



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 7, 2015**

DATE OF DECISION: **September 9, 2015**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Lee Gartenberg, Ina Howard-Hogan, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying 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 in five 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. Anderson was 24-years-old at the time of the murder. For the murder conviction, 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 the couple argued over their relationship, Anderson beat Ms. Williams with a hammer, tied her hands behind her back, strangled her, and then forced a can of talcum powder up her rectum. 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. Anderson used a hammer to cause the fatal head injuries.

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

Anderson appealed his aggravated rape and murder convictions numerous times and all were subsequently denied.

II. PAROLE HISTORY

Anderson appeared for his initial hearing before the Parole Board in May 2001, after which he was denied parole with a five year review. He was again denied parole at his review hearings in May 2006 and July 2011. The 2011 Board noted that "Jitu'ola Anderson was on bail for a rape case when he murdered and sexually mutilated Belinda Williams. The path to rehabilitation from that degree of violence is long and demanding. Mr. Anderson has progressed [in recent years], but not sufficiently to overcome the gravity of his offense, the degree of sexual violence he has perpetrated, and the two decades of indifference to rehabilitation."

III. PAROLE HEARING ON JULY 7, 2015

On July 7, 2015, Jitu'ola Anderson, age 52, represented himself at his fourth hearing before the Parole Board. He has served 29 years of his life sentence. Anderson made a brief opening statement and apologized to the victim's family, expressed remorse for the consequences of his actions, and told the Board about the positive changes he has made over the years.

While acknowledging that his 2011 request for parole was denied, in part, due to his failure to complete the Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP), Anderson admitted that after completing the program, he "needed a break" and stopped attending all programs for almost three years. When pressed on why he needed a break and did not engage in further programming until May of this year, Anderson said that SOTP "was hard" and he felt "overwhelmed" at having to look at himself so closely. Anderson told the Board that he does not feel like he took a break from rehabilitation, since maintenance for him is not just going to meetings, but it is "how I live, how I interact with other people and staff - it is how I carry myself, my positive attitude and clear thinking." When asked if SOTP staff recommended that he continue to work on some issues, he admitted that it was suggested he work on his social skills and his care for other people. Anderson could not refer to any specific class or program in which he had participated that addressed his social skills or his care for other people. Instead, he said he used his job to work on those issues.

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.

When asked about his anger issues, Anderson said that they started at an early age when "I was bullied by my older brother in his attempt to toughen me up. I learned to handle conflict with violence. I used violence to overpower people and show superiority." He spoke to the Board about the Anger Management and Alternatives to Violence programs and how he learned new skills and tools when dealing with conflict. He said that his job as head official for all sports at the institution has helped and "tested" him. The Board notes that despite having taken those programs, Anderson was unable to control his emotions when tested. During a basketball game, Anderson allowed himself to engage in a fight that escalated when a player questioned one of his calls. His inability to use non-violent conflict resolution was of particular concern to the Board, since the nature of his job (as referee) charged him with both enforcing the rules of the game and maintaining control of the game.

Anderson said that at the time of the crimes, he was using cocaine daily and worked as a truck driver to support that habit. He talked about his addiction and the role it played in his life. "I learned that when I was under the influence of drugs, it greatly magnified my aggression; I became extremely aggressive; I became extremely violent. When under the influence of drugs, my behavior modified to the point that I was uncontrollable." Anderson admitted that he does not attend Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous (AA/NA) and, despite his history of drug and alcohol abuse and the violence perpetrated while under the influence, he denies that he needs substance abuse treatment, if paroled.

A Board Member wanted Anderson to explain the reasons for the perverted brutality in the rape of Belinda Williams. Anderson said that he wanted to humiliate and degrade her, and to make her feel pain. He said, "I wanted to lash out in the most brutal way." When asked about the rape of Victim 1, he said that he had known her for a long time and they "got high together and when she rebuked my advances, I attacked her." Anderson disagreed with a Board Member who pointed out his apparent lack of empathy. He said he would agree that when he was under the influence of cocaine and alcohol, he was not an empathetic person, but when he was clean, sober, and lucid, "I am extremely empathetic."

Anderson's ex-wife and brother spoke in support of parole. His ex-wife informed the Board that Anderson had never been violent with her, did not use drugs with her, and had never emotionally abused her. She said that she would help him in the community in any way she could. Anderson's brother told the Board that he sees and hears empathy from Anderson at every visit and on the phone. He also said that he would be in the community to support his brother's need for rehabilitation and his transition into society.

A Victim Services Coordinator read an opposition letter from Ms. Williams' family. The letter urged the Board to deny parole and also informed the Board of the meaning behind Anderson's new Muslim name, Jitu'ola. The letter stated that "Jitu" is a boy's name that means "always winning," but that "Ola" is not listed as a recognized Muslim boy name. However, "Ola" is Belinda Williams' middle name. Incredulously, Anderson claims to be unaware of these "coincidences" regarding his new chosen name. Plymouth County Assistant District Attorney Suzanne McDonough spoke on behalf of her office in opposition to Anderson's parole, pointing out Anderson's break in rehabilitation and his lack of a detailed parole plan.

IV. DECISION

Jitu'ola Anderson committed a brutal rape and murder while on bail for another violent rape. He admitted to abusing cocaine and alcohol for a long period of time prior to, and at the time of, the commission of the crimes. Despite his awareness, he has failed to fully immerse himself in substance abuse treatment. Anderson readily spoke about the affect drugs and alcohol had on him. He described being violent and aggressive, and using drugs and alcohol to manipulate people for his own selfish gain. He specifically plied women with substances so he could, as he said, "Get what I want." While Anderson has maintained sobriety during incarceration, the Board is concerned that further treatment is needed to ensure successful reintegration into society. The Board is surprised that Anderson has such insight into his past drug and alcohol issues, but continues to resist programs necessary to address them. He is not attending AA/NA, nor is he engaged in any other formal substance abuse programming. Further, he does not believe he needs to attend substance abuse treatment, if paroled into the community.

Anderson wasted the first 22 years of his incarceration by avoiding the necessary programming for any consideration for release. He resisted sex offender treatment for many years because, he said, "I did not want the label" and "I did not want to go through what I had seen so many others go through." The Board (in addressing Anderson's appeal of his 2011 denial) provided a road map toward positive rehabilitation, but Anderson declined further participation in the SOTP maintenance program until recently. Anderson knew that his road to recovery would be long and demanding. He needs to further understand that his sex offender treatment will never end and that there is no time to "take a break."

The standard we apply in assessing candidates for parole is set out in 120 C.M.R. 300.04, which provides that "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." Applying that appropriately high standard here, it is the unanimous opinion of the Board that Jitu'ola Anderson does not merit parole because he is not rehabilitated. The review will be in five years, during which time Anderson should re-invest in sex offender treatment, participate in more meaningful substance abuse programs, and continue on his otherwise positive rehabilitative path.

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.


Michael J. Callahan, General Counsel

September 9, 2015
Date