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**PAROLE BOARD**

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**Paul M. Treseler**  
Chairman

**Michael J. Callahan**  
Executive Director

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**JEFFERSON HUDSON**  
**W49922**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** July 19, 2016

**DATE OF DECISION:** November 22, 2016

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe

**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 the 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 opinion that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in three years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On February 8, 1991, in Suffolk Superior Court, Jefferson Hudson pled guilty to unlawful possession of a firearm, armed assault with intent to rob, armed burglary, and armed robbery, as well as the second degree murders of Edward Jackson and Henry Bersine. Two concurrent sentences of life in prison with the possibility of parole were imposed on Mr. Hudson for the murders of Mr. Jackson and Mr. Bersine. Mr. Hudson was also sentenced to a term of not more than 5 years and not less than 4 years for his conviction of unlawful possession of a firearm; two terms of not more than 20 years and not less than 10 years for each of his convictions of armed assault with intent to rob and armed burglary; and a term of not more than 20 years and not less than 15 years for his conviction of armed robbery. All sentences were ordered to run concurrently with each other.

On April 19, 1991 (and unrelated to the aforementioned convictions), Mr. Hudson pled guilty in Brockton District Court to unlawfully carrying a firearm and possession of a Class B substance with intent to distribute. These convictions stemmed from Mr. Hudson's arrest during a drug raid in Brockton, where he had been found in possession of a firearm. Mr. Hudson was sentenced to a term of 1 year in the House of Correction for each of these convictions. These sentences were ordered to run concurrently with each other and the previously imposed sentences.

On February 8, 1990, Mr. Hudson and at least one other accomplice traveled to an apartment building in Dorchester known for its high level of drug activity. The exact number of individuals accompanying Mr. Hudson that day could never be determined, but a witness reported seeing at least one other person in his company. That person has remained unidentified. The apartment building, located on Stanwood Street, had previously been used by Mr. Hudson to distribute drugs around Boston. Mr. Hudson, who was 20-years-old at the time, visited the Stanwood Street building after learning that another group of drug dealers had taken up residence there and had stolen drugs and money from the property. Mr. Hudson's intent was to wrest control of the Stanwood Street apartment building back from these rival dealers, thereby increasing the influence and profitability of his drug distribution ring.

On that day, Mr. Hudson arrived at the Stanwood Street apartment at approximately 4:00 am, when he knocked on the door of Edward Jackson's apartment. Also present in Mr. Jackson's apartment was Henry Bersine, who had spent the evening there for the purpose of selling drugs and Mr. Bersine's female acquaintance. After hearing the knocking, Mr. Bersine had his female acquaintance hide drugs in her shirt before he answered the door. Mr. Hudson, and at least one accomplice, forcibly entered the apartment with their guns brandished and seized Mr. Jackson, Mr. Bersine, and Mr. Bersine's female acquaintance. Mr. Hudson and his accomplice threw Mr. Bersine on a bed before taking money and cocaine from him. Then, they forced Mr. Jackson, Mr. Bersine, and Mr. Bersine's female acquaintance to lie on the floor. Mr. Bersine's acquaintance removed the drugs she had concealed in her shirt and gave them to Mr. Hudson and his accomplice. Soon after, and at Mr. Hudson's direction, Mr. Bersine's female acquaintance stood up and went into an adjacent room. Mr. Hudson and his accomplice then executed the men, shooting Mr. Jackson in the head once and Mr. Bersine in the head twice. Following the murders of Mr. Jackson and Mr. Bersine, Mr. Hudson fled to New York, where he was apprehended in July of that year.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON JULY 19, 2016**

Mr. Hudson, age 46, appeared before the Parole Board on May 3, 2006, for a review hearing. Mr. Hudson first appeared before the Board on July 5, 2005, for an initial hearing, which resulted in the denial of parole. Mr. Hudson was denied parole again in 2010 and 2013. Mr. Hudson has served 26 years of each of his concurrent life sentences.

In his opening statement, Mr. Hudson apologized to the Jackson and Bersine families, as well as their communities "for my brutal, senseless, and uncaring choices that I made." Describing the offense, Mr. Hudson stated that Mr. Jackson's house had been taken over by rival drug dealers, and Mr. Hudson needed to protect his territory. Mr. Hudson stated that he felt betrayed by Mr. Jackson, who may have been complicit in the activities of his rivals. In addition to wanting to shore up his business, Mr. Hudson also stated that he was motivated by



fear and a need to "get you before you get me." Mr. Hudson decided to kill Mr. Jackson a week before the murder and then went to Mr. Jackson's home to assassinate him. Mr. Hudson did not know Mr. Bersine, whom he described as "collateral damage."

