



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

AJAMU ADISA
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS ANTHONY OWENS)

W50618

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: July 9, 2019

DATE OF DECISION: March 26, 2020

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On March 9, 1992, in Suffolk Superior Court, Ajamu Adisa (formerly known as Anthony Owens) pleaded guilty to second degree murder in the death of Roberto Cruz and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Adisa pleaded guilty to additional charges that included a sentence of 30 to 40 years for armed robbery. Mr. Adisa's convictions from a second incident included two additional counts of armed robbery, for which he received a sentence of 10 to 15 years each, and possession of a firearm, for which he received a 3 to 5 year sentence. All sentences were ordered to be served concurrently. Mr. Adisa committed these crimes while on probation from a 1990 conviction, in Suffolk Superior Court, for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Mr. Adisa, now 52-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on July 9, 2019. He was not represented by counsel. This was Mr. Adisa's fourth appearance before the Board, having been denied parole in 2009, 2014, and 2017. The entire video recording of Mr. Adisa's July 9, 2019 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 that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole.¹ Reserve to Interstate Compact – Georgia but not before

¹ Two Board Members voted to deny parole.

completion of Building Trades and 18 months in lower security. Mr. Adisa has served 28 years for the murder of Roberto Cruz. Release after a gradual transition is not incompatible with the welfare of society. Incarceration has served its purpose.

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

Special Conditions: Reserve to Interstate Compact – Georgia after 18 months in lower security; Waive work for 2 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; No contact with victim's family; Must have substance abuse evaluation and adhere to plan; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment/transition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The above decision is an abbreviated administrative decision issued in an effort to render an expedited resolution in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Adisa, through counsel, has waived his right to a full administrative decision.

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



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

3/26/2020
Date