



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety



Parole Board

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

KEVIN KEMPT

W51449

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: August 16, 2011

DATE OF DECISION: September 12, 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 with a review in five years. The decision is unanimous.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Kevin Kempt (whose true name is Jeffrey Hilton), age 18, and his co-defendant Robert Littles (whose true name is Armand Coleman), age 17, shot Calvin Reese, age 19, on November 2, 1990 in Boston. Kempt and Littles (Kempt's cousin) were drug dealers who had an on going dispute with Mr. Reese regarding the ownership of a vehicle and drug selling activities. On the evening of the murder, Kempt and Littles attended a party in Roxbury, at which Reese was also present. Kempt and Reese confronted each other during the party. Later in the night, Kempt initiated an argument with the victim outside the party so he would not notice Littles approaching behind him. During the argument, Littles walked up behind Reese and shot him in the back of the head. Kempt and Littles were arrested later that day.

Kempt and Littles pled guilty to second degree murder in Suffolk Superior Court on November 7, 1991.

Kempt's criminal record includes a prior New York commitment for armed robbery. Kempt was on New York parole in "whereabouts unknown status" when he and Littles murdered Reese. Additionally, Kempt served a 168-month federal sentence for engaging in criminal enterprise, conspiracy to distribute cocaine and distributing cocaine. This sentence was concurrent with the governing life sentence and expired in 2004. Currently, Kempt has an open

criminal matter in New York for weapons charges and a five-year federal probation term to be served upon his release from custody.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON AUGUST 16, 2011

Kevin Kempt made an opening statement in which he expressed remorse for the murder of Calvin Reese. He described himself as a "rebellious adolescent." He said he began to engage in criminal activity at the age of 13 by stealing bikes and selling marijuana. Kempt dropped out of school his freshman year. He advised of his affiliation with the gang NYC Boys and stated that he renounced his membership in 1999. He denied that he ever had a substance abuse problem, but said he began drinking alcohol at age 11, and smoked marijuana daily as a teenager.

Kempt described an active and dangerous criminal lifestyle that led up to the murder. He was dealing drugs in New York City when he was convicted of armed robbery in 1989 and sentenced to serve one to four years for robbing a taxi driver. Upon receiving parole, Kempt was soon arrested for possessing firearms but was released on bail. Kempt fled New York in early 1990 and lived in Boston under an assumed name so that he could resume dealing drugs without the inconvenience of pending charges and parole supervision. He was part of a very violent narcotics operation directed by Darryl Whiting. Whiting's group came to Roxbury from New York with the goal of using violence to "take over" a large part of the Boston crack cocaine business. Kempt stated that he made \$5,000 per week in Boston.

The inmate is now 39 and has been incarcerated for 21 years. He is housed at MCI-Norfolk where he receives positive housing and work evaluations. He obtained his GED in 1993. He has 20 disciplinary reports, many of which resulted from assaultive or disruptive behavior. Kempt had three returns to higher custody and a number of transfers to the Special Management Unit. He received his last disciplinary report in 2010. He continues to avail himself of programs offered by the Department of Correction and has participated in Correctional Recovery Program, Graduate Maintenance Program, Alternatives to Violence, Jericho Circle, Second Thoughts, Reentry Service Program, and Emotional Awareness. He has completed Culinary Arts Training and Law Clerk Training.

The inmate admitted that he "used an alias to hide my criminal behavior." He also admitted that he did commit the firearms offenses for which he is charged in New York. He said he has "consistently demonstrated that I am a changed man." He said Jericho Circle has been the program most helpful to him. He also values his participation in Second Thoughts, which allows him to counsel at-risk young people who visit the prison as part of the program. He said he has "developed empathy" and has "control over my thoughts."

Kempt has provided the Parole Board with an evolving narrative of his knowledge, intent, and conduct on the night of November 2, 1990. At his initial hearing in 2005, Kempt asserted that he had no knowledge of Littles' plan to shoot Reese, gave no assistance to Littles, and denied that he drove Littles away from the murder scene. At his 2009 hearing, Kempt admitted that he did drive Littles away from the scene immediately after the murder. He continued to maintain he had no intentional role in the murder.

At this hearing, Kempt was more forthcoming about his animosity towards the victim and their hostile interactions for several months. The victim survived a shooting (he was shot six times) in July 1990; Kempt said he had nothing to do with that crime. He revealed that on the night of the murder he and the victim had a hostile interaction in the night club shortly before the murder. He further revealed that he argued with the victim outside the club knowing that Littles was armed and preparing to step in to shoot the victim. Kempt and Littles

fled together, discarded the weapon, and hid in an apartment where police eventually found them.

Three people testified in support of parole; two were friends of the inmate and one did not know the inmate. The victim's mother, aunt, and Suffolk Assistant District Attorney Charles Bartoloni testified in opposition to parole.

III. DECISION

Kevin Kempt was a violent drug dealer who committed a murder while on parole for a violent offense. At his first two parole hearings, he provided the Parole Board with inaccurate and incomplete information about his role in the murder. He has actively participated in rehabilitative programs in recent years and that has improved his understanding of his criminal thinking and behavior. At this parole hearing, he finally provided an account of the crime in which he attributes some responsibility to himself. Based on his recent adjustments, Kempt is on a better path towards rehabilitation. He does need, however, a longer record of prosocial behavior and positive change. It is the unanimous opinion of the Board that Kempt's release at this time is incompatible with the welfare of society and that it is reasonably probable that he will re-offend if released on parole. Accordingly, parole is denied. Because the inmate needs time to achieve goals of rehabilitation and prosocial conduct, it would be counter-productive to shorten the five year period for review.

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



Caitlin E. Casey, Chief of Staff



Date