According to Mr. Hudson, he and his two accomplices, whom he identified as "Junior" and "Patrick," ordered both victims to their knees inside Mr. Jackson's apartment. Mr. Hudson then shot Mr. Jackson, after Mr. Jackson called out his name and began to beg for his life. Mr. Hudson identified "Junior" as being the individual who shot Mr. Bersine. The Board noted that Mr. Hudson's testimony at the hearing was inconsistent with testimony he gave at his 2013 review hearing, as well as statements submitted to the Board in preparation for this parole hearing. When confronted with this issue, Mr. Hudson replied, "I don't remember that." Mr. Hudson told the Board that he "did not know how to be a human being" at the time of the murders. He then fled to New York City, where his mother encouraged him to turn himself in.

The Board asked Mr. Hudson if he had had a change of heart and was now willing to identify his accomplices. Mr. Hudson stated that he only knew them as "Junior" and "Patrick" and did not know their last names, despite living on the same block in New York City, traveling with them to Boston, and (in the case of "Junior") selling drugs with him since the age of 15. Mr. Hudson stated that it was dangerous to know last names. The Board expressed concern that Mr. Hudson, who had asserted he was rehabilitated, could offer no other details to help identify these individuals, despite the fact that they could be on the street and possibly victimizing others. Asked if his accomplices worked for him, Mr. Hudson stated that they worked together. The Board reminded Mr. Hudson that at his last hearing, he had described himself as the leader of a cocaine-selling enterprise. Mr. Hudson then clarified his relationship with his accomplices, telling the Board that "Junior" was his partner and that "Patrick" was someone who worked for him.

Mr. Hudson told the Board that he grew up in New York City, where he had a happy childhood. Mr. Hudson, however, started dealing drugs and using firearms at the age of 15. By the time he arrived in Boston from New York City, he described himself as the third most powerful individual in a drug enterprise that grossed \$200,000 per month. After his arrival, the top two individuals stepped away, leaving Mr. Hudson in charge. Mr. Hudson claimed to oversee an operation in which he employed 40 individuals to sell cocaine in 15 to 20 houses. Mr. Hudson said that the site of the murders, Mr. Jackson's home, was the main house out of which he sold drugs for approximately 19 months, paying Mr. Jackson for the use of his home. In discussing his past criminal behavior with the Board, Mr. Hudson acknowledged that he had victimized countless individuals. He described himself as still coming to grips with all the families and communities that had been ruined as a result of his role in the cocaine epidemic. Mr. Hudson told the Board that he struggled with the fact that he would never get to address these people to tell them that he was sorry. The Board noted that making amends for the harm he caused needed to be part of his redemption and rehabilitation plan.

Mr. Hudson discussed his institutional adjustment with the Board. Mr. Hudson recognized the difficulty he experienced in adjusting to prison, including his lack of programming prior to 2004, and the 36 disciplinary reports he received prior to 2009, many of which were for incidents involving violence. Mr. Hudson attributed this shift in behavior to a prior parole hearing, after which he realized there had to be a better way and sought help. Mr. Hudson identified his issues as anger, blaming others, and not understanding either



responsibility or empathy. Since 2004, Mr. Hudson has participated in a variety of programs, adding several since his last parole setback, including Restorative Justice, Victim-Offender Education, and Using Self-Control. Mr. Hudson believes that his progress since his last hearing has been good, and that he better understands both his criminal actions and the emotions that others have about his crimes. Mr. Hudson stated that he sees a counselor, but acknowledges that he needs to see her more. Mr. Hudson is employed by prison industries in the MCI-Norfolk clothing shop. He acknowledged that parole would not be easy, particularly as he lacks family and faith-based support. Mr. Hudson said that he wants to focus on getting support from his family.

The Board considered letters in opposition to Mr. Hudson's parole from Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Charles J. Bartoloni and Boston Police Commissioner William B. Evans.

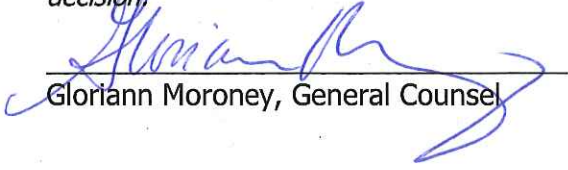
### **III. DECISION**

The Board is of the opinion that Mr. Hudson has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board believes that a longer period of positive institutional adjustment would be beneficial to Mr. Hudson's rehabilitation. The Board notes that Mr. Hudson has limited community support and was not forthcoming during the hearing, as his version of the crime has changed since his last parole hearing.

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 its opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Hudson'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. Hudson's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Hudson's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Hudson is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Hudson's next appearance before the Board will take place in three years from the date of the hearing related to this decision. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Hudson to continue working towards his full rehabilitation.

*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.*

  
Gloriann Moroney, General Counsel

11/22/16  
Date