



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

BRIAN JENNINGS

W51481

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **December 10, 2019**

DATE OF DECISION: **June 18, 2020**

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On November 15, 1991, in Suffolk Superior Court, a jury convicted Brian Jennings of second degree murder in the death of 29-year-old Christopher Tirella and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Mr. Jennings was 18-years-old at the time of the offense.

Mr. Jennings, now 48-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on December 10, 2019. He was represented by Attorney John Mateus. This was Mr. Jennings' second appearance before the Board, having been denied parole in 2005 and postponing his 2010 and 2015 review hearings. The entire video recording of Mr. Jennings' December 10, 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 not a suitable candidate for parole.¹ Parole is denied with a review in 2 years. Mr. Jennings has served approximately 29 years for stabbing and killing Mr. Tirella. Although it appears Mr. Jennings has made strides in his rehabilitation, it is the opinion of the Board that he has yet to make enough progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. He does not understand how his history of disciplinary infractions is indicative of his resistance to supervision. He needs to exhibit a period of positive adjustment and remain disciplinary report-

¹ Two Board Members voted to grant parole but not before two years in lower security.

free. The Board did review counsel's petition in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and Mr. Jennings' medical issues that could place him at a greater risk to contract the virus.

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. Jennings' 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. Jennings' risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Jennings' case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Jennings is not yet rehabilitated and therefore does not merit parole at this time.

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. Jennings, 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