



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

JITU'OLA ANDERSON¹

W44763

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: July 9, 2020

DATE OF DECISION: April 29, 2021

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

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On April 15, 1988, after a jury trial in Plymouth Superior Court, Anthony Anderson (now known as Jitu'ola Anderson) was convicted of the second degree murder and rape of his 23-year-old girlfriend, Belinda Williams. Mr. Anderson was 24-years-old at the time of the murder. For the murder conviction, Mr. Anderson was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole after serving 15 years. He received an 8 to 10 year concurrent sentence on the rape conviction.

Jitu'ola Anderson raped and murdered his girlfriend on August 18, 1986, in their Brockton apartment. After arguing over their relationship, Mr. Anderson beat Ms. Williams with a hammer, tied her hands behind her back, strangled her, and then forcefully penetrated her rectum with a can of talcum powder. The autopsy report determined that Ms. Williams died from manual

¹ In 2001, Anthony Anderson legally changed his first name from Anthony to Jitu'ola.

strangulation and blunt force trauma to the head. Mr. Anderson used a hammer to cause the fatal head injuries.

Mr. Anderson also has another violent sex offense conviction on his record. On November 18, 1988, in Suffolk Superior Court, Mr. Anderson was sentenced on three counts of rape and received three concurrent sentences of 8 to 12 years for the rape of Victim 1.² Victim 1 was 19-years-old on May 21, 1985, when Mr. Anderson (an acquaintance) beat and raped her. Mr. Anderson was out on bail on the rape charges for Victim 1, when he raped and murdered Belinda Williams.

Mr. Anderson appealed his aggravated rape and murder convictions on numerous occasions, but all were subsequently denied.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON JULY 9, 2020

Jitu'ola Anderson appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on July 9, 2020. He was not represented by counsel. Mr. Anderson was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2001, and after his review hearings in 2006, 2011, and 2015. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Anderson apologized for his "shameful" and "disgusting" actions. He expressed his remorse and acknowledged the impact of his crime on the Williams family. When Board Members asked why he believes that he had been denied parole in the past, Mr. Anderson responded that he lacked participation in meaningful programming. He stated that he has consistently participated in the Sex Offender Maintenance Program since his last hearing.

When Board Members inquired as to the circumstances surrounding the governing offense, Mr. Anderson explained that he "lost it" during the act of murder. When Board Members noted the level of violence inflicted upon Ms. Williams, Mr. Anderson indicated that the altercation turned fatal when she sought to defend herself with a hammer. Once he was hit with the hammer, Mr. Anderson felt "uncontrollable rage." Board Members questioned Mr. Anderson as to whether he gained insight into the sexual component of his crime, and he responded that his intent was likely to "humiliate" her. Although he assured Board Members that he takes full responsibility, Mr. Anderson indicated that cocaine played a significant role in his violence that night, as he described himself as being "completely out of control." Upon questioning as to whether he had been abusive to Ms. Williams prior to the murder, Mr. Anderson claimed that he did not physically abuse her, aside from "pushing." He did, however, admit to mental abuse, which he characterized as "severe." When the Board inquired as to his unsuccessful appeal attempts, Mr. Anderson stated that he was only "using the system" and was not trying to minimize his culpability. He now regrets going through the appeal process due to the impact it may have had on the Williams family.

Board Members noted Mr. Anderson's problematic relationship with women. Mr. Anderson agreed that his relationship with women leading up to the governing offense was "distorted," as he often coerced and manipulated women into sexual relationships. Moreover, he told Board Members that he "thrived on getting what [he] wanted" and, when he targeted women with

² A pseudonym will be used to identify the victim(s) of crimes involving sexual assault pursuant to G.L. c. 265 § 24C. Portions of a parole record of decision may be withheld to preserve its confidentiality. See G.L. c. 127, s. 130.

substance abuse issues, his "chances" were greater. When the Board asked how many women he coerced into sexual relationships, Mr. Anderson stated that it was approximately 12. He admitted that, ultimately, "all" of his relationships with women were unhealthy due to learned behaviors stemming from childhood. At a young age, he learned to respond to conflict with violence and, as he got older, the violence progressed. Board Members also inquired as to the circumstances surrounding the rape of Victim 1. Mr. Anderson explained that, at the time, he felt "entitled" to sex. When his attempt at manipulation failed and Victim 1 rejected him, he attacked her instead.

