

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**PAROLE BOARD**

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*Acting Executive Director*

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

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

**TYPE OF HEARING:**      **Review Hearing**

**DATE OF HEARING:**      **July 18, 2023**

**DATE OF DECISION:**      **November 29, 2023**

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Tina M. Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, James Kelcourse

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On May 18, 1989, in Suffolk Superior Court, Abdur Nadheerul-Islam<sup>1</sup> 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 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. Nadheerul-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.

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<sup>1</sup> On January 6, 1999, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam changed his name from Paul Lawrence Guild to Abdur Nadheerul-Islam. Mr. Nadheerul-Islam has other aliases, including Eric Arthur, Daniel Gibb, and Lizard Guild.

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.<sup>2</sup> 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.

**PAROLE HEARING:** Mr. Nadheerul-Islam appeared before the Board for a review hearing on July 18, 2023. He was represented by Attorney Deirdre Thurber. Parole was denied after his initial hearing in 2003, and after review hearings in 2008, 2013, 2018, and 2021. The entire video recording of Mr. Nadheerul-Islam's July 18, 2023 hearing is fully incorporated by reference into the Board's decision.

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** 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.

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 by unanimous vote that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is granted to Behavioral Health Network Connections or residential care provided by the Mental Health Alliance.

In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Nadheerul-Islam's institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board has also considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Nadheerul-Islam's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Nadheerul-Islam's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Nadheerul-Islam is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time, subject to special conditions.

Since his last hearing, subject has developed insight into his mental illness and need for treatment/medication compliance. Subject has completed many rehabilitative programs that he has benefitted from. Subject no longer requires a Rogers and was able to articulate how medications have assisted him. The Board notes that subject was also able to articulate how his periods of non-compliance have led to decompensation and distorted thinking. Subject has been sober for 34 years. The Board is of the opinion that subject is committed to treatment and sobriety and is ready to continue such treatment in a residential setting, where his mental health needs will be understood and met. A specific re-entry plan is being recommended in light of his

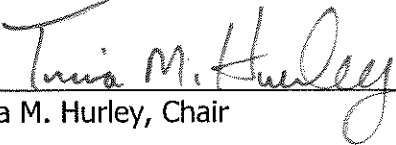
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<sup>2</sup> On May 19, 1989, Mr. Nadheerul-Islam pleaded guilty to assault and battery with a dangerous weapon in Suffolk Superior Court.

specific needs. The Board considered the testimony of an Assistant District Attorney from Suffolk County and the re-entry plan provided by Jacquelyn Oppler LICSW.

**Special Conditions:** Waive work for SSI; Curfew - must be at home between 10PM & 6AM; Electronic monitoring at Parole Officer's discretion; Must take prescribed medication; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with victim's family; Must have mental health counseling; Residential program – Behavioral Health Network Connections or Residential Care by Mental Health Alliance; Mandatory - sign releases of information for all providers; Mandatory - must comply with all recommendations of mental health providers.

*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.*

  
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Tina M. Hurley, Chair

11/29/2023

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Date