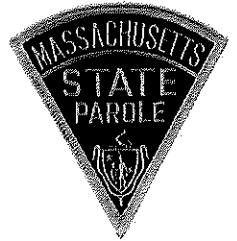


*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*



**PAROLE BOARD**

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*Chair*

**Kevin Keefe**  
*Executive Director*

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**COREY WALKER**

**W60782**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** **Review Hearing**

**DATE OF HEARING:** **August 20, 2019**

**DATE OF DECISION:** **May 20, 2020**

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

**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 scheduled in three years from the date of the hearing.<sup>1</sup>

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On July 13, 1996, in Suffolk Superior Court, Corey Walker pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of 21-year-old Jesse Shamele Baker. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On the same date, he pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm and received a concurrent sentence of 3 to 4 years. Two additional counts of witness intimidation were filed.<sup>2</sup>

On September 5, 1995, 20-year-old Corey Walker was in the Dorchester neighborhood of Boston with two brothers, Kevin and Willie Scott. The three men encountered Jesse Shamele

<sup>1</sup> One Board member voted to deny with a review scheduled in two years.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Walker's co-defendant, Phillip Jones, was convicted of accessory before the fact and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Baker, who was acquainted with the Scott brothers. Mr. Walker had never met Mr. Baker, but heard (earlier in the year) that Mr. Baker had allegedly set up a shooting that targeted Kevin Scott. All four men eventually traveled to Phillip Jones' home in Dorchester.

When they arrived, Mr. Jones was standing on his porch with other individuals from the neighborhood. Mr. Jones yelled at Mr. Baker, telling him that he "couldn't stand him" and that he "always wanted to do something to him." Mr. Walker then went to the porch, where Mr. Jones motioned for him to go into the hallway. They had a brief conversation during which Mr. Jones gave Mr. Walker a loaded .357 magnum revolver, telling him that if Mr. Baker kept arguing, then "do what you got to do." When Mr. Walker went back down to the street, he encountered Mr. Baker, who was yelling up to Mr. Jones. After Mr. Walker told Mr. Baker that he "talked too much," a verbal confrontation ensued. Mr. Walker continued to exchange words with Mr. Baker and, after looking to Mr. Jones to "get a nod" to shoot him, Mr. Walker lifted his shirt and removed the .357 magnum revolver that Mr. Jones had given him. Mr. Walker then shot Mr. Baker and fled the scene.

On October 10, 1995, after an in-depth investigation, Mr. Walker was arrested by Boston police. Mr. Walker provided a tape-recorded statement that detailed his involvement in the shooting. He also told police about Mr. Jones' participation. Mr. Walker told police that while he was on the porch, Mr. Jones gave him a .357 handgun, telling him that "this will do the job" and that he (Mr. Jones) would nod to him when it was time to shoot Mr. Baker.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON AUGUST 20, 2019**

Corey Walker, now 44-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on August 20, 2019, for a review hearing. Mr. Walker was denied parole after both his 2010 initial hearing and his 2015 review hearing. He was not represented by counsel. Mr. Walker told the Board that he grew up in a housing project in Chicago before moving to Boston at age 15. He became involved with a security threat group at age 12 and, when he moved to Massachusetts, began a local chapter. Mr. Walker described himself as a "wild, out of control, young kid" that "blamed the world" for his problems. The Board noted that Mr. Walker suffered both physical and emotional trauma as a child. Mr. Walker stated that the death of his brother caused him to "lose himself," so he proceeded to become even more involved in street life.

Board Members asked Mr. Walker to describe the murder of Mr. Baker. Although he had gone to high school with Mr. Baker, Mr. Walker stated that he did not recognize him on the day of the murder, as both men had their faces covered. He did not know of any plan to "set up" Mr. Baker. Mr. Walker claimed that he only grew concerned that an altercation would take place was after verbal arguments broke out between Mr. Baker and the other individuals (at Mr. Jones' home). He denied taking the gun from Mr. Jones, to murder Mr. Baker, at Mr. Jones' suggestion. Instead, Mr. Walker claimed that he was "picking up" the gun that he had previously purchased. The Board discussed the discrepancies between the prior statements of Mr. Walker, and of witnesses, to Mr. Walker's description of the incident at this hearing. Mr. Walker stated that a "nod" was never given to him by Mr. Jones; instead, he shot him because Mr. Baker was lunging at him with a knife.

Mr. Walker stated that the entire altercation was a "stupid situation" and, "to this day," he does not know why it happened. He told the Board that he never intended to kill Mr. Baker

because he shot him in a place where Mr. Baker "was not supposed to die." Mr. Walker said that, had he gone to trial, he likely would have been acquitted or convicted of a lesser offense than second-degree murder. He explained that he tendered a plea to take responsibility for his actions. When Board Members asked if he felt that he deserved a life sentence, Mr. Walker replied, "No," and further stated that he should be at home, not at a parole hearing.

The Board noted that Mr. Walker participated in additional programming since his last hearing, including Toastmasters and AA/NA. He also serves as President of the Rastafarian Group and maintains employment as a unit runner. The Board expressed its concern, however, as to the massive amount of disciplinary reports that Mr. Walker accrued during his incarceration. Mr. Walker noted that his accrual of disciplinary reports has slowed down, despite receiving 21 disciplinary reports since his last hearing. The Board discussed its concern that Mr. Walker has a history of violence and threatening behavior and, in addition, noted that Mr. Walker had engaged in an inappropriate relationship with a female institutional staff member. Mr. Walker acknowledged his missteps, but noted his strides in rehabilitation, which include separating himself from security threat groups, helping other inmates, and pursuing mental health counseling.

The Board told Mr. Walker that he would benefit from Correctional Recovery Academy and Anger Management, if these programs became available to him. Mr. Walker agreed that he struggles with anger issues, which causes him to "get reckless" at times.

Mr. Walker's mother, sister, and fiancée testified in support of parole. Boston Police Commissioner William Gross submitted a letter in opposition to parole.

### **III. DECISION**

Corey Walker has served 24 years for the murder of Jesse Shamele Baker. He continues to demonstrate behavior that would indicate his release would be incompatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Walker needs to remain disciplinary report free and program compliant.

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

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

  
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Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

5/20/2020  
Date