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Tina M. Hurley
Chair

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RECORD OF DECISION

In the matter of

KENCHESTER MARTIN
W101797

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: March 26, 2024

DATE OF DECISION: June 10, 2024

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse¹

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in two years from the date of the hearing.²

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On December 10, 2012, in Norfolk County Superior Court, Kenchester Martin pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree for the death of Osahon Ighodaro. On December 12, 2012, he was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Mr. Martin also pleaded guilty to two counts of unarmed robbery and one count of unarmed burglary, for which he was sentenced to 12-15 years in state prison, and one count of kidnapping, for which he was sentenced to 9-10 years in state prison, all to be served concurrently with his life sentence.³

On March 26, 2024, Mr. Martin appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was not represented by counsel. The Board's decision fully incorporates, by reference, the entire video recording of Kenchester Martin's March 26, 2024, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On the morning of July 11, 2008, Holbrook police officers located 25-year-old Osahon Ighodaro deceased in his apartment. He had been hog tied and was found face-down on the floor. Another occupant of the apartment reported that on the previous evening, she heard someone knock on the door, followed by men entering the apartment screaming. They tied her up, and eventually she passed out. When she awoke the following

¹ Board Member Sarah B. Coughlin was recused and did not participate in the hearing or decision.

² One Board Member voted to grant parole to a long-term residential program (LTRP) or Community Resources for Justice (CRJ) program after 6 months in lower security.

³ All sentences were stayed until December 17, 2012.

morning, she untied herself, found Mr. Ighodaro's body, and ran out of the apartment to seek help. Investigators processed the scene for fingerprints and other forensic evidence and determined that several belongings and currency had been stolen from the apartment.

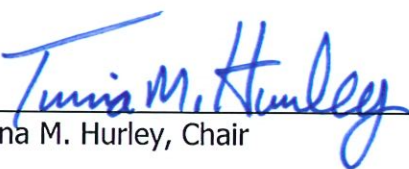
On May 6, 2009, one of Mr. Martin's codefendants was arrested in Chelsea for an unrelated offense. The fingerprints he provided resulting from that arrest matched a latent print that had been lifted from the wall near Mr. Ighodaro's body. The other occupant of the apartment later identified the codefendant as one of the men who tied her up on the night of the murder. Upon arrest, multiple codefendants identified Mr. Martin as being involved in the murder.

In May 2009, Kenchester Martin was arrested on drug charges in Richland County, South Carolina. Despite giving law enforcement officials a false name, he was identified as Kenchester Martin and was returned to Massachusetts. Mr. Martin was 25-years-old at the time of the offense.

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 is Kenchester Martin's initial appearance before the Board. Mr. Martin is enrolled in Boston University's Interdisciplinary Certificate program. He has completed multiple programs, including Correctional Recovery Academy, Alternatives to Justice, and Violence Reduction. However, the Board still has concerns regarding Mr. Martin's rehabilitation. Mr. Martin was the self-admitted leader of the group committing the instant offense. He was 25-years-old, while his codefendants were younger (age 19 and 20). He has a history of disciplinary reports, including 2020 incidents involving fighting and possession of homebrew, as well as his history of STG (Security Threat Group) related offenses as recently as 2019. The Board recommends that Mr. Martin continue investing in his education and his sobriety, as well as applying the principles he learns in his programming, especially with regard to Violence Reduction. The Board notes that Mr. Martin had many supporters at his hearing, who spoke in support of his parole. The Board also considered the testimony of the victim's family, friend, and an Assistant District Attorney from Norfolk County, all of whom spoke in opposition to parole.

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