



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

AHMAD BRIGHT  
W94198

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** April 13, 2021

**DATE OF DECISION:** October 21, 2021

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On April 9, 2009, after a jury trial in Middlesex Superior Court, 16-year-old Ahmad Bright was found guilty of the second-degree murder of 19-year-old Corey Davis as a joint venturer and was sentenced to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Bright received a four-year concurrent sentence for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and a three-year concurrent sentence for unlawful possession of a firearm.

Mr. Bright appeared before the Parole Board for an initial hearing on April 13, 2021, and was represented by Attorney Jason Benzaken. The entire video recording of Mr. Bright's April 13, 2021, hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

**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 by unanimous vote that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole. Reserve to Community Resources for Justice – Transitional Housing for six months. Mr. Bright was 16-years-old when he participated in the murder of Corey Davis. He has been in minimum security for two and a half years and has participated in over 30 programs. Along with completing significant programs he has pursued educational opportunities. The Board considered the expert opinion of Dr. Mendoza and the Diatchenko and Miller factors in rendering their decision.

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. In the context of an offender convicted of first- or second-degree murder, who was a juvenile at the time the offense was committed, the Board takes into consideration the attributes of youth that distinguish juvenile homicide offenders from similarly situated adult offenders. Consideration of these factors ensures that the parole candidate, who was a juvenile at the time they committed murder, has "a real chance to demonstrate maturity and rehabilitation." *Diatchenko v. District Attorney for the Suffolk District*, 471 Mass. 12, 30 (2015); See also *Commonwealth v. Okoro*, 471 Mass. 51 (2015). The factors considered by the Board include the offender's "lack of maturity and an underdeveloped sense of responsibility, leading to recklessness, impulsivity, and heedless risk-taking; vulnerability to negative influences and outside pressures, including from their family and peers; limited control over their own environment; lack of the ability to extricate themselves from horrific, crime-producing settings; and unique capacity to change as they grow older." *Id.*

In forming this opinion, the Board has also taken into consideration Mr. Bright'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. Bright's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Bright's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Bright is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time.

**Special Conditions:** Reserve to Community Resources for Justice – Transitional Housing (CRJ-TH) for six months; Waive work for two weeks; Must be at home between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.; ELMO-electronic monitoring; 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 the victim's family; Must have substance abuse evaluation – adhere to plan; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment/transition; May have contact with [named individual].

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

  
Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

10/21/2021  
Date