



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Terrence M. Reidy
Secretary

Telephone: (508)-650-4500

Facsimile: (508)-650-4599

Tina M. Hurley
Chair

Lian Hogan
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

COREY WALKER
W60782

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **December 5, 2023**

DATE OF DECISION: **April 3, 2024**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse

VOTE: Parole reserve to Dismas House 2 weeks from date of decision.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY:

On June 13, 1996, in Suffolk Superior Court, Corey Walker pleaded guilty to second degree murder in the death of 21-year-old Jesse Shamele Baker. Mr. Walker 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.

Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2010, and review hearings in 2015, 2019, and 2022. On December 5, 2023, Mr. Walker appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Northeastern University School of Law students Jalon Fowler and Christopher Darling, who were supervised by Attorney Patricia Garin. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Walker's December 5, 2023 hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On September 5, 1995, Corey Walker met up with Kevin Scott and his brother, Willie Scott in Dorchester. The men decided to head to Navillus Terrance, where their associate, Phillip Jones, resided. On their way, the men ran into the victim, Jesse Shamele Baker, and confronted him about Mr. Jones' belief that Mr. Baker had arranged to have Kevin Scott shot. Despite this accusation, Mr. Baker traveled with Mr. Walker and the Scott brothers to Mr. Jones' residence and found Mr. Jones outside on his porch. Mr. Jones and Mr. Baker then argued.

According to Mr. Walker, Mr. Jones eventually handed Mr. Walker a loaded .357 caliber firearm and the men reached the understanding that Mr. Walker would shoot Mr. Baker on Mr. Jones' cue. At some point thereafter, Mr. Walker approached Mr. Baker in the street and a verbal argument ensued during which Mr. Walker said something to the effect of "you talk too much." Sometime thereafter, Mr. Walker brandished the firearm and shot Mr. Baker, who died from his injuries. Mr. Walker fled the area and later admitted that he had taken the gun with him and stashed it.

APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. In making this determination, the Board takes into consideration an incarcerated individual's institutional behavior, their participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize the incarcerated individual's risk of recidivism. M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. The Board also considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the incarcerated individual at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the incarcerated individual's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board (if applicable).

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Corey Walker has been incarcerated for approximately 28 years. He committed the underlying offense at the age of 20 and he is now 48 years old. Mr. Walker has incurred multiple disciplinary reports in the past year, but several experts testified as to the effects of Mr. Walker's Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and mental health diagnoses on his incarcerative history. Dr. Greenspan testified as to the non-violent disciplinary reports and described them as directly attributable to Mr. Walker's Fetal Alcohol Syndrome diagnosis. Dr. Kinschiff testified not only to Mr. Walker's Fetal Alcohol Syndrome but also his diagnoses of PTSD and depression within the last year. Several representatives from the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute provided support and testified to their commitment to their mentorship of Mr. Walker. Since his last hearing, Mr. Walker has completed the disassociation process from an STG. While the Board recognizes the challenges Mr. Walker faces, the Board finds that Mr. Walker's comprehensive re-entry plan and the support from his community mentors will provide the structure Mr. Walker needs to live safely in the community. Mr. Walker has been specifically recommended to Dismas House and Seven Hills Behavioral Counseling. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Mr. Walker has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Parole reserve to Dismas House 2 weeks from date of decision; waive work for long term residential program; must be at home between 10PM and 6AM or at parole officer's discretion; electronic monitoring at parole officer's discretion; must take prescribed medication if prescribed; supervise for drugs with testing in accordance with agency policy; supervise for liquor abstinence with testing in accordance with agency policy; report to assigned MA parole office on day of release; no contact or association with gangs/gang activities; no contact with victim(s)' family; must have substance abuse evaluation and must follow recommendations; must have mental health counseling for FASD, PTSD, and depression

via Seven Hills Behavioral Counseling; long term residential program; and must sign all necessary release of information forms.

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