



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety



PAROLE BOARD

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

WARREN MONGO

W31491

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing after Revocation

DATE OF HEARING: July 12, 2011

DATE OF DECISION: August 17, 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 two years. The decision is unanimous.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Warren Mongo murdered Mary Francis, age 70, in Dorchester on March 6, 1967 as part of a purse snatch. Mr. Mongo was 16 years old. Mr. Mongo was drinking with two friends when they decided to steal a handbag. Mr. Mongo approached the victim and grabbed her handbag. The victim held onto the bag and Mr. Mongo struggled to take it. Mary Francis fell to the ground and struck her head on the pavement. Mr. Mongo fled with the handbag. The victim died ten days later from a head injury caused by the fall.

Mr. Mongo pleaded guilty to second-degree murder on December 13, 1967. His two friends were also charged with murder and robbery. At trial they were acquitted of murder and convicted of robbery for which they each received a sentence of 8 to 10 years.

II. PAROLE PERFORMANCE

Mr. Mongo committed the offense 44 years ago. He has been incarcerated for a total of 39 years and on parole supervision in the community for approximately five years. He has been paroled three times and was revoked each time due to his drug use. His initial parole eligibility

was delayed beyond 15 years because he escaped from furloughs in 1973 (for 47 days) and in 1980 (captured on the day he escaped). He was released on parole in 1987 after serving 18 years.

His first parole lasted nearly three years. He was returned to custody in 1989 after he was arrested for shoplifting, robbery, possession of cocaine, and drinking alcohol in public. The criminal cases were dismissed but parole was revoked after Mr. Mongo admitted he violated parole by drinking alcohol and shoplifting.

The inmate received a second positive parole vote in 1990. The vote required six months in pre-release. His release was delayed due to his own conduct as he was twice returned from pre-release to higher custody. His parole was eventually rescinded due to his poor conduct in the institution while awaiting parole release.

Mr. Mongo's next opportunity for parole came after a positive parole vote in 1998. He was required to complete the Correctional Recovery Academy program at the Department of Correction before release. It took him 2 years to meet that requirement and he was released to a long-term residential program in January 2000. The program terminated him for bad behavior but the Parole Board gave him another chance by sending him to another program rather than revoking parole. He completed that residential program but did not last long in the community. Malden Police arrested him in May 2001 for possession of heroin and carrying a dangerous weapon. He was convicted for those crimes and sentenced to serve one year. Parole was revoked and he resumed serving his life sentence.

The Parole Board granted a third parole release after a hearing in December 2001. The Board required the inmate to complete the Correctional Recovery Academy a second time. Upon completing the CRA, Mr. Mongo was released in December 2004 to a long-term residential program where he received substance abuse counseling and other services. His sobriety did not last long. He was returned to custody on September 14, 2005 after he tested positive for cocaine.

The Parole Board denied re-parole after a hearing in May 2006 and set a review in five years. The Board noted that Mr. Mongo had done little to address his drug problem since his return to custody.

III. PAROLE HEARING ON JULY 12, 2011

Warren Mongo accepts responsibility for the crime and his parole violations. He acknowledges the seriousness of his drug problem. He said that he responded to stress by using drugs on all three paroles. He said he snorted cocaine during his first parole. Since his re-incarceration in 2005 he has attended NA but has had no other program participation. He does not work in the institution although he did maintain employment during his paroles.

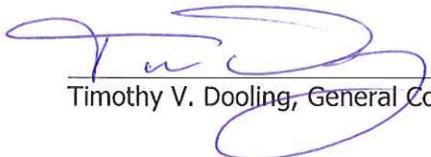
Mr. Mongo said he needs "a lot of structure" to succeed in the community. He said he has been a "stubborn guy" and "jail has saved my life." The inmate has not had a disciplinary report in the last 15 years.

No one appeared in support of parole. Suffolk Assistant District Attorney Charles Bartoloni submitted a letter in opposition to parole.

IV. DECISION

Warren Mongo killed Mary Francis and has made a mess of his own life. He did not intend to kill the victim and he did not use a weapon. He struggled with her but did not beat her. His violence caused her death and he was properly convicted of second-degree murder. Because his actions did not display the level of anger, violence and disregard for human life more commonly seen with second-degree murder, Mr. Mongo was well-situated to earn parole and live productively in the community if he committed to rehabilitation and sobriety. Instead he has made many mistakes over the decades that have required re-incarceration. His substance abuse issues have involved alcohol, cocaine, and heroin. When sober, his risk for violence appears minimal and suitable for community supervision. He has not, however, determined the right formula for maintaining sobriety. Even now he sits in prison without much productive activity or substance abuse programming. Mr. Mongo's inactivity suggests that he may prefer incarceration to community life, perhaps because he doubts his own ability to remain sober. If released, Mr. Mongo is likely to re-offend by consuming illegal drugs. His release is not compatible with the welfare of society. Accordingly, his parole is denied. He has already been returned for five years during which time his behavior has been compliant without disciplinary incident. The Board grants a review in two years, at which time the Board will have seven years of institutional behavior to consider. It would benefit Mr. Mongo if he increased his productive activity, including substance abuse and other rehabilitative programming.

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



Timothy V. Dooling, General Counsel



Date