



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Daniel Bennett
Secretary

Telephone # (508) 650-4500
Facsimile # (508) 650-4599

Paul M. Treseler
Chairman

Michael J. Callahan
Executive Director

DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

**MICHAEL BRUYETTE
W42615**

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: June 14, 2016

DATE OF DECISION: October 31, 2016

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 the 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 with special conditions.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On July 9, 1986, in Hampden Superior Court, Michael Bruyette pleaded guilty to the second degree murder of 30-year-old Thomas Grimshaw. Mr. Bruyette was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Mr. Bruyette also pleaded to conspiracy to commit murder and received a 7 to 10 year sentence ordered to run from and after his life sentence.

Mr. Grimshaw's estranged wife, 23-year-old Lisa Grimshaw, had solicited 19-year-old Michael Bruyette and two others to kill Mr. Grimshaw in 1985. Ms. Grimshaw told the three men that she had been physically abused by her husband and stated that Mr. Grimshaw had a \$300,000 life insurance policy that she would share with them if they assisted her in killing him. On the night before the murder, Mr. Bruyette and his co-defendants met at Ms. Grimshaw's apartment to confirm their plan. Ms. Grimshaw drove Mr. Bruyette and one of the associates to a boat launch area in Chicopee where they hid, awaiting her return.

In the early morning hours of June 5, 1985, Ms. Grimshaw went to the victim's workplace as he was getting off his shift, and lured him into the car with the promise of sex. She drove the victim to the boat launch, where Mr. Bruyette and another associate were waiting with bats in hand. Mr. Bruyette struck the victim in the back of the head and face repeatedly and stole his wallet. Mr. Bruyette and his associate left the victim's body by the river bank and threw the bats out the window of Ms. Grimshaw's car as they fled the scene.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON JUNE 14, 2016

This is Mr. Bruyette's fifth appearance before the Parole Board. He was denied parole following his initial hearing in 2002 and granted parole following his review hearing in 2007. Mr. Bruyette was released on parole on October 26, 2009, to live with his father and stepmother in Florida under the Interstate Compact. He remained in Florida under parole supervision until his return to Massachusetts, when his parole was revoked in 2011. Initially, Mr. Bruyette appeared to be adjusting well to his re-entry into the community in Florida. Mr. Bruyette took positive steps on parole that included obtaining full time employment with the City of Palm Bay in their maintenance department and reporting that he had an internship with the city's wastewater management plant. However, on May 6, 2011, Mr. Bruyette was arrested and charged with domestic assault and domestic battery. The victim of this offense was a live-in girlfriend, who was then granted a restraining order in Florida on May 10, 2011. Although he was not convicted of these charges, Mr. Bruyette's parole was revoked because his conduct constituted several violations of parole conditions. Mr. Bruyette appeared before the Board on June 12, 2012 and June 10, 2014, and re-parole was denied following both hearings.

Mr. Bruyette, now 50-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on June 14, 2016, for his third review hearing since returning to custody as a parole violator in 2011. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Bruyette expressed his regret for the murder of Thomas Grimshaw. He extended his apology to the Grimshaw family, as well as to his own, for the pain he caused them. He also apologized to his ex-girlfriend, who was the victim of the domestic violence incident that resulted in his parole revocation. Finally, Mr. Bruyette apologized to the Board for being "bullheaded" and "difficult," and for blaming others for his own ignorance at his last hearing. When the Board asked Mr. Bruyette why he killed Mr. Grimshaw, he stated that "it was the abuse of Lisa Grimshaw that I was asked to do something about." Mr. Bruyette admitted that "it was not my place to do this" because he had no right to take a life. The Board noted that as a young child, Mr. Bruyette had witnessed the physical domestic abuse of his mother, which ultimately led to her murder.

When asked by the Board about his understanding in being denied parole, Mr. Bruyette stated that the denials in 2012 and 2014 were similar: "I took it as you see me as an angry person" and "I was." Mr. Bruyette said he now acknowledges that his relationship problems with his girlfriend (which resulted in the issuance of a restraining order) were his own fault. He said that he was "emotionally unavailable" to her, and that he was irresponsible in the way he handled the discord. The Board asked Mr. Bruyette if he had participated in any programs since 2012 to address his accountability, anger, and relationship issues. Mr. Bruyette stated that the Emotional Awareness program allowed him to see his faults and to address his triggers and anger issues. He said that the Restorative Justice program helped him view violent crime (and its resulting heartbreak) from the perspective of the victims. Mr. Bruyette also said that he attends weekly AA meetings, although he does not believe he has an alcohol problem. Mr.

Bruyette stated that he works out in the gym "morning, afternoon, night." In addition, Mr. Bruyette has remained disciplinary report free since his last parole setback. He plans to return to Florida to live with either a former girlfriend, Angelica Alvarez, or his parents until he is settled. He also believes that he could return to the town wastewater management plant, where he was employed full time before his parole revocation.

Speaking on behalf of Mr. Bruyette was Angelica Alvarez, who stated that she had never seen Mr. Bruyette acting abusive. She stated that her family loves him and that her young daughter adores him. Ms. Alvarez also said that she could provide Mr. Bruyette a place to live for as long as he needs it. The Board also considered testimony from Hampden County Assistant District Attorney Howard Safford, who recognized the change in Mr. Bruyette from two years ago.

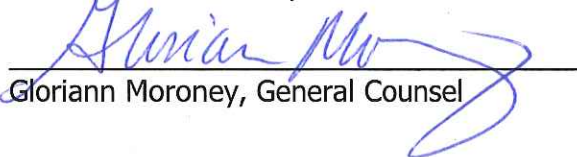
III. DECISION

Since his last hearing, Mr. Bruyette has demonstrated a positive adjustment. He has remained disciplinary report free, maintained employment, and responded to the Board's concerns through appropriate institutional programming. The Board also notes Mr. Bruyette's strong parole plan that involves both community support and the prospect of employment.

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 appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Bruyette's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Bruyette merits parole at this time, subject to special conditions. In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Bruyette's institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board also considered a risk and needs assessment, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Bruyette's risk of recidivism.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Approve home plan before release; Release to Interstate Compact Florida; Waive work for 2 weeks; Must be a home between 10 pm and 6 am or at PO discretion; GPS at PO 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; Attend AA/NA meetings at least 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

10/31/14

Date