

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

EDGAR DONES
W85716

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: May 9, 2024

DATE OF DECISION: October 10, 2024

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner,¹ Tonomey Coleman,² Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is granted to a Long-Term Residential Program after six months in lower security.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On June 15, 2005, in Hampden Superior Court, Edgar Dones pleaded guilty to second degree murder for the death of his father Emilio Dones. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2021. On May 9, 2024, Edgar Dones appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Deirdre Thurber. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Edgar Dones's May 9, 2024, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On the evening of April 23, 2003, 21-year-old Edgar Dones was residing with his father, 53-year-old Emilio Dones. Edgar Dones requested that his father provide him with a ride to work for his shift that began at 2:00 a.m. on April 24, 2003. Emilio Dones refused, and an argument ensued. Edgar Dones did not report for work and went to sleep. The following morning, April 24, 2003, the argument resumed and continued to escalate. Edgar Dones retrieved a knife from the kitchen, approached Emilio Dones from behind, and stabbed him in the back. After he fell to the floor, Edgar Dones continued to stab Emilio Dones,

¹ Board Member Bonner was not present for the hearing but reviewed the recording and the entire record prior to vote.

² Board Member Coleman was not present for the hearing but reviewed the recording and the entire record prior to vote.

wounding him twice in the chest. He then fled the apartment and walked to his mother's residence in Chicopee.

A short time later, responding officers located Emilio Dones, who was suffering from multiple stab wounds inside his apartment. He was transported to a nearby medical facility, where he succumbed to his injuries. On the same day, April 24, 2003, officers located Edgar Dones at his mother's residence and noted that his shirt was stained with blood. He was subsequently detained and admitted to killing his father after an argument.

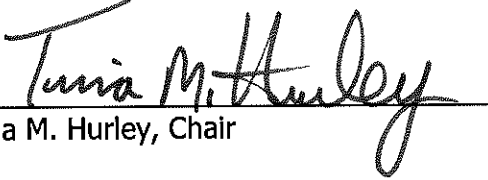
APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain 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 inmate'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 inmate'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 inmate at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the inmate'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).

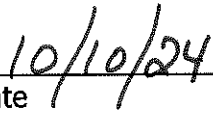
DECISION OF THE BOARD: This was Mr. Dones's second appearance before the Board. Since his last hearing, he has invested in rehabilitative programming, including programming recommended by the Board after his initial hearing. He has completed, among others, Anger Management, Correctional Recovery Academy, Alternatives to Violence, Pathway to Recovery, Addictive Thinking, Non-Conflict Resolution, and grief and motivational therapy. He is in compliance with his mental health treatment, checking in with his therapist, taking prescribed medications, and [participating in] meditation. Mr. Dones was able to articulate his coping skills and how he has used them. The Board notes that Mr. Dones has been diagnosed with lead poisoning and has taken steps toward renouncing his STG affiliation. Further, he has been deemed eligible for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health services. Given Mr. Dones's experience with the adverse effects of marijuana use, the Board would caution against the use of medical marijuana in the future.

The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Edgar Dones has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for Long-Term Residential Program; Curfew - must be home between 10PM and 6AM at Parole Officer's discretion; Electronic Monitoring at Parole Officer's discretion; Must take prescribed medication; 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 or association with gangs/gang activities; No contact with victim(s)' family; Must have substance abuse evaluation and must comply with recommended treatment plan; Counseling 1-2 times per week, transition; Long-Term Residential Program; Comply with all mental health services.

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