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Lieutenant Governor

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

**PAROLE BOARD**

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**Charlene Bonner**  
Chairperson

**Janis DiLoreto Smith**  
Executive Director

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**ENFRID BROWN**

**W35094**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** **Review Hearing after Revocation**

**DATE OF HEARING:** **January 6, 2015**

**DATE OF DECISION:** **March 10, 2015**

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Lee Gartenberg, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying 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 a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is granted to an approved home plan on or after March 24, 2015.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On July 31, 1975, in Suffolk Superior Court, Enfrid Brown was found guilty of murder in the first degree and sentenced to life imprisonment. The Supreme Judicial Court affirmed the conviction on June 4, 1979. On March 25, 1987, the sentence was commuted to 21 years and 6 weeks to life.

On May 1, 1973, five men entered an apartment in Roxbury. One of them shot and killed Hakim Jamal, the international president of the Malcolm X Foundation. Police arrived and subsequently arrested several men believed to be present at the time of the murder. Enfrid Brown was one of the suspects arrested.

## **II. PAROLE HISTORY**

Enfrid Brown has been paroled and revoked on three separate occasions. The first parole occurred in October, 1987, after receiving his commutation. He remained on parole for approximately 18 months before being returned to custody for possessing a firearm. He was subsequently convicted of the charge and received a three to five year sentence to run concurrently to his life sentence. Brown was paroled a second time in 1993; this time under the Interstate Compact Agreement to his mother's house in Maryland. He remained on parole for approximately 11 months before being arrested on drug and firearms offenses. He was also charged with a parole violation for being "whereabouts unknown." Consequently, his parole was revoked and he was returned to the custody of the Massachusetts Department of Correction. The third parole occurred on April 15, 2005, and lasted until November 22, 2005, when Brown was returned to custody after testing positive for cocaine.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON JANUARY 6, 2015**

On January 6, 2015, Enfrid Brown, now 64 years-old, made his fifth appearance before the Massachusetts Parole Board. He was given a five year review date following his hearing in 2010. Brown gave an opening statement in which he said he is "a changed person" and has "grown mentally" since his last appearance before the Board. Brown became emotional and said, "I miss my family." He said they have "pushed and inspired" him to change his lifestyle.

A Board Member asked Brown to discuss his accomplishments since his review hearing in 2010. Brown said that he persevered and was able to earn his Bachelor's Degree from Boston University in 2014. He said that he is the chairman of the African American Coalition (AACA). He has completed Jericho Circle's intensive trainings and violence reduction, attends weekly N.A. and A.A. meetings to address his substance abuse problems, audits classes for Boston University, and works in the gym. Additionally, Brown said he recently spoke at a Kwanzaa celebration and works with young fathers from the youth department to help bridge the gap between their children and female companions. Since being denied parole in 2010, Brown has been found guilty of three minor disciplinary reports; otherwise he has demonstrated steady and positive progress in his rehabilitation.

When Board Members asked Brown about his prior parole opportunities, he said "I used to view parole as an entitlement. But now I understand that parole is a privilege, not a right." As a result of his participation in Jericho Circle, Brown said, "I realized that parole has control of my freedom, so I have to respect that. Over the years I've been missing something. It's not just about Enfrid anymore." Brown revealed that his beloved wife is suffering with dementia. He discussed his desire to be there for her, his 88 year-old mother, and his young grandson (who asks him when he is coming home). He said that he is a different person today and will be an asset to his family and the community.

Regarding his last parole violation in November 2005, Brown said, "I got high on cocaine at my bachelor party." He continued, "It was wrong and I was a plain fool." He said he now understands that recovery is an ongoing process and there are times when people have to ask for help, as well as accept help from others. If released, Brown said that he will reach out to First Inc., SPAN, Pyramid Builders, and Concerned Elders for support and guidance.

Regarding the offense, Brown said his role was a "mere presence" at the scene of the crime. On the day of the murder, Brown said he received a call from Philip Key, Boston's De Mau Mau leader, who summonsed him to the home of Hakim Jamal, president of the Malcolm X Foundation. Brown said "I was called by Key because I was well known in the community and I worked with the Nation of Islam. I wasn't a De Mau Mau member, but was an 'associate' or a 'friend,' of the organization. In describing his relationship with the victim, Brown said he did not know the victim, but knew the victim's children. He said that when he arrived at Hakim Jamal's home, he heard gunfire. He said, "I went in the house and as I made my way upstairs, an 'attack dog' lunged at me, so I shot and killed it in self-defense. When I reached the second floor, Hakim Jamal was against a wall and was already dead. I asked what happened and Key said 'we don't have time to explain, let's leave.'" Brown said he believes Hakim Jamal's death was the result of an internal dispute within the Black Power movement.

When asked by a Board Member about the firearm on him as he entered the victim's home, Brown said that, at the time, he often carried a gun. He said he hadn't been deprogrammed from the military mind-set and grew up in Sandtown (a dangerous part of Baltimore), where the possession and use of weapons was common. In discussing the status of his case, Brown said he is still appealing his current conviction. He said the issue is currently pending before the Supreme Judicial Court and he said that "it looks promising."

At the hearing, Brown recounted his early history and stated that his mother raised him and his siblings. She made sure that they attended school while living in inner city Baltimore. Brown said he tried to be the male figure in the household because his father was killed when he was nine years-old. Brown said that after he graduated from high school, he was involved in a couple of fights, so he joined the military to try to straighten out his life. He said that (at that time) he liked smoking "weed." Brown said he was an infantry soldier in the Vietnam War and received an honorable discharge. Brown said he came to the Boston area in October 1972, after a couple of his friends moved here from Baltimore seeking better career opportunities and because Boston was considered the educational center of the world. He described his children, their accomplishments, and the importance they have in his life. He said, "My daughter recently graduated from the University of Maine and lives in this area and my son graduated from Howard University and works for a pharmaceutical company."

Brown provided a parole plan to his home in Walpole, where he hopes to work with the Concerned Elders and Reverend Dickerson. Five individuals testified in support of parole, with each one explaining to the Board their current position in the community and describing their role in supporting Brown if he is granted parole.

In a letter submitted to the Parole Board, Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Charles Bartoloni opposed parole, citing Brown's past parole failures.

### **III. DECISION**

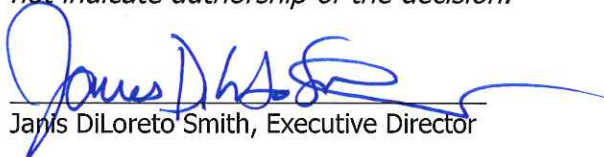
In the 10 years since Brown's return to jail for a parole violation in 2005, he has shown tremendous self-improvement and personal growth. Brown has made significant strides in identifying his triggers and developing a skill set to help him with his sobriety. He takes full responsibility for his behaviors. Through his involvement in rehabilitative programs, Brown has shown great perseverance in utilizing his learned skills and seeking guidance and support from

others in order to better prepare him for successful reentry into society. He presented a comprehensive parole plan and identified the strong community support that will help him succeed.

The standard we apply in assessing candidates for parole is set out in 120 C.M.R. 300.04, which provides that "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." Applying that appropriately high standard here, it is the unanimous opinion of the Board that Enfrid Brown merits parole at this time because he is rehabilitated.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Reserve to his approved home plan; no drug use or alcohol use, with testing for compliance; attend at least three AA/NA meetings per week; one-on-one counseling to address adjustment and transition; GPS monitoring; must abide by curfew; have no contact with the victim's family; and report to Parole Office on the day of release.

*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.*

  
James DiLoreto Smith, Executive Director

3/10/15  
Date