

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

ABDUR NADHEERUL-ISLAM
(formerly known as Paul Guild)
W46510

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: July 29, 2021

DATE OF DECISION: March 31, 2022

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa¹

DECISION OF THE BOARD: After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of offense, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in two years from the date of the hearing.²

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On May 18, 1989, in Suffolk Superior Court, Abdur Nadheerul-Islam³ pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of Anthony Johnson and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. He also pleaded guilty to several other crimes and received sentences of 4 to 5 years each for possession of a firearm, unarmed burglary, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and receiving stolen property. In addition, on September 7, 1990, in

¹ Chair Moroney was recused from this hearing.

² Two Board Members voted to grant parole to DMH or transitional housing.

³ On January 6, 1999, Mr. Abdur Nadheerul-Islam changed his name from Paul Lawrence Guild to Abdur Nadheerul-Islam. Mr. Nadeerul-Islam has other aliases, including Eric Arthur, Daniel Gibb, and Lizard Guild.

Suffolk Superior Court, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam pleaded guilty to manslaughter for the shooting death of Joseph Sargent. He was sentenced to a concurrent term of 10 to 12 years.

On June 30, 1986, Abdur Nadheerul-Islam, age 18, went to his aunt's house, forced open the door to the bedroom of his cousin (a Boston police officer), and stole his .38 caliber revolver. At approximately 10:40 p.m., Mr. Nadheerul-Islam, armed with the stolen gun, joined two or three of his friends (who were also armed) to "squash one particular beef." Mr. Nadeerul-Islam then decided to rob "some unsuspecting drug dealers" and came upon Joseph Sargent, age 29. Mr. Nadheerul-Islam robbed Mr. Sargent and then shot him in the abdomen. Mr. Sargent was transported to Boston City Hospital, where he died later that evening. Mr. Nadheerul-Islam was subsequently arrested and charged with breaking and entering the officer's home and unlawfully carrying a stolen revolver. Mr. Nadheerul-Islam defaulted on both charges.

While on default, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam, age 20, stabbed a man during a fight on Eustis Street in Boston on May 27, 1988. Mr. Nadheerul-Islam inflicted serious injuries, which included slicing his face.⁴ Then, on June 17, 1988, approximately three weeks after the stabbing, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam shot and killed Anthony Johnson, age 21, in front of his home on Everton Street in Dorchester. At approximately 8:00 p.m., Mr. Nadheerul-Islam, armed with a shotgun, walked to the gate of Mr. Johnson's driveway and fired two shots. One shot penetrated Mr. Johnson's right thigh. The second shot struck Mr. Johnson's left jaw and penetrated his neck, larynx, and carotid artery. Mr. Nadheerul-Islam then entered a waiting vehicle, operated by co-defendant William Samuels, and fled the area. Mr. Johnson was moved to Boston City Hospital, where he was pronounced dead later that evening. On August 20, 1988, Boston police arrested Mr. Nadheerul-Islam for the murder of Mr. Johnson and recovered a .357 Ruger magnum revolver and eight bags of heroin.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON JULY 29, 2021

Abdur Nadheerul-Islam, now 53-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on July 29, 2021, and was represented by Attorney Deirdre Thurber. He was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2003, and after his review hearings in 2008, 2013, and 2018. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam apologized to "everyone" to whom he "caused pain." Upon questioning, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam told the Board that he takes responsibility for the deaths of Mr. Johnson and Mr. Sargent and expressed remorse for his actions. When Board Members questioned him as to his mental illness, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam stated that he suffers from schizophrenia and paranoid delusional disorder, which causes him to "mix fantasy with reality." He believes that correctional officers are harassing him and that there are "things with female staff." When the Board inquired as to why he stopped taking his medication, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam responded that he "wanted to show the Board [he] could function without taking [his] medication." Nonetheless, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam admitted that he suffers from mental illness and needs both medication and therapy.

Board Members inquired about a disciplinary report incurred by Mr. Nadheerul-Islam after he stopped taking his medication and, subsequently, decompensated in 2018. Mr. Nadheerul-Islam explained that he has "paranoid thoughts" and needs to talk to medical

⁴ On May 19, 1989, Nadheerul-Islam pleaded guilty to assault and battery with a dangerous weapon in Suffolk Superior Court.

professionals about what he is experiencing. After the incident, an order for a Roger's guardianship was in place to assist with medication compliance. When counsel indicated that the Roger's order was no longer in place, Board Members expressed concern as to Mr. Nadheerul-Islam's future compliance with his medication protocol. When asked if he believes his mental illness was a factor in his crimes, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam told the Board that "there's a possibility," but explained that he was "doing a lot of drugs" and "had a lot of trauma" at the time. He became "overconfident" and "detached from reality." Mr. Nadheerul-Islam also admitted that he did not have any empathy or compassion at the time.

The Board acknowledged that Mr. Nadheerul-Islam has participated in some programs. Upon inquiry, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam explained that his programming efforts have helped him learn that "people have rights" and that "you cannot cause pain to others." He reported his participation in the Inside Out Program, as well as Alternative's to Violence, where he is a facilitator. Mr. Nadheerul-Islam also told the Board that he was participating in Restorative Justice prior to the pandemic and plans on participating again once it becomes available. He works in the Mosque and participates in religious activities.

The Board considered the testimony of Raleigh Chilton, LMHC and Mr. Nadheerul-Islam's aunt, both of whom expressed their support of parole. The Board considered the written evaluation of Dr. Frank DiCataldo. The Board also considered testimony from a sister, mother and aunt of Anthony Johnson's Child, as well as the wife and son of Joseph Sargent, all of whom expressed opposition to parole. The Board considered a letter of opposition submitted by Superintendent Paul Donovan of the Boston Police Department.

III. DECISION

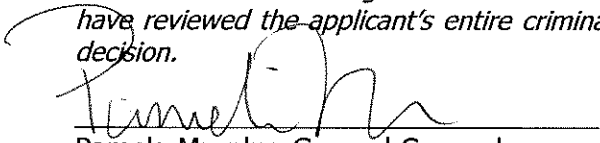
The Board is of the opinion that Abdur Nadheerul-Islam has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Nadheerul-Islam has served approximately 32 years for the murder of Anthony Johnson, age 21. In addition, he was convicted of the 1986 manslaughter of Joseph Sargent. Mr. Nadheerul-Islam has had a long history of mental illness. His most recent decompensation occurred in 2018. The Board considered the forensic evaluation of Dr. DiCataldo, dated July 2021. Dr. DiCataldo recommends that he continue treatment and demonstrate an ability to manage stress with reduced clinical supports over time. He also recommended he demonstrate a continued acknowledgment and acceptance of [the] need for medication to maintain stability. Based upon the report of Dr. DiCataldo, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam should demonstrate a longer period of stability and medication compliance which will be critical to successful reentry.

The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such 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." 120 C.M.R. 300.04. The Board also considered a risk and needs assessment, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Nadheerul-Islam's risk of recidivism. The Board considered Mr. Nadheerul-Islam's institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Nadheerul-Islam's case, the

Board is of the opinion that Abdur Nadheerul-Islam is not rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Nadheerul-Islam's next appearance before the Board will take place in two years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Nadheerul-Islam to continue working towards his full rehabilitation.

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.



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

3/30/2022
Date