



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety



PAROLE BOARD

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

BRYCE NOONAN

W55845

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: June 14, 2011

DATE OF DECISION: May 29, 2012

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Cesar Archilla, John Bocon, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Ina Howard-Hogan, Roger Michel, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Josh Wall

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Parole is denied. The next hearing will be in five years. The decision is unanimous.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Bryce Noonan, age 17, beat James Margeson to death On June 2, 1992 in Woburn. The victim was 36 years old. Noonan and other teenagers frequently drank and socialized in a wooded area behind St. Anthony's Church on Main Street in Woburn. Mr. Margeson and his friends also used the same wooded area. In an act of unprovoked aggression, Noonan attacked Mr. Margeson in the wooded area so he could "brag about beating up an older man and further build my reputation as a tough guy." Noonan beat him to the point of unconsciousness and left the area. He returned later that night with the specific intent to kill the victim. Noonan found the victim in the woods "semi-conscious and slurring unintelligibly." Noonan attacked again; he used a rock to beat the victim to death.

Noonan was arrested approximately ten days after the murder. His friend Ian Worthen, who was present at both attacks but did not strike a blow, was also charged. Noonan pleaded guilty to second-degree murder on February 2, 1994. Co-defendant Worthen, a juvenile,

pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and received 18 to 20 years; Worthen completed that sentence in 2005. Noonan has no prior criminal history.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON JUNE 14, 2011

This is the second parole hearing for Bryce Noonan. He is 36 years old and has been incarcerated for 19 years. At his hearing, Noonan stated that at the time of the murder he was "irresponsible, callous, and cruel; a bully and a hoodlum," but has "taken violence out of my life." He said that he fought frequently during the years leading up to the murder; he fought with his hands and he aimed for the face "because I felt that would do the most harm." He attributed his conduct to violence he had witnessed and experienced growing up; he described that his father was a violent man. Noonan said he is confident he has addressed the factors that caused his violent aggression.

Noonan described the murder in detail. He snuck up behind the victim and hit him with a stick; the stick broke and the victim turned to face Noonan; Noonan punched the victim repeatedly in the face; the victim fell to the ground and repeatedly yelled "stop." Noonan continued to punch the victim in the face until he was unconscious. Noonan left the scene but decided to come back to kill the victim. When Noonan returned the victim was alive but not moving. Noonan said "I hit him four or five times in the head with a rock until I knew he was dead."

The inmate began regular program participation in 2000, and has strong participation in recent years. He has completed Correctional Recovery Academy and several phases of Alternatives to Violence. His institutional behavior has improved in recent years, as shown by no disciplinary reports since 2005. His first 13 years of incarceration, however, were marred by poor conduct. He received 24 disciplinary reports, many of them serious. Six reports were for fighting with another inmate; one of those fights was described as being part of a "racially motivated riot." Much of his poor conduct involved behavior intended to disrupt the institution by throwing trash, flooding his cell, or breaking things. He was moved to segregation twice and DDU once.

Noonan received some mental health counseling in recent years; the counseling stopped in June 2010. He said that counseling concerned anxiety issues, PTSD, and insomnia. He was on medication that he no longer takes. Noonan got married in 2010.

III. DECISION

Bryce Noonan attacked an innocent and unsuspecting man with a stick, punched him until he was unconscious, and returned hours later to beat him to death with a rock. In his first 13 years of incarceration, Noonan continued with aggression and violence. Noonan now has six years of improved conduct and good program participation. Given the extraordinary anger and violence that Noonan displayed over many years, six years of good conduct is not sufficient to establish that he is rehabilitated and ready to live in the community. The Parole Board cannot conclude that it is reasonably probable that Noonan would not re-offend if released. He remains a risk to re-offend violently and his rehabilitation requires more time and continued effort; his release, therefore, is not compatible with the welfare of society. Accordingly, parole is denied with a review in five years.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing.

Josh Wall

Josh Wall, Chairman

May 29, 2012

Date