When the Board discussed his substance abuse issues, M. Anderson shared that he has remained sober for over 30 years. Upon questioning, he admitted to using 200 to 300 dollars' worth of cocaine a day and to selling drugs, as well. When asked about his relapse prevention plan, Mr. Anderson assured the Board that relapse is not a concern. However, in the event he needed help, he plans to obtain a sponsor and seek out treatment. Board Members expressed concern as to whether Mr. Anderson is focused on his sobriety, as he does not attend AA/NA meetings on a consistent basis. Mr. Anderson stated that his substance abuse played a significant role in his violent and deviant behavior and, as such, his sobriety is taken "very seriously." Additionally, Mr. Anderson stated that he is on the waitlist for the Pathway to Recovery program and attends AA monthly, explaining that NA is not currently available at the institution.

The Board addressed Mr. Anderson's rehabilitative programming efforts. Through his participation in programs, such as Anger Management and Alternatives to Violence, Mr. Anderson stated that he now understands that he "always has the ability to control his actions," as well as the benefit of "stepping back from a situation in order to gain clarity." When the Board discussed the Sex Offender Treatment Program, Mr. Anderson maintained that, due to his "guilt," he found the program to be "challenging." Initially, Mr. Anderson was "guarded," but once he realized how much the treatment was helping him, he was more forthcoming. In 2008, he became a member of Islam and maintains that religion "saved [my] life." Mr. Anderson also mentioned that he recently proposed a program that focuses on African heritage, which would help inmates become "culturally aware" and promote "self-love."

Board Members noted Mr. Anderson's institutional adjustment, having remained disciplinary report free since 2009, aside from an infraction issued in 2018. Mr. Anderson has also maintained consistent employment throughout his incarceration and recently completed his OSHA certification. The Board, however, questioned Mr. Anderson as to his transfer in 2017, after he was reclassified by the Department of Correction. Mr. Anderson told officers that he would "cause problems" if sent to the Treatment Center. Board Members pointed out the manipulative behavior in which he opposed the transfer, yet Mr. Anderson failed to see how his behavior could be construed as such.

The Board considered testimony in support of parole from Mr. Anderson's brother, sister in-law, and friend. The Board also considered oral testimony in opposition to parole from Plymouth County Assistant District Attorney Keara Kelley, as well as a letter in opposition submitted by District Attorney Timothy Cruz.

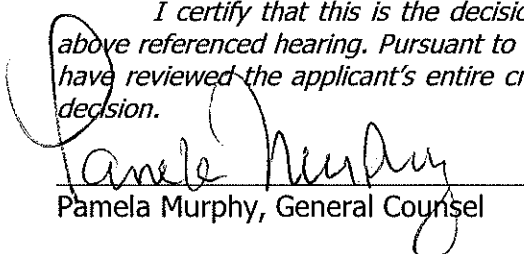
III. DECISION

It is the opinion of the Board that Jitu'ola Anderson has not yet demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Anderson has served approximately 35 years for the brutal rape and murder of 23-year-old Belinda Williams. For the most part, [the] subject appeared to be forthright with the Board throughout this hearing. However, the Board raised concerns as to his level of rehabilitation despite having completed the Sex Offender Treatment Program. He was unable to articulate why he sexually assaulted the victim with a bottle of talcum powder or how he has addressed his deeply rooted causative factors. In addition, he acknowledges to being extremely verbally abusive to others at times. Mr. Anderson is encouraged to use the next two years to further explore the concerns of the Board.

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. Anderson'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. Anderson's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Anderson's case, the Board is of the opinion that Jitu'ola Anderson is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Anderson's next appearance before the Board will take place in two years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Anderson to continue working toward 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

4/29/2021
Date