

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Thomas A. Turco III
Secretary

Telephone # (508) 650-4500
Facsimile # (508) 650-4599

Gloriann Moroney
Chair

Kevin Keefe
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF
BRIAN DAWSON
W51119

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: November 3, 2020

DATE OF DECISION: May 6, 2021

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On September 9, 1991, in Hampden Superior Court, Brian Dawson pleaded guilty to accessory before the fact of second-degree murder for his participation in the death of 23-year-old Jerry Hughes. He received a life sentence with the possibility of parole.

Mr. Dawson appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on November 3, 2020 and was not represented by counsel. This was Mr. Dawson's fourth appearance before the Board, having been denied in 2008, 2014, and 2017. Mr. Dawson postponed his hearing in 2013. The entire video recording of Mr. Dawson's November 3, 2020 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 Connecticut detainer, Mr. Dawson is to serve a one-year commitment for an assault on another inmate in September of 2005. Mr. Dawson has served approximately 30 years for his involvement in the murder of 23-year-old Jerry Hughes in March of 1991. Since his last hearing he has completed Restorative Justice Reading Group, Reentry and the Retreat, Able Minds, and Career Pathways. Additionally, he has obtained a

¹ Four Board Members voted to grant parole, and two Board Members voted to deny parole with a review in two years.

welding license. Mr. Dawson has a solid support network. Release on parole supervision meets the legal standard.

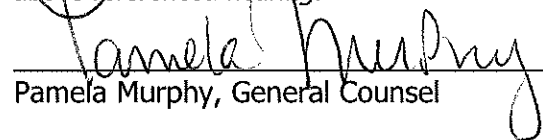
The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society."

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

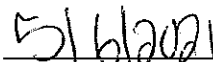
Special Conditions: Reserve to Connecticut detainer; Supervise for drugs; testing in accordance with agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence; testing in accordance with agency policy; No contact with victim's family; Mandatory - adhere to the rules and regulations of the Connecticut Department of Correction.

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. Dawson, 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



Date