



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

DANNY KEENE

W38344

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: October 4, 2016

DATE OF DECISION: July 20, 2017

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe

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 a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is granted to a long term residential treatment program with special conditions, after successful completion of 18 months in lower security.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On July 8, 1981, in Essex Superior Court, Danny Keene pled guilty to the second degree murders of 17-year-old Claire Goossens and 18-year-old Joseph Salvatore. Two sentences of life in prison with the possibility of parole, to be served consecutively, were imposed on Mr. Keene for the murders of Ms. Goossens and Mr. Salvatore.

On the morning of Sunday, April 20, 1980, Mr. Keene drove from Salisbury, Massachusetts to Hampton, New Hampshire to look at an automobile that his brother was interested in purchasing. Mr. Keene was accompanied by his two co-defendants, Everett Sielicki and Paul Bowman, as well as another man. In the presence of the others, the owner of the automobile told Mr. Keene that he had been arrested during a drug deal the previous week and suspected that he had been set up by Joseph Salvatore. Mr. Keene said that he would "take care" of Mr. Salvatore. Later that morning, Mr. Keene, Mr. Sielicki, and Mr. Bowman went to the motel where Mr. Salvatore was staying. Mr. Keene was armed with a pistol. After

conversing in the motel room, Mr. Salvatore and his girlfriend, Claire Goossens, left with the three men to make a drug deal. The group drove to Rowley and walked to a wooded area on a hilltop, commonly referred to as "Sunset Rock." Mr. Bowman, needing to relieve himself, began to walk down the hill. When he was about 30 feet away from the group, he heard screams. Mr. Bowman returned to the hilltop, where Mr. Keene was holding Mr. Salvatore as Mr. Sielicki stabbed him. Mr. Keene then grabbed Ms. Goossens, and Mr. Sielicki stabbed her repeatedly.

After the murders of Mr. Salvatore and Ms. Goossens, the three men (Mr. Keene, Mr. Sielicki, and Mr. Bowman) left Rowley and took steps to dispose of Mr. Sielicki's bloody clothing. They were arrested the following day, April 21, 1980.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON OCTOBER 4, 2016

Mr. Keene, now 63-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on October 4, 2016, for a review hearing and was represented by Attorney Eva Clark. Mr. Keene's initial appearance in 2010 resulted in the denial of parole. He was denied parole after his review hearing in 2015, with a one year review. In Mr. Keene's opening statement to the Board, he expressed his remorse and apologized for his role in the murders of Mr. Salvatore and Ms. Goossens. Mr. Keene further acknowledged the hurt and anguish his actions caused to the loved ones of Mr. Salvatore and Ms. Goossens, as well as his own family. Mr. Keene expressed his hope that, someday, he will have the opportunity to reintegrate back into society and help support other addicts through his involvement in Alcoholics Anonymous/ Narcotics Anonymous (AA/NA).

Mr. Keene described the events that gave rise to the murders and explained the specific roles that he and his co-defendants played on the day of the murder. Mr. Keene also addressed how his drug addiction and alcoholism affected his actions, stating that he consumed drugs and alcohol on the day of the murders, as well as on the previous evening. He explained to the Board that confronting his substance abuse has played an integral role in his rehabilitation. He intends to continue to maintain his sobriety and will continue to attend Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous (AA/NA), regardless of whether he is granted parole. Mr. Keene also expressed his intent to continue program involvement during his incarceration. The Board recognizes Mr. Keene's positive adjustment during his time in prison, as well as his impeccable disciplinary history.

During the hearing, the Board questioned Mr. Keene about his current mental stability, as well as his past hospitalization for mental illness. Mr. Keene stated that he does not currently take any medication, as he feels stable and his thoughts are clear. Mr. Keene addressed his parole plan with the Board, explaining that he believes it is important for him to gradually transition back into society. In discussing his potential reintegration to the community, Mr. Keene recognized that his success is entirely dependent on his sobriety.

The Board considered testimony from Essex County Assistant District Attorney Elin Graydon, who spoke in opposition to parole.

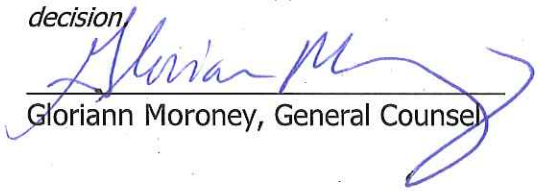
III. DECISION

The Board is of the opinion that Mr. Keene has demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Keene's lack of disciplinary record, his positive adjustment, and his program involvement during the period of his incarceration. The Board has also considered a risk and needs assessment, and how risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Keene's risk of recidivism. The Board acknowledges that Mr. Keene has been incarcerated for 36 years and that his reintegration into society will, therefore, best be served by a gradual transition with structured conditions.

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. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Keene's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Keene is a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is granted to a long term residential treatment program with special conditions, after successful completion of 18 months in lower security. Mr. Keene should remain program involved and continue his positive adjustment during his transition to lower security.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for Long Term Residential Program; Must be home between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am; GPS monitoring at Parole Officer discretion; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment/transition; Long Term Residential Treatment Program; Attend Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous (AA/NA) three times/week.

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.



Gloriann Moroney, General Counsel

7/20/17
Date