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PAROLE BOARD

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Tina M. Hurley
Chair

Kevin Keefe
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

DONALD THOMPSON

W85478

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: July 28, 2022

DATE OF DECISION: December 1, 2022

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS¹: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, James Kelcourse, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On May 9, 2005, in Worcester Superior Court, Donald Thompson pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of 24-year-old Lindsay Hazard and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Mr. Thompson appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on July 28, 2022 and was represented by student attorneys from Northeastern University School of Law. This was Mr. Thompson's second appearance before the Board having been denied after his initial hearing in 2017. The entire video recording of Mr. Thompson's July 28, 2022, 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 parole².

Reserve to ICE detainer – Jamaica. On August 23, 2002 43-year-old Mr. Thompson stabbed 24-year-old Lindsay Hazard to death. He has been incarcerated for twenty years. He is assessed

¹ Former Chair Gloriann Moroney was present for the hearing but was no longer a Board Member at the time of the vote.

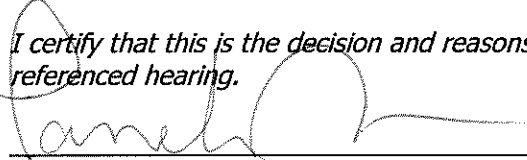
² Three Board Members voted to grant parole and two Board Members voted to deny parole with a review in two years.

as low risk on two risk/needs assessments. Throughout his incarceration he has maintained sobriety and has no violent disciplinary reports. He has a long work history. Although there is no domestic violence programming available, Mr. Thompson acknowledged his crime involved domestic violence factors, and educated himself as to this need area. He has been ordered deported to Jamaica where he has family support. He is now 62 years old and lives with some medical conditions.

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. Thompson'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. Thompson's risk of recidivism. Applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Thompson's case, the Board is of the opinion that Donald Thompson is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time.

Special Conditions: Reserve to ICE - Jamaica; Waive work for two weeks; Curfew – must be at home between 10pm and 6am; ELMO-electronic monitoring; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with victim's family; Batterer's counseling; Counseling for adjustment/transition; AA/NA at least 3 times/week.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing.



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

12/1/22
Date