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*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**PAROLE BOARD**

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Gloriann Moroney  
Chair

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**MICHAEL HISKIN**

**W54868**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** September 18, 2018

**DATE OF DECISION:** June 18, 2019

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa, Lucy Soto-Abbe

**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 that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole.<sup>1</sup> Parole is denied with a review scheduled in two years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On July 28, 1993, in Plymouth Superior Court, Michael Hiskin<sup>2</sup> pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of Henry Bynum and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Hiskin pleaded guilty to two counts of armed assault with intent to murder, two counts of assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon, and two counts of unlawfully carrying a firearm. Mr. Hiskin received two 12-20 year sentences for armed assault with intent to murder. He received two 9-10 year sentences for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. He received two 3-5 year sentences for unlawful possession of a firearm. All sentences were ordered to be served concurrently. Mr. Hiskin's motion to

<sup>1</sup> One Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in three years. One Board Member voted to parole Mr. Hiskin to his consecutive sentence.

<sup>2</sup> Michael Hiskin is an alias, according to Mr. Hiskin. His birth name is Sam Jones.

withdraw his guilty plea and his motion for a new trial was denied. In addition, on January 26, 1993, Mr. Hiskin escaped from Brockton District Court. He was apprehended and convicted of escape. He received a one year sentence, which was ordered to be served from and after his life sentence.

On May 9, 1991, Michael Hiskin (age 21) shot and killed 22-year-old Henry Bynum. Two other victims, a man and a woman, were also shot in the attack, but survived. On the night of the murder, Mr. Hiskin and his two accomplices, Malcolm Robinson and Leroy "Chris" Ivey, drove to an address in Brockton asking for "Chuck." They drove away, but then circled back and told people in front of the house to tell "Chuck" that "Chris" (Ivey) wants his money. The third time they returned, they pulled into a lot next to the address and began shooting at the house. Mr. Bynum and the other victims were struck by gunfire. The cause of Mr. Bynum's death was multiple gunshot wounds.

Later that evening, Mr. Hiskin bragged to a witness about the shooting. The police apprehended Mr. Hiskin and Mr. Robinson the following day. When Mr. Hiskin was taken into custody, he had a .380 caliber firearm in his possession. Ballistics testing showed it was highly likely that Mr. Hiskin's gun was the same as used in the shooting death of Mr. Bynum.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2018**

On September 18, 2018, Michael Hiskin, now 49-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing. He was not represented by an attorney. Mr. Hiskin had been denied parole after his initial hearing in 2006, and after review hearings in 2011 and 2015. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Hiskin apologized to the victim's mother and family members, taking responsibility for his crimes.

When the Board questioned him about the events surrounding the shooting, Mr. Hiskin described how his friend Chris (a.k.a. Leroy Ivey) bought defective guns from someone in the neighborhood and then wanted his money back. Mr. Hiskin explained how he washed bullets before loading them into his gun, so as not to leave fingerprints linking him to a possible shooting. He then reported how he, Mr. Ivey, Mr. Robinson and another individual drove to an address where they thought the gun-seller to be. The group engaged in a heated argument with another group of people at the house. Mr. Hiskin claimed that when someone said, "they're shooting," he shot Mr. Bynum and two other people in front of the house. When the Board asked Mr. Hiskin why he shot someone he did not know, nor had any personal problems with, Mr. Hiskin explained that he and his friends were selling drugs together, and that he felt he "wanted to be there for his boys."

Board Members asked Mr. Hiskin to explain his escape attempt. Mr. Hiskin recounted how he was in a transport van with a group of prisoners heading to court. One of the prisoners had a stolen handcuff key and asked if anyone wanted to un-cuff. Mr. Hiskin said, "I was the only one dumb enough to say yes." The Board noted that although Mr. Hiskin had a poor institutional history, he has not incurred a disciplinary report since 2012, nor has he had a violent disciplinary report since 2001. When Board Members questioned him as to what changed, Mr. Hiskin attributed his improvement to rehabilitative programming, maturing, and making a conscious decision to be a positive influence within the prison. Mr. Hiskin described how he mentors 4 or 5 inmates through the Correctional Recovery Academy and other inmates

informally. Mr. Hiskin reported that he has completed the Correctional Recovery Academy (CRA) and now acts as a CRA mentor. He also said that he completed his G.E.D., works at the wood shop, and is studying culinary arts. Mr. Hiskin seeks a parole to his one year consecutive sentence. He would prefer a step down to lower security and then enter a Long Term Treatment Program.

Mr. Hiskin's godmother, daughter, long-term girlfriend, and a former mentee all testified in support of parole. The aunt of a mentee submitted a letter in support of parole. Plymouth County Assistant District Attorney Keara Kelley spoke in opposition to parole. The Plymouth County District Attorney's Office submitted a letter of opposition.

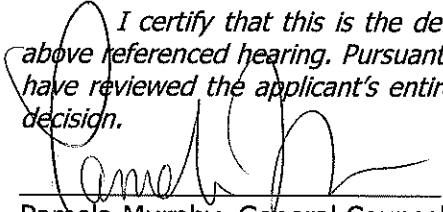
### **III. DECISION**

It is the opinion of the Board that Michael Hiskin has yet to demonstrate a level of rehabilitation that is compatible with the welfare of society. He should remain program compliant and maintain a positive deportment.

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

Mr. Hiskin'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. Hiskin to continue working towards 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

6/18/2019  
Date