



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety



PAROLE BOARD

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**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**WILROSE LAPIERRE**

**W35145B**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** November 5, 2013

**DATE OF DECISION:** January 9, 2014

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Ina Howard-Hogan, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Josh Wall

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, institutional record, the testimony of the inmate at the hearing, the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the board, we conclude by a unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole at this time. Parole is denied with a review in five years.

**I.STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On June 28, 1979 in Worcester Superior Court, Wilrose LaPierre was convicted by jury of rape of a child, for which he received a life sentence. That same day he received consecutive sentences of nine to ten years for two counts of kidnapping. On May 15, 1980 the Appellate Division of the Superior Court amended the consecutive sentences to be served concurrently with the life sentence.

On March 13, 1979, two siblings, a girl, age 14, and her brother, age 9, were walking home from their friend's house. They were approached by LaPierre who concocted a story to draw the children closer to his car. He then physically forced the children to go into the woods with him. He bound the girl's hands behind her and gagged her. LaPierre raped her while her brother lay beside her. He made both children count to one hundred and fled.

At the time of the offense LaPierre was on parole on a three to five year sentence for rape, and three concurrent sentences of four to fifteen years for assault with intent to rape. LaPierre was on parole for only nine months before he committed this sexual assault of a child.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON NOVEMBER 5, 2013**

Wilrose LaPierre appeared for his fifth parole hearing. LaPierre admits that he has committed six rapes using the same method to lure children by fabricating a story; typically that he was lost and needed directions. He stated that he had longstanding issues of abandonment and abuse as a child, as well as traumas he experienced while serving in Vietnam, which have all been dominant precipitants in his history of sexual deviance. LaPierre believes his own history of being victimized and abused, as well as other traumatic experiences have all played a role in his sexual offending. LaPierre stated that he has worked very hard in sex offender treatment (SOTP) to address these issues and believes that he has successfully addressed his deviance and is now ready for the next step, which he believes is sex offender treatment in the community while on parole. He believes he no longer poses a risk to society as he is well aware of his triggers and need for continued vigilance in therapy.

The Parole Board noted numerous concerns, most importantly, his pattern of serial rape against innocent children and the countless people who have been significantly affected by his crimes. LaPierre provided more details about these crimes, as well as his pattern of prior sexual offenses. He stated that he has disclosed all of his victims in treatment, and has been able to understand his pattern of offending as well as having more appreciation for the effects his crimes have had on their lives.

The Parole Board addressed LaPierre's numerous treatment failures and questioned how he can assert that he does not pose a risk when he has not been able to complete SOTP. He acknowledged that he has been terminated or timed out of treatment three times. LaPierre stated that he was surprised at his most recent termination from SOTP as he thought that he was meeting all the requirements. Upon further review of the specific reasons for his most recent termination, LaPierre did agree that he failed to progress due to his difficulty "opening up," but believes he has "now come to grips with what I have done." The Parole Board emphasized how significant the opinion of the SOTP panel is in terms of informing the Parole Board regarding a sexual offender's progress in rehabilitation. Board members read some of the reasons for his termination as quoted in the treatment panel's summation. Conclusions by the treatment panel include LaPierre's lack of motivation, lack of insight, and manipulations as reasons for his treatment failure. LaPierre continued to insist that he has addressed the precipitants to his offending, most notably his need for "power and control," and believes that he can continue his treatment within an outpatient setting in the community. He believes the required five year waiting period to re-apply for admission to the SOTP program would undermine the progress he has made and hinder his continued commitment to rehabilitation.

LaPierre submitted a letter of support from his biological son which was read by his student attorney. LaPierre's son wrote that he would provide whatever resources his father needed in order to assist him with his successful re-entry. In addition, several other letters were submitted from LaPierre's extended family that also would provide any support that Mr. LaPierre needed to reenter society.

There were many members of the victim's family who provided written and oral testimony. All members provided strong opposition to LaPierre's release. Included in their strong opposition was the testimony from the father of the victims. He emphasized the profound and lasting impact that the crimes against his children have had on their family and

extended family. The letters submitted by the two victims detailed the pain and suffering that has continued to impact their lives. The husband of the female victim also spoke about how these offenses have impacted his relationship with his wife and the way his wife parents their children. Assistant District Attorney Michelle King provided written and oral testimony in strong opposition of Mr. LaPierre's parole release citing his years as a serial rapist, his years of appeals in an effort to escape culpability, and his continued failure to rehabilitate. Attorney King stated that Mr. LaPierre is a "very dangerous individual" and asked the Board to deny Mr. LaPierre's parole with the maximum of five years before he is reviewed.

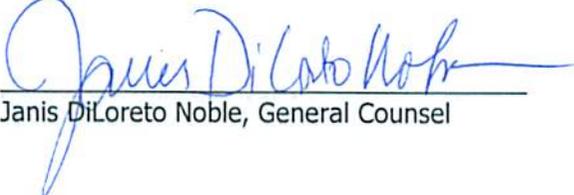
### III. DECISION

Wilrose LaPierre abducted and sexually assaulted a 14-year-old girl and made her nine-year-old-brother watch. At the time he committed these crimes, LaPierre was on parole on a three to five year sentence for rape, and three concurrent sentences of four to fifteen years for assault with intent to rape. LaPierre admitted to sexually assaulting a total of six girls.

LaPierre has been terminated from the sex offender treatment program (SOTP) three times for various reasons including a lack of insight, manipulations, minimization, a lack of motivation, and for demonstrating a superficial understanding of his offending. Most recently, he was discharged from SOTP because he reached the maximum allotted time for completing the program. He will not be able to re-apply to the program for five years. LaPierre's failure to progress and to complete the SOTP program, as well as the concerning reports from the treatment panel, demonstrate that he has not been rehabilitated. LaPierre's request to complete treatment in the community on parole is not a reasonable request. Based on his history of serial, predatory behavior and the conclusions of the treatment panel, the Parole Board considers LaPierre to be a risk to the community.

The standard 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 an 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, it is the unanimous decision of the Parole Board to deny Mr. LaPierre's parole 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. 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.*

  
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Janis DiLoreto Noble, General Counsel

  
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Date