



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety

Parole Board

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760



Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Timothy P. Murray
Lieutenant Governor

Andrea J. Cabral
Secretary

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

Josh Wall
Chairman

DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

MICHAEL BRUYETTE

W42615

TYPE OF HEARING: Revocation Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: June 12, 2012

DATE OF DECISION: May 14, 2013

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Cesar Archilla, Charlene Bonner, Shelia Dupre, Ina Howard-Hogan, Roger Michel, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Josh Wall

DECISION OF THE BOARD: After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying 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 writing, we conclude by unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole at this time. Parole is denied with a review in two years from the date of the hearing.

I. STATEMENT OF CASE

On July 9, 1986, in Hampden Superior Court, Michael Bruyette pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder. He was sentenced to serve life in prison for the murder and a consecutive seven to 10 year term for conspiracy. On September 5, 1986, he filed a motion to revise and revoke his sentence, which was denied in 1999. The Appeals Court affirmed the denial in an unpublished opinion in 2001.

Michael Bruyette, age 19, beat Thomas Grimshaw, age 30, to death on June 5, 1985, in Chicopee. Mr. Grimshaw and his wife, Lisa, were separated and living apart. In the weeks prior to the murder, Lisa had solicited Mr. Bruyette and co-defendant Michael Ashley, a juvenile, to kill her husband, telling them about a \$300,000 life insurance policy that was payable upon his death.¹

¹ Lisa Grimshaw was convicted of manslaughter and conspiracy to commit murder and sentenced to serve 15 to 20 and six to ten years, respectively. Michael Ashley pleaded delinquent to second-degree

On the night before the murder, the trio met at Ms. Grimshaw's house to confirm their plans. Mr. Bruyette took two bats that he and Mr. Ashley had taken from the victim's garage when they began discussing their plot. Ms. Grimshaw then drove the men to a boat launch area on a river in Chicopee where they hid awaiting her return.

Ms. Grimshaw went to the victim's place of work as he was getting off of his shift at 3:00 a.m. and lured him into the car with the promise of sex. She drove the victim to the boat launch where Mr. Bruyette and Mr. Ashley were waiting with bats in hand to attack him. Mr. Bruyette struck the victim in the back of the head and face repeatedly and stole his wallet. Mr. Bruyette and Mr. Ashley left the victim's body on the river bank and threw the bats out the window of Ms. Grimshaw's car as they fled the scene. Later that night, they cleaned the car and stayed at Ms. Grimshaw's house, where Mr. Bruyette and Ms. Grimshaw slept together.

While they were at Ms. Grimshaw's house, the trio had discussed the murders in front of Mr. Ashley's brother, Ronald, who had been privy to the initial plan. The next day, Ronald told police what had happened, and they arrested Mr. Bruyette.

A subsequent autopsy revealed that the cause of Mr. Grimshaw's death was a compound comminuted skull fracture with extravagation of the brain due to several blows to the head with a blunt instrument.

II. PAROLE AND INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

Michael Bruyette was paroled on October 26, 2009, to the Interstate Compact (Florida) to reside with his father and step-mother. Mr. Bruyette appeared to be adjusting well to his re-entry into the community as he had obtained full-time employment with the City of Palm Bay. A progress report dated October 26, 2010, noted "slight problems with communicating effectively with this officer and with following instructions."

Seven months after that report, on May 6, 2011, Mr. Bruyette was arrested by Palm Bay Police and charged with domestic battery and domestic assault. The victim of the offenses was Holly Elmore, his live-in-girlfriend, who was granted a protective order by the court on May 10, 2011. Ms. Elmore reported that, during a heated argument, Mr. Bruyette punched a wall, causing a glass ornament to fall off the wall. The glass broke, and a ricochet shard injured Ms. Elmore's face. Ms. Elmore also said Mr. Bruyette threatened to kill her, which was a threat made several times that week. On August 11, 2011, Bruyette, after a jury trial, was found not guilty of the domestic offenses. With respect to this incident, Mr. Bruyette informed the Board that he had an argument with Ms. Elmore that had resulted in him punching a wall. Mr. Bruyette denied hitting or threatening Ms. Elmore. Mr. Bruyette's parole was revoked as a result of this incident.

Since his return to Massachusetts as a parole violator in September 2011, he was employed as a runner while at MCI-Cedar Junction. He transferred to MCI-Norfolk in January 2012 where he was unemployed and not engaged in programming. Mr. Bruyette has a total of 49 disciplinary reports, the last being in January of 2004.

murder and was committed to the Department of Youth Services. Ronald Ashley was originally indicted for being an accessory before and after the murder, but *nolle prosequi* were filed on all charges.

III. PAROLE HEARING ON JUNE 12, 2012

At the hearing, Mr. Bruyette took little responsibility for his actions that resulted in the revocation of his parole. He stated to the Board that he was returned to custody due to the actions of a "disgruntled ex-girlfriend." Several Board Members noted Mr. Bruyette's lack of insight concerning his violent action of punching the wall, being photographed with a beer in hand, and his poor decision making regarding his relationships. The photograph gives some support to Ms. Elmore's report that Mr. Bruyette frequently drank alcohol on parole. Mr. Bruyette stated that he does not believe that he has anger issues or issues with healthy relationships. He also denied that money from the \$300,000 life insurance policy was the motive for killing Thomas Grimshaw.

Hampden County Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Dunphy Farris testified in opposition to parole.

IV. DECISION

Michael Bruyette's conduct related to a domestic dispute resulted in his parole revocation. The conduct clarified that he has ongoing issues related to anger, relationships, and alcohol. At his parole hearing, Mr. Bruyette showed no recognition of these issues and offered no suggestions on how he might behave differently if re-paroled. Consequently, the Board concluded that he is not sufficiently rehabilitated to live in the community and that he would repeat his negative behavior if re-paroled.

The standard we apply in assessing candidates for parole is set out in 120 C.M.R. 300.04, which provides that, "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." Applying that appropriately high standard here, the Board finds that Mr. Bruyette is not a suitable candidate for parole. Accordingly, parole is denied, with a review in two years.

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.


Janis DiLoreto Noble, General Counsel

5/14/13
Date