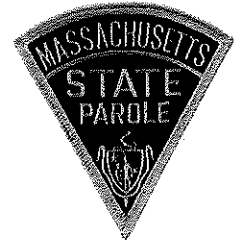


*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*



**PAROLE BOARD**

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*Lieutenant Governor*

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*Secretary*

**Gloriann Moroney**  
*Chair*

**Kevin Keefe**  
*Executive Director*

**RECORD OF DECISION<sup>1</sup>**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**MICHAEL HISKIN  
W54868**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing  
**DATE OF HEARING:** September 29, 2020  
**DATE OF DECISION:** February 8, 2021

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Karen McCarthy, Colette Santa

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On July 28, 1993, in Plymouth Superior Court, Michael Hiskin<sup>2</