

MINUTES
SEX OFFENDER RESIDENCE BOARD
OF THE CITY OF GREEN BAY
Wednesday, January 9, 2013
Room 310, City Hall
2:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Dean Gerondale, Ben Heiman, Kathy De Cremer, Heidi Michel

EXCISED: Renee Keehan

The meeting was called to order by Dean Gerondale.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Motion made by Ben Heiman to approve the December 12, 2012 Minutes, seconded by Kathy De Cremer. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. **APPEALS**

- a. Appeal of Eric Zendejas requesting to move to 1745 E. Mason St.

Eric Zendejas appeared by telephone from the Redgranite Correctional Institution. Dean Gerondale advised Eric of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Eric stated he will be released soon and would prefer appearing before the Board in person instead of by telephone today. Dean Gerondale told Eric that if they went ahead with his appeal today by telephone, and it is denied, he can appear before the board again, in person, once he is released.

Eric stated he was charged with two second degree sexual assaults, one in 2003 and the other in 2005. The first victim is now the mother of his children. At the time, Eric was 23 years old and the victim was 16 or 17. The victim went back to her country and when she returned here, she and Eric got back together. Eric received probation for this offense.

The victim of the second offense was age 15. Eric did not know the victim previously.

Again, Eric stated he is scheduled to be released this month and he would prefer to appear before the Board in person at the February 13 meeting.

A motion to POSTPONE the appeal of Eric Zendejas until the February 13, 2013 meeting was made by Heidi Michel, seconded by Kathy De Cremer. All in favor. Motion carried.

- b. Appeal of Allen Leonhardt requesting to move to 227 S. Buchanan St.

Allen Leonhardt appeared in person. Dean Gerondale advised Eric of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Allen stated the offense occurred in 2004. At the time, he was 37 years of age and the victim was 11. Allen had been staying with the victim's father and sometimes he would pick the victim up from school. Allen was charged with the crime after the victim said something to her friend. The friend, in turn, told the victim's teacher that Allen and her friend were having an inappropriate relationship.

Allen denies having had an inappropriate relationship with the victim. However, he did take the plea deal because he had no one to help him out. Because of his past history of getting into trouble, he did not want to go to trial. Now he wished he had done things differently. The victim accused him of touching her and having a relationship with her.

Allen gave a statement to the police and it wasn't until a year later that he got arrested. He sat in the county jail for about two years and wasn't convicted until 2008.

Allen has almost completed the SOT program at the ATTIC. He has completed an AODA program and has the certificate with him. Allen was let go from his job yesterday because they found out about his offense. For the past month, he has been working through Helping Hands and the COPPS program, assisting Marilyn Sittman in her home. Marilyn is present at this meeting. Both she and Torry Sittman wrote letters on Allen's behalf. Allen would like to continue to live with Marilyn Sittman at this address.

Kathy De Cremer asked Allen why he wrote "I feel very bad for my actions and I feel very bad for the victim," if he denies the allegations. Allen admits "the whole thing affected everybody."

Ben Lardinois is Allen's parole agent. Allen spoke to Ben this morning and Ben planned on attending the meeting today; however, he is ill and not able to come. Allen wants to live with Marilyn Sittman, Keanna (21) and Torry (15). Ben stated his parole agent has met Torry (the minor male) and is okay with Ben living with them.

Marilyn Sittman, 227 S. Buchanan Street, is present at the meeting and spoke on Allen's behalf. She stated she has lived in the Green Bay area for approximately 35 years. She is a drug and alcohol counselor, she worked for Brown County for foster care and children, she is involved in crime prevention in her neighborhood and she works with individuals involved in sexual and/or physical assaults. She has also had individuals stay at her home temporarily.

The reason Allen was dismissed from his job is because the State of Wisconsin will not allow a sexual offender to work in a home. Allen helped Marilyn with household chores. Marilyn is willing to fill out the necessary paperwork to help Allen keep his job. She has known Allen since August and he goes to church with her and also attends a bible study in her home.

Dean Gerondale attempted to call Allen's parole officer, Ben Lardinois. He was not available, but spoke with Danielle. Danielle looked at notes in the file and verified Ben Lardinois' approval of Allen living at this address with the minor.

Marilyn wrote the letters sent in on Allen's behalf. However, her son, Torry, told her what to write and he signed his letter. Marilyn stated her son is "old" for his age (15). He has had to help out since he was 9 and Marilyn went into the hospital. Marilyn has not been involved in foster care since 1991.

