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PAROLE BOARD

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

DALE WILLIAMS

W66527

Review Hearing

TYPE OF HEARING:

DATE OF HEARING: June 12, 2018

DATE OF DECISION: March 18, 2019

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa, Lucy Soto-Abbe

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 four years from the date of the hearing.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On May 15, 1999, in Plymouth Superior Court, Dale Williams was found guilty by a jury trial for the second-degree murder of Windsor Raymond and sentenced to serve life in prison with the possibility of parole.

On December 20, 1995, a man and woman, who were homeless, met Mr. Williams at a soup kitchen. At the time, Mr. Williams was also a street person who frequently drank alcohol. While waiting for the soup kitchen to open, Mr. Williams talked with the man and woman, as well as another homeless man, Jason Stiles. In the presence of Mr. Williams, Mr. Stiles said that "he killed a nigger." Mr. Williams nodded his head up and down. Mr. Stiles said he cut the man's throat with a piece of glass from the window and pulled his eye out. Mr. Stiles said that both he and Mr. Williams beat the man, by kicking and punching him. They killed him over a half bottle of wine. Mr. Williams also spoke to a friend, stating, "You wouldn't believe what



Paul M. Treseler Chairman

Gloriann Moroney Executive Director we did last night....we killed somebody." He said that Mr. Stiles was fighting with a guy and that he jumped in and poked the guy in the eye, stabbing him with a piece of glass.

Later, when officers went up to the second floor of an abandoned house, they discovered the body of Windsor Raymond rolled up in carpet. A windowpane lay on top of the carpet and there was broken glass all around. Mr. Williams has one co-defendant, Jason Stiles, who was found guilty of second degree murder on June 25, 1998.

There have been two appeals on this case; both were affirmed.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON JUNE 12, 2018

Dale Williams, now 55-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for his review hearing on June 12, 2018. He was not represented by counsel. He had been denied parole after his initial hearing in 2013. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Williams provided an apology for taking Mr. Raymond's life and explained how his addiction to alcohol and drugs played an integral part of his criminal thinking.

The Board questioned Mr. Williams as to his progress in rehabilitation since his incarceration, as well as his level of insight and candor, in order to evaluate him for parole suitability. The Board also discussed Mr. Williams' institutional adjustment since his last hearing. Mr. Williams is currently incarcerated at MCI-Concord, where he is employed as a maintenance worker. Since his last hearing, he has completed programming to include (but not limited to): General Population Maintenance Program, Adult Basic Education, Criminal Thinking, and Cognitive Skills Active Listening Program. He attends AA, Big Book, and the 12 Step program on a regular basis. Through his participation in AA, he has gained insight as to how alcohol has negatively affected his life. He claims he has been sober since 1996, after being hit by a car. According to Departmental records, there is no indication of alcohol/substance use in 20 years.

In discussing the governing offense, however, Mr. Williams disputes the facts of the case. While he maintains his innocence, the jury's verdict is supported by probative circumstantial evidence, physical evidence, DNA evidence, and inculpatory statements made by Mr. Williams to friends and police. At the time of the offense, Mr. Williams was homeless, working at daily labor, receiving daily pay, and drinking heavily. He claims to have witnessed Mr. Stiles and Mr. Raymond engage in a verbal altercation over a bottle of wine, and then saw Mr. Stiles put Mr. Raymond in a headlock, causing him to lose consciousness. He denies ever physically touching Mr. Raymond, and claims that he learned of his death the following day at the soup kitchen.

The Plymouth County District Attorney's Office submitted a letter and Assistant District Attorney Stacey Gauthier spoke in opposition to parole.

III. DECISION

Mr. Williams has served 20 years of a life sentence for the murder of Windsor Raymond. Mr. Williams has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. A longer period of positive institutional adjustment and programming would be beneficial to his rehabilitation.

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 an 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. Williams' institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board also considered a risk and needs assessment, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Williams' risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Williams' case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Dale Williams is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Williams' next appearance before the Board will take place in four years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Williams 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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Shara Benedetti, Acting General Counsel