



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

MARK JONES

W39169

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** June 15, 2021

**DATE OF DECISION:** December 14, 2021

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa<sup>1</sup>

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

Mr. Jones appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on June 15, 2021 and was not represented by counsel. This was Mr. Jones’s second appearance before the Board since his final revocation hearing in 2018. Mr. Jones was previously released on parole in 2002, 2007, 2009, and 2016 but was revoked due to parole violations. The entire video recording of Mr. Jones’s June 15, 2021 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. Reserve to Community Resources for Justice – Transitional Housing for a minimum of six months. Mr. Jones has been reincarcerated for approximately four years after his parole violation. During that time, he has reengaged in meaningful treatment and programming such as violence reduction, substance abuse treatment, Dialectical Behavior Therapy. He appears to have benefited from all programs. He is requesting residential treatment to further address his adjustment and mental health needs via counseling. Re-incarceration has served its purpose.

<sup>1</sup> Chair Moroney recused.

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." In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Jones'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. Jones's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Jones's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Jones is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time, subject to special conditions.

**Special Conditions:** Reserve to Community Resources for Justice – Transitional Housing (CRJ-TH) for minimum of six months; Waive work for two weeks; Must be at home between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.; ELMO-electronic monitoring; Must take prescribed medication; 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 the victim's family; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment/transition, PTSD and healthy relations; 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.*

  
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Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

12/14/2021  
Date