



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety

Parole Board

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

MAURICE WILLIAMS

W33399

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing after Revocation

DATE OF HEARING: August 23, 2011

DATE OF DECISION: September 24, 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 three years. The decision is unanimous.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Maurice Williams, at age 21, shot and killed Leonard Castronova, age 17, on May 21, 1970 at approximately 8:30 p.m. in Roxbury. Williams was a drug dealer. Williams and Richard Clark attempted to sell heroin to the victim and a companion. During the transaction an argument ensued about payment for the drugs. As Castronova and his companion attempted to flee the location, Williams fired at the car, hitting Castronova in the chest. Williams was arrested by the Boston Police on June 17, 1970.

At trial, Williams was convicted of second-degree murder and unlawfully carrying a firearm. In 1973, Williams' conviction was affirmed by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and his co-defendant Richard Clark's conviction was reversed on the grounds of insufficient evidence. Williams filed a motion for new trial in 1977 and a second motion for new trial in 1997, both of which failed.

Williams' criminal history includes a prior conviction for breaking and entering and a juvenile delinquency for larceny. In addition, he was convicted for a prison escape in 1975; Williams escaped while on furlough and was not captured for three months.

II. PAROLE HISTORY

Maurice Williams has a very poor record of parole compliance. He has been paroled four times on this life sentence and failed every time. His violations result from domestic violence and substance abuse. Williams was paroled in November 1986 and remained in the community until January 1989 when he was arrested for disorderly conduct. After remaining in custody for four months, Williams was re-paroled and resided in the community for approximately four years before his parole was revoked for a new arrest for assault and battery on his wife and threatening his wife. Williams remained in custody until January 2000, when he was paroled for a third time and sent to the New England Aftercare Ministries program. Williams' parole was revoked for a third time on June 1, 2004 when he admitted to using cocaine and drinking alcohol. On November 15, 2004, he was paroled for a fourth time to a long term residential program and remained under community supervision for eight months before he was returned to custody after being arraigned in Brockton District Court for an assault and battery on his wife.

III. PAROLE HEARING ON AUGUST 23, 2011

During the hearing the Board focused on Williams' parole history of multiple opportunities and multiple failures. Williams read an opening statement and expressed the need to "get rid of triggers in my life." He advised that his relationship with his ex-wife was a trigger, "so I divorced her." Mr. Williams consistently expressed to the Board that his numerous failures on parole were due to his wife. His presentation focused on the actions of his ex-wife and several Board members pointed out to Williams that he appeared to blame his ex-wife for all his problems. Williams stated that he would like to be paroled to a long-term residential program.

The inmate is now 63 and has been incarcerated for approximately 34 years. He currently resides at MCI-Shirley. Since his return to custody, he has one disciplinary report and has completed the following programs: Correctional Recovery Academy and Graduate Maintenance, SMART Recovery, and Alternatives to Violence. He currently works as a runner and volunteers to reupholster the weight room benches.

During his closing statement, Williams stated that he appreciated his family attending the hearing, noting that they had not appeared at prior hearings, and he acknowledged that he will need to be an active member in AA every week.

Williams' sisters and brother testified in support of parole. The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office submitted a letter in opposition.

IV. DECISION

Maurice Williams has received four paroles on this life sentence. Each parole resulted in Williams being returned to custody as a parole violator for new arrests for domestic violence or for the use of drugs and alcohol. During his hearing, Williams expressed little insight into his own conduct or responsibility for these violations. He continued to blame his ex-wife for his problems. Williams needs to address the causative factors that resulted in numerous parole violations and take responsibility for his actions. After reviewing Maurice Williams' parole history and noting his lack of insight into his conduct the Board concludes that he is not rehabilitated. Consequently, there remains a reasonable probability to re-offend and his release is incompatible with the welfare of society. Parole is denied with a review in three years. That review period should give Mr. Williams ample time to take responsibility for his rehabilitation by using programs to examine his own attitudes and conduct.

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


Timothy V. Dooling, General Counsel

10/5/12
Date