

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



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

**ANTHONY FREEMAN
W90240**

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing
DATE OF HEARING: November 10, 2020
DATE OF DECISION: October 18, 2021

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley¹

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 not a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is denied with a review in three years from the date of the hearing.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On July 12, 2007, after a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Anthony Freeman was found guilty of armed robbery as a habitual offender and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he received a concurrent 14 to 15-year sentence for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

On October 25, 2005, Anthony Freeman (approximately age 40) and Christopher Freeman (his brother and co-defendant) were at a friend's home in Dorchester. Another male, later identified as the victim, Anthony Williams, was present in another area of the residence. Believing that Mr. Williams may be in possession of cash, Anthony Freeman suggested to his brother that the pair rob him. Anthony Freeman and Christopher Freeman then entered the room in which Mr. Williams was seated, and Christopher Freeman proceeded to stab him in the

¹ Chair Gloriann Moroney recused. Board Member Colette Santa was unavailable. Board Member Karen McCarthy was present for the hearing but was not a Board Member at the time of vote.

leg. The men rifled through Mr. Williams' wallet, but did not find any cash. They demanded that Mr. Williams provide his ATM PIN number. After Mr. Williams managed to take control of the knife, Anthony Freeman hit him in the head with a liquor bottle. Mr. Williams sustained a head injury and was treated for blood clots in his brain. The men took Mr. Williams' wedding band, car keys, jewelry, and other belongings. Mr. Freeman was arrested on a warrant on December 9, 2005.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Anthony Freeman, now 56-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on November 10, 2020, for an initial hearing. He was not represented by counsel. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Freeman provided an overview of his childhood, as well as the events leading up to his involvement in the criminal justice system. He explained how he first used alcohol in high school and then stopped attending school altogether. He subsequently became involved in criminal activities, blaming poor peer influences who contributed to the decisions he made.

When the Board questioned Mr. Freeman as to the governing offense, he admitted to conceiving the idea to rob Mr. Williams, whom he believed to be a drug distributor. In contrast to his testimony at trial, during which he denied robbing Mr. Williams and claimed to act in defense of his brother, Mr. Freeman admitted that he and his brother entered the room in which the victim was seated and demanded money. He claimed that they were not armed when they entered the apartment, but rather, Christopher Freeman retrieved a knife from the kitchen prior to their entry to the room. The altercation became physical when Mr. Williams refused to give them his money. Mr. Freeman stated that Christopher Freeman stabbed Mr. Williams in the leg with the knife and that he (Anthony Freeman) struck Mr. Williams over the head, at least twice, with a liquor bottle. Mr. Freeman acknowledged that Mr. Williams suffered a head injury as a result.

The Board questioned Mr. Freeman about his significant prior convictions. Regarding his first state prison commitment for manslaughter, Mr. Freeman stated that he was involved in a fight that resulted in his companion shooting another man. Mr. Freeman also acknowledged serving two additional state prison sentences, one of which was for armed robbery. He was on parole from the most recent of those sentences when he committed the governing offense. Mr. Freeman claimed that alcohol use contributed to his prior criminal behavior.

Mr. Freeman explained how his mindset shifted in 2018, when he began to avail himself of programming. He completed Jericho Circle, citing this program as the most beneficial in understanding his past behavior. Mr. Freeman also completed Alternatives to Violence, Correctional Recovery Academy, and Restorative Justice and obtained his GED. He incurred his most recent disciplinary report in 2018. Mr. Freeman reported that he has maintained his sobriety since 2005. However, he has not engaged in substance abuse treatment.

The Board considered a letter submitted by the Boston Police Department in opposition to parole.

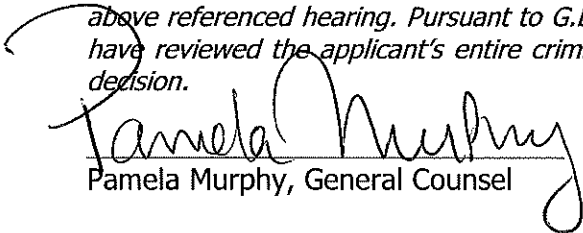
III. DECISION

On October 25, 2005, Anthony Freeman and his brother, co-defendant Christopher Freeman, stabbed and robbed Anthony Williams in Boston. Mr. Freeman has served approximately 15 years. Mr. Freeman only recently appears to be making strides in his rehabilitation. Since transferring to MCI Norfolk in 2018, his adjustment has improved and he completed several programs to include Jericho Circle, Criminal Thinking, Restorative Justice, and the Correctional Recovery Academy. He is encouraged to pursue vocational training. Release at this time is incompatible with the welfare of society.

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. Freeman'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. Freeman's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Freeman's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Anthony Freeman is not rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Freeman's next appearance before the Board will take place in three years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Freeman to continue working toward 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

10/18/2021
Date