape of a child and sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On the same date, Mr. LaPierre received consecutive sentences of nine to ten years for two counts of kidnapping. On May 15, 1980, the Appellate Division of the Superior Court amended the consecutive sentences to be served concurrently.

Mr. LaPierre appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on February 7, 2023. He was represented by Attorney John Rull. Mr. LaPierre was denied parole after his initial hearing in 1994, and after his review hearings in 1997, 2002, 2007, and 2013. He postponed his 2018 and 2022 review hearings. The entire video recording of Mr. LaPierre's February 7, 2023, 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 by unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole.

The Board is of the opinion that Wilrose LaPierre has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. On March 13, 1979, Mr. LaPierre kidnapped two siblings, ages 14 and 9, in Bolton, before raping the 14 year old child.

He was on parole at the time of the offense for unrelated sexual assault charges. Mr. LaPierre has an incredibly concerning criminal history replete with multiple rapes. He has been incarcerated on this offense since 1979 and completed the Sex Offender Treatment Program in August of 2022. The Board notes he has been participating in maintenance on a sporadic basis. The Board reviewed the Sex Offender Treatment Program report prepared by his providers which states that his high risk area is over "image management." The Board agrees with the treatment team that Mr. LaPierre requires additional time in maintenance, especially where as recently as 2021, he acted upon his sexually deviant behavior. The Board finds he does not meet the legal standard for release as he admitted to the Sex Offender Treatment Program staff that his attraction to teenage girls will always be present and he can never go anywhere alone if released into the community.

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

Mr. LaPierre's next appearance before the Board will take place in three years from the date of this hearing.¹ 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

April 11, 2023
Date

¹ One Board member voted to deny parole with a review in four years.