Allen appeared before the Board on August 8, 2012 and was approved to stay at the TLP. At that time, he hoped to eventually move to Amberg; however, that didn't work out with his parole. Allen stated he was "scared into taking" the plea deal. Allen believes he was originally charged with first degree sexual assault but it was later changed to second degree.

A motion to approve the appeal of Allen Leonhardt, address specific, was made by Heidi Michel, no second. Motion failed.

Discussion: Dean Gerondale has concerns about Allen's crime and the fact that Allen said he didn't do anything. Also, the treatment letter only states that Allen is enrolled in treatment and does not indicate how he is doing. Discussion about the fact Allen signed a medical release but no records were sent. Allen expressed his frustration about this because he thought he had done everything necessary. The Board agrees.

Heidi Michel asked Allen if he is on GPS and Allen stated he is.

Dean Gerondale placed a call to Jennifer Linzmeier at Attic Correctional Services asking why no treatment records were sent to them. Jennifer indicated Allen needs to sign a new release saying it's okay to send his progress reports.

Dean Gerondale stated he cannot approve Allen to this location until he sees Allen's progress notes.

A motion to approve the appeal of Allen Leonhardt, address specific, until the February 13 meeting, to allow him to provide treatment documentation, was made by Heidi Michel, no second. Motion failed.

Allen stated Marilyn Sittman has known him on and off for several years and he feels she knows him very well. He has made a lot of changes to better himself. He's not the same person. He wished the Board would reconsider.

Marilyn does not understand why the Board would deny Allen because it will mean he has to go back to jail, since the TLP has no room available. Dean stated the Board has to do its job to protect the public. He acknowledges that several people have appeared here on Allen's behalf today and that is commendable. Ben Heiman and Kathy De Cremer both stated they do not want to make a decision without sufficient documentation in front of them.

Marilyn Sittman stated that Allen's parole officer (Ben Lardinois) told her this morning there didn't seem to be any problem.

A motion to POSTPONE the appeal of Allen Leonhardt, until the February 13 meeting, to allow him to provide treatment documentation, was made by Dean Gerondale, seconded by Kathy De Cremer. All in favor. Motion carried.

c. Appeal of Richard Dombrowski requesting to move to 1548 Ellis St.

Richard Dombrowski appeared in person. Dean Gerondale advised Richard of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Richard is currently 18 years of age. He was charged as an adult.

Richard stated he was at home with his mom, his brother and the victim. They went downstairs to play video games in Richard's bedroom. Three or four days later, the victim made a comment to his mother and she began asking questions. Richard denies he made the victim touch him. He pled no contest, however, because his mother had a stroke and he wanted to get out to help her. Richard spent nine months in jail.

Richard would like to live with his uncle. He cannot live with his mom because she lives in Two Rivers. Richard would eventually like to get transferred to Two Rivers in order to help his mom. Richard was released on November 6, 2012 and is staying with his aunt and uncle because he has nowhere else to go. Richard is looking for employment.

The letter from the landlord states he will allow Richard to live at 1548 Ellis Street until the middle of March. Richard wants to get a job and get his own place. Richard gave the Board letters from his mother and Jim Drake. Richard only got into treatment three weeks ago because he could not get treatment while in jail. A month after he was released, he went into treatment. Richard also attends church and a bible study every Thursday.

Richard's aunt, Sally Tassoul, 1548 Ellis Street, appeared and spoke on Richard's behalf. Sally feels Richard is a good kid. He's been staying out of trouble and is trying to find a job. Sally does not feel Richard will reoffend. He has been with her since he was released. He had nowhere else to go.

Richard stated he has a couple friends he hangs around with. He's usually home by 7:00 p.m. His curfew is 9:00 p.m. Richard has a high school diploma.

Dawn Ragen is Richard's parole officer and he stated Dawn knows he's been staying with his aunt. Dawn has been to Sally's home to check things out.

A motion to approve the appeal of Richard Dombrowski, address specific, was made by Kathy De Cremer, seconded by Ben Heiman. Motion failed.

