



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

IVAN HODGE
W89572

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **February 1, 2024**

DATE OF DECISION: **May 13, 2024**

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

VOTE: Parole is granted to an approved program two weeks after issuance of Record of Decision, but not before 120 days in lower security to approved program.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On March 14, 2007, following a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Ivan Hodge was convicted of murder in the second degree for the death of Tacary Jones. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Hodge received a 4 to 5 year concurrent sentence for unlawful possession of a firearm.¹ Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2020. On February 1, 2024, Ivan Hodge appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Sarah Elkins. The Board's decision fully incorporates, by reference, the entire video recording of Ivan Hodge's February 1, 2024 hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On March 18, 2005, Ivan Hodge, along with his co-defendant, O'Neil Francis, were riding an MBTA bus in the Dorchester neighborhood of Boston. When the bus stopped at Geneva Avenue, several young men, including Tacary Jones, boarded. An altercation ensued between Mr. Hodge, Mr. Francis, and Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones was shot and killed. Immediately thereafter, Mr. Hodge was seen tucking a semi-automatic gun into his waistband. Mr. Hodge and Mr. Francis fled the scene. Later, they were observed running away

¹ Mr. Hodge's co-defendant, O'Neil Francis was found guilty of second-degree murder and possession of a firearm without a permit.

from where the murder weapon was recovered, which was found together with an army knife and clothing matching that worn by Mr. Hodge.

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 incarcerated individual’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 incarcerated individual’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 incarcerated individual at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the incarcerated individual’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. Hodge’s second appearance before the Board. Mr. Hodge was 18-years-old at the time of the offense. He was convicted of murder under the joint venture theory. Mr. Hodge was forthcoming at the hearing and admits to supplying the firearm used in the murder. The Board considered the factors associated with the decisions in *Diatchenko*, *Miller*, and *Mattis*, which the Board found to be applicable in this case. Mr. Hodge has been committed to his education and is currently enrolled in the Tufts My Turn program in pursuit of his bachelor’s degree. His teachers noted his talent for writing and his investment in education. He has also completed programming to address vocational skills, violence reduction, conflict resolution skills, a 6-month partnership for re-entry program, and substance abuse. Mr. Hodge has also engaged in therapy to address a history of traumatic loss that occurred just prior to this offense. The Board notes he took the initiative to complete correspondence courses to enhance his rehabilitation. Mr. Hodge has significant support systems to include family, mentors, and community supports, who specialize in re-entry. The mother of the victim forgave Mr. Hodge, but felt he should remain in prison. The Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office took no position. Letters from the victim’s family were read aloud during the hearing. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Ivan Hodge has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for 2 weeks; Curfew: must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM at PO’s discretion; Electronic monitoring at PO’s discretion; 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 activity; No contact with victims(s)’ family; Must have substance abuse evaluation and must comply with recommended treatment plan; Counseling for transitional and trauma (past); Must complete an approved residential program.

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