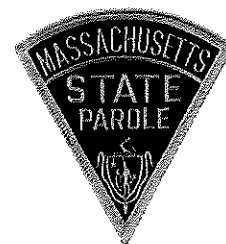


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

ANTOINE PRICE
W99319

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **September 26, 2023**

DATE OF DECISION: **December 14, 2023**

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On September 26, 2011, after a jury trial in Worcester Superior Court, Antoine Price was convicted of second-degree murder in the shooting death of 18 year old Eric Hayes and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Price received a 5 year to 7-year concurrent sentence for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, a 4 year to 5 year concurrent sentence for possession of a firearm, and a 2 year concurrent sentence for possession of ammunition.

Eric Hayes and Catelynn Rodwill (the co-defendant of Antoine Price) had been in a romantic relationship prior to the murder. Ms. Rodwill had become pregnant, causing issues in the relationship. She later miscarried. Thereafter, beginning in October 2006, Ms. Rodwill began dating Antoine Price. On the afternoon of November 20, 2006, Ms. Rodwill, Mr. Price, and Mr. Hayes were "hanging out" in Ms. Rodwill's third floor apartment in Worcester. Mr. Price and Mr. Hayes had an argument that escalated, lasting about five minutes. Mr. Price left the apartment, but he was subsequently picked up by Ms. Rodwill. As they drove back to the apartment, Mr. Price (who had consumed alcohol much of the day) said, "[Mr. Hayes is] still going to get it." When they returned around 8:00pm and parked the car, Mr. Price asked Ms. Rodwill to "pop the trunk." Mr. Hayes then appeared from behind some bushes, and an argument ensued between Mr. Price and Mr. Hayes. Mr. Price grabbed a gun from a bag inside the trunk. When Mr. Hayes asked "What? Are you going to shoot me?" Mr. Price fired the gun shooting the victim near his waist. Multiple witnesses then saw Mr. Price repeatedly punch, kick, and "stomp" on Mr. Hayes. Ms. Rodwill also struck Mr. Hayes while he was on the ground. Witnesses heard Mr. Hayes say, "I'm dying" and "he shot me" and "tell my mom I love her."

Mr. Hayes subsequently died due to the gunshot wound to his torso which caused perforation of his bladder and major blood vessels. Mr. Price and Ms. Rodwill fled the scene. They were subsequently arrested at the apartment of Mr. Proce's mother.

PAROLE HEARING: Antoine Price, now 39 years old, appeared before the Board on September 26, 2023. He was represented by student attorneys under the supervision of Attorney Frank Herrmann. Mr. Price was previously before the Board for an initial hearing in September 2021 at which time parole was denied with a review in two years. The entire video recording of Mr. Price's September 26, 2023, hearing is fully incorporated by reference in 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, the criminal record, the 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 subject to special conditions.

In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Price'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. Price's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Price's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Antoine Price is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time, subject to special conditions. Parole to a long-term residential program after completion of 9 months in lower security.

Mr. Price was before the Parole Board for the second time. He accepted the Board's recommendations and advanced his commitment to his rehabilitation by completing CRA and continuing his education and vocational skills. He has maintained his sobriety throughout his incarceration. Mr. Price also continued his work in the area of restorative justice. Mr. Price has addressed the Board's concerns. He renounced gang affiliation and only has one sanctioned disciplinary report. Mr. Price invested in numerous violence reduction programs and pursued counseling to address his history of trauma. Mr. Price has addressed his core need areas and presented as ready to continue his treatment in the community. Mr. Price has a strong support system and employment opportunities. It is noted that Mr. Price has demonstrated a strong work ethic. The Board is of the opinion that Mr. Price will benefit from a transition through lower security to a long-term residential treatment program. Mr. Price had three members of his family speak in support. The Assistant District Attorney from Worcester County spoke in opposition to parole. The victim's mother wrote a letter of opposition that was read into the record.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Reserve to long term residential program; Waive work for long term residential program; Curfew: must be home between 10 pm and 6 am or at POs discretion; Electronic monitoring at PO's discretion; Supervise for drugs -- testing in accordance with agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence -- testing in accordance with agency policy; No contact or association with gang/gang activities; No contact with victim's family; Must have substance abuse evaluation and comply with recommended treatment plan; Must have mental health counseling for transitional purposes; Must report to assigned MA parole office on day of release.

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.


Tina M. Hurley, Chair


Date