



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

ROBERT BOND

W41965

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: April 19, 2011

DATE OF DECISION: January 18, 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. Robert Bond has committed two homicides; he is a dangerous individual. He committed the second homicide while on parole for the first homicide. He has not been rehabilitated and his release would jeopardize the safety of the public. Bond's next parole hearing will be in five years. The decision is unanimous.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Robert Bond killed Mary Foreman on October 23, 1981 by shooting her once in the head. Bond had been involved in a relationship with Ms. Foreman. Ms. Foreman ended the relationship sometime before the killing. On the evening of October 23, Ms. Foreman was attending a community meeting on Walnut Avenue in Roxbury. Bond waited on Walnut Avenue and encountered Ms. Foreman as she left the meeting. Ms. Foreman argued with Bond and asked him to leave her alone. Bond was able to get Ms. Foreman into the basement of 82 Walnut Avenue, where he shot her. Bond fled. When questioned by police on November 11, Bond lied; he said he arranged to meet the victim at 82 Walnut Avenue that night, he went there, but the victim never came so he left without ever seeing her. Witnesses at 82 Walnut

Avenue were able to identify Bond as the man they saw arguing with the victim minutes before they heard a gunshot.

Bond pleaded guilty to second degree murder. Bond initially went to trial and the jury convicted him of second degree murder; the verdict was overturned on appeal due to the improper admission of hearsay evidence concerning prior bad conduct. The Parole Board has previously denied parole to Bond after hearings in 2000 and 2005. Robert Bond is 75 years old.

II. OTHER CRIMINAL OR BAD CONDUCT

Robert Bond murdered Mary Foreman while on parole for the manslaughter of Barbara Mitchell. Bond had a relationship with Ms. Mitchell; she ended the relationship weeks before the killing. Bond stabbed her in the back on January 30, 1971 after she refused his request to reconcile. The knife penetrated the victim's liver and caused her death. He pleaded guilty to manslaughter, received a sentence of 15 to 20 years, and was paroled in October 1984.

In addition to killing Barbara Mitchell and Mary Foreman, Bond has been convicted in Roxbury District Court of domestic violence assaults on two other women: his wife and another woman with whom he had a child. Bond admitted to these facts during the parole hearing.

Bond has 10 major disciplinary reports during his long period of incarceration. He was observed attacking another inmate in 1987, 1997, and 2004; he was fighting with an inmate in 2005; he was caught with a weapon in 2001. He received four disciplinary reports since his last parole hearing in 2005.

III. PAROLE HEARING ON APRIL 19, 2011

Robert Bond made his case for parole primarily by trying to convince Board members that he had no intent to shoot Mary Foreman. More specifically, Bond stubbornly maintains that (a) Mary Foreman met him willingly in the basement for the purpose of continuing that relationship, (b) that Bond's friend had given him a gun to hide in the basement, (c) in the course of hiding the gun as an act of friendship, Bond accidentally discharged the gun because dust got in his eyes, (d) the accidental discharge happened to strike and kill Mary Foreman, and (e) Bond fled and hid from fear rather than to avoid detection and apprehension. Bond was convicted after trial of second degree murder, his conviction was reversed, and then he pleaded guilty to second degree murder. There is sufficient information available to conclude that Bond is lying when he asserts that the shooting was accidental. Bond's story is not only inherently implausible, but also other credible evidence and information disproves his current story. Trial witnesses saw and heard Bond arguing with the victim: the victim told Bond several times "Leave me alone; Get away from me." When he spoke with police three weeks later, Bond falsely claimed that he never saw the victim on that night. Bond had a history of beating the victim and one time assaulted her with a knife. The Appeals Court found that "there was no evidence that warranted a finding of manslaughter, and therefore a jury instruction [on manslaughter] was not required." Most importantly, Bond pleaded guilty to second degree murder, not involuntary manslaughter.

Bond's demeanor at the hearing alternated between passive and angry. Board members concluded that he showed no sincere remorse and no insight into his criminal thinking. He did not present a comprehensive or thoughtful plan for parole. With respect to the four disciplinary reports he received since his last parole hearing, Bond said "I've done the best I can do." Bond admitted that he escaped in 1977 by not returning from a furlough; he was serving his manslaughter sentence at that time.

There were no supporters of parole present.

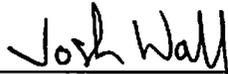
Many family members and friends of Mary Foreman appeared in memory of Ms. Foreman and in opposition to parole. Three of the victim's siblings, a daughter, and a niece spoke. They described Ms. Foreman as the center of life for her immediate and extended family. They remembered her many good deeds for other people, including extraordinary and effective community involvement. She did much of her volunteer community work at Freedom House and Jeremiah Burke High School. Ms. Foreman worked at Harvard Business School. She was known for her kindness, generosity, and ability to bring people together from different backgrounds.

Mary Foreman's community work sometimes involved assisting those recently released from incarceration. Family members believe that a relationship developed between two people of such different character because of her desire to help a person in need and her ability to seek the good in everyone she met. Ms. Foreman's family spoke in detail and convincingly about the relationship she had with Robert Bond; specifically, Bond had previously beaten Ms. Foreman and, by the time of the murder, she feared him and had withdrawn from the relationship.

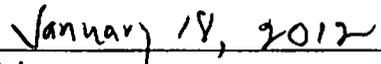
IV. DECISION

Robert Bond has battered four women with whom he had an intimate relationship. Two of those women he killed. Bond killed Barbara Mitchell and Mary Foreman after, and apparently in response to, their decisions to end the relationship with him. He maintains a heartless dishonesty about the facts of Mary Foreman's murder. Given his stubborn insistence that the gun discharged by accident, his few words of remorse are insincere and meaningless. He has no insight into his own criminal thinking and conduct. The programming that he has taken in recent years does not appear to have affected him or moved him towards rehabilitation. The first goal of sentencing is incapacitation; that is, using incarceration to prevent the inmate from committing more crimes. A parole of Robert Bond would undermine the goal of protecting the public. His release would likely mean another violent criminal offense, and that offense would almost certainly be against a woman. Parole is denied because he is likely to re-offend if released and his release is not compatible with public safety.

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



Josh Wall, Chairman



Date