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Tina M. Hurley
Chair

Daniel Nakamoto
Acting Executive Director

AMENDED RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

MARK JONES

W39169

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: March 14, 2023

DATE OF DECISION: June 20, 2023

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Dr. Maryanne Galvin, James Kelcourse, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On September 10, 1982, after a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Mr. Jones was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of Brian Cropper and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Mr. Jones appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on March 14, 2023. He was not represented by counsel. Mr. Jones was denied parole after his initial hearing in 1997 but was granted parole after his 2000 review hearing. Mr. Jones was released on parole in 2002, 2007, 2009, 2016, and 2022, but was revoked due to parole violations. This was Mr. Jones' first appearance before the Board since his parole was revoked on September 21, 2022. The entire video recording of Mr. Jones's March 14, 2023, hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

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 a suitable candidate for parole.

The Board is of the opinion that Mark Jones has demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Reserve to sober house, but not before DA clearance. Mr. Jones participated in the shooting death of 17-year-old Brian Cropper in Roxbury. Mr. Jones was 19 years old at the time of the offense. Mr. Jones is now 61 years old and has been sober since August 2017. The Board addressed his prior challenges

on parole and has considered these in his new prescribed conditions. The Board notes Mr. Jones has some medical issues which will require continued follow-up care. The Board encourages Mr. Jones to pursue mental health counseling in the community to address healthy relationships and boundary setting.

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. Jones' 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. Jones' risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Jones' case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mark Jones is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time.

Special Conditions: Reserve to sober house, but not before DA clearance; Waive work for two weeks; Curfew – Must be at home between 10pm and 6am; ELMO-electronic monitoring; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with victim's family; Must have mental health counseling for healthy relationships; AA/NA at least 3 times/week.

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

6/20/23
Date