



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

**PAROLE BOARD**

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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**FRANK ROBINSON**  
**W61295**

**TYPE OF HEARING:**           **Review Hearing**

**DATE OF HEARING:**       **May 11, 2023**

**DATE OF DECISION:**      **August 9, 2023**

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, James Kelcourse

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On September 20, 1996, following a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Frank Robinson was found guilty of murder in the second degree for the June 13, 1995 killing of Maurice Vance. Mr. Robinson was sentenced to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Robinson received a 9 to 10-year concurrent sentence for kidnapping. On appeal, Mr. Robinson's murder conviction was affirmed, and his kidnapping conviction was vacated.

Mr. Robinson appeared before the Board for a review hearing on May 11, 2023. He was represented by Attorney Kelly Cusack. The entire video recording of Mr. Robinson's May 11, 2023 hearing is fully incorporated by reference into 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 parole.

Parole reserve on/after 6 months in lower security to CRJ. On June 13, 1995, in Stoughton and Boston, MA, Frank Robinson, then age 25, beat, stabbed, suffocated, and burned 19-year-old

Maurice Vance to death. On September 20, 1996, after a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court Mr. Robinson was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to life with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he was sentenced to 9 to 10 years for kidnapping, to be served concurrently with his life sentence.

This was Mr. Robinson's fourth appearance before the Board. He has been incarcerated for 28 years. He was represented by Attorney Kelly Cusack. Mr. Robinson has invested in rehabilitative programming to address his history of violence, gang affiliation (completed renunciation 2016), criminal lifestyle, and personal trauma. Mr. Robinson has also completed vet dog training program, 2 semesters of higher education at Boston College, where he is still enrolled, and he is the president of Toast Masters.

Mr. Robinson also presents with a significant support system to assist with re-entry needs and continued education. He also has the support of The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, mentoring through the Partakers, and affiliation with Credible Messengers. The Board considered testimony from five of Mr. Robinson's family members who spoke in support of parole. There was no testimony in opposition.

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. Robinson'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. Robinson's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Robinson's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Robinson is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time, subject to special conditions.

**Special Conditions:** Parole reserve, on/after 6 months in lower security, to CRJ for at least 90 days; Waive work for education or when program allows; Curfew at Parole Officer's discretion; 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; Must have substance abuse evaluation and follow recommendations; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment and re-entry.

*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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Tina M. Hurley, Chair

08/09/2023

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Date