Discussion: Dean Gerondale stated he is not comfortable granting Richard permanent approval. Dean feels Richard needs to get a job and not rely totally on his aunt and uncle. Dean would prefer granting approval for 90 days to allow Richard to find a job and see Jim Drake again. Dean is "ballistic" that Richard's parole officer (Dawn Ragen) allowed him to live in the city knowing it violates the city's ordinance.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Richard Dombrowski, address specific, until the April 10, 2013 meeting, was made by Kathy De Cremer, seconded by Ben Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.

d. Appeal of Bradley Schwantes requesting to move to 1445 12th Ave.

Bradley Schwantes appeared in person. Dean Gerondale advised Bradley of his right to discuss treatment issues in closed session and informed him not to use the names of the victims.

Bradley would like to move in order to progress on his recovery. He has been living with his parents since he got out in 2010. Moving would give him more responsibility in life. Bradley is a detailer for Gandrud Chevrolet.

Bradley stated that in 2004 while he worked at a manufacturing company, he hung out with a co-worker at the co-worker's house. The victim was the co-worker's daughter. The relationship lasted about three months. He had given the victim a ride to his apartment. They kissed and ended up in his bedroom. Her mother later found a note written by the victim in the victim's dresser.

Bradley pled guilty to the crime. He was convicted in 2005.

A motion is made by Kathy De Cremer and seconded by Ben Heiman to move into closed session to discuss Bradley's treatment, pursuant to Section 146.82(1), Wis. Stats. All in favor. Motion carried. A motion is made by Ben Heiman and seconded by Kathy De Cremer to return to open session. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bradley and his fiancé are in the process of purchasing this home.

Terri Lindbo, 1021 Dodge Street, Kewaunee, Wisconsin is present at the meeting and spoke on Bradley's behalf. Bradley is her brother. She is very proud of him. Brad's

family is made up of a child care provider, a dispatcher, a nurse, a retail store employee, production workers, a homemaker, a web designer and they even have a brother who had a heart transplant. Brad is the youngest of 10. During his youth, Terri considered Brad to be somewhat immature, younger than his true age. Brad went through a rebellious period, like most teenagers do. However, with his level of maturity being less than his age during this time, he seemed to continue his rebellious period into adulthood, causing him to make some bad choices.

When Terri looks at Brad today, she sees a man that has now grown beyond his years. He's leading a productive life with a job and healthy relationships. He wants to progress to another level of responsibility with home ownership. This is another step to becoming more independent and leading a normal life.

Terri mentioned the brother who had a heart transplant. Brad's also demonstrated having a "new heart." Since he's been home again for the last several years, he has adjusted well to living a better life, free of destructive behaviors. He has a great amount of family support. All his siblings support him, as do his parents.

Terri believes that home ownership has a significant impact on a person's net worth, their personal achievement, their community contribution, health and overall quality of life and she hopes that the Board will allow Brad to pursue his dream of home ownership and leading a normal productive life.

Laura Maus, 902 Hoffman Road, Green Bay, Wisconsin appeared at the meeting and spoke on Brad's behalf. She is Brad's fiancé. They've been together a little over five years. When she first met him, he knew what he did was wrong but never really talked about it. When he came out of prison, you could see the change in him. Laura stopped drinking so they could be better together. Brad has taken a 360 while in prison and he now is more open and talks more. They would like to build a future together.

Jim Rozell, 1181 Beechwood Drive, Green Bay, Wisconsin appeared and spoke on Brad's behalf. Jim has known the family for 20 years and eventually married Brad's sister three years ago. When Brad came out of incarceration, he was completely different. Jim is very proud of him. Brad is working hard and he's turned into a man to be proud of.

Paul Schultz, 1502 Twelfth Avenue, appeared at this meeting. He's here to find out about Brad. His wife is very concerned about Brad moving into their neighborhood because they have two children (ages 8 and 6). There are a couple other offenders in the area and Paul's met both of them. Paul stated he has neither a positive nor negative opinion about Bradley Schwantes, because he does not know him. Paul stated he lives in a very close knit neighborhood that helps each other out.

A motion to APPROVE the appeal of Bradley Schwantes, address specific, was made by Kathy De Cremer, seconded by Heidi Michel.

Discussion: Based upon today's testimony from family members, Brad's work habits and treatment programs, Dean Gerondale feels Brad is a low risk for reoffending.

All in favor. Motion carried.

3. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date of February 13, 2013 was confirmed.

Motion to adjourn made by Dean Gerondale, seconded by Ben Heiman. All in favor. Motion carried.