

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Thomas A. Turco III
Secretary

Telephone: (508) 650-4500

Facsimile: (508) 650-4599

Gloriann Moroney
Chair

Kevin Keefe
Executive Director

DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

JEFFERSON HUDSON
W49922

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **July 30, 2019**

DATE OF DECISION: **July 8, 2020**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Karen McCarthy, Colette Santa

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 that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole.¹ Parole is denied with a review scheduled in two years from the date of the hearing.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On February 8, 1991, in Suffolk Superior Court, Jefferson Hudson pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of a firearm, armed assault with intent to rob, armed burglary, and armed robbery. He also pleaded guilty to the second degree murders of Edward Jackson and a male of uncertain identity, referred to as "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

¹ Three Board Members voted to parole Mr. Hudson to a long-term residential program.

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 pleaded 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 raid on a crack house in Brockton, where he had been found in possession of a firearm. Mr. Hudson was sentenced to a term of one year in the House of Correction for each of these convictions. These sentences were ordered to run concurrently with each other and to 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 not be determined, but a witness reported seeing at least one other person in his company.² That person has remained unidentified. The Stanwood Street apartment building had previously been used by Mr. Hudson to distribute drugs around Boston. Mr. Hudson, who was 20-years-old, 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, and 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 knock, 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 and then took his money and cocaine. 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 that 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 once in the head and Mr. Bersine twice in the head. Following the murders of the men, Mr. Hudson fled to Brooklyn, New York, where he was apprehended by the New York State Police on July 20, 1990.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON JULY 30, 2019

Mr. Hudson, age 49, appeared before the Parole Board on July 30, 2019, for a review hearing. He was not represented by an attorney. Mr. Hudson was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2005, and after his review hearings in 2010, 2013, and 2016. He did not make an opening statement. When the Board questioned him about his reaction to his last parole decision, Mr. Hudson said that he was not surprised that he was denied parole. Mr. Hudson

² The number of Mr. Hudson's accomplices is unclear, and their identities are unknown. Mr. Hudson reports he had two "associates," one of whom participated in the execution-styled killings and another who acted as lookout. An eyewitness saw one accomplice who participated in the killings.

admitted to lying when he said that his accomplice had committed one of the murders, as he thought that the Board might go easier on him if had only committed one murder. Mr. Hudson wanted the Board to know that he now takes responsibility for murdering both men. When Board Members questioned him about his social history, Mr. Hudson reported a happy childhood with supportive parents. He stated, however, that he was bullied for being overweight. He often got into fights and was suspended from school. His grades suffered from the suspensions, and he eventually dropped out of school in 9th grade and began selling drugs. By the age of 18, he was running his own drug dealing operation.

When Board Members questioned him as to the governing offense, Mr. Hudson claimed that Mr. Jackson had forced him out of his drug operation by taking his drugs and drug money. Mr. Hudson described how he and his accomplice armed themselves with guns and entered the drug house on the pretext of buying drugs. Mr. Hudson also described how he held Mr. Jackson, and person known to him as Henry "Suicide" (a.k.a. Henry Bersine), at gunpoint, while his accomplice forced the other occupants to leave the room. Mr. Hudson said that he forced his victims to lie on top of each other, and then he fatally shot Mr. Jackson and Henry Bersine in the head. He then fled to New York to stay with family. After a few days, Mr. Hudson said that his mother and aunt convinced him to turn himself in.

The Board noted that Mr. Hudson has not had a disciplinary report since 2009 and asked him how he stayed out of trouble. Mr. Hudson said that when he realized he was blaming others for his failures he began taking control of what he could. Mr. Hudson believes that he was not addicted to substances; but rather, he was addicted to money and the drug lifestyle. He attends Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as counseling for emotional distress. Mr. Hudson described the Restorative Justice program as most helpful. He described listening to a woman speak of how her son was murdered, which made him feel as though he had murdered her son. Mr. Hudson is employed by prison industries in the MCI-Norfolk clothing shop, which, he states, provides him with self-worth.

The Board considered a letter in opposition to parole from Boston Police Commissioner William Gross. The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office sent a letter stating that they would not oppose parole after a step down to lower security.

III. DECISION

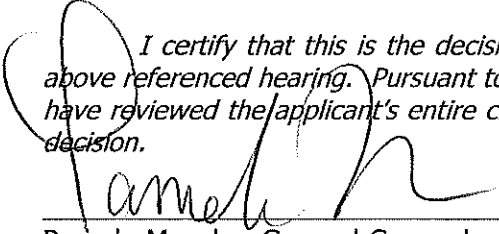
The Board is of the opinion that Mr. Hudson has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Hudson has served 29 years for the murder of Edward Jackson Jr. and Henry "Suicide"/ unknown last name. Mr. Hudson was not forthright in the hearing as his version has again changed. In addition, he should develop a community support network and a realistic parole plan.

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 opinion that Jefferson 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 two 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.



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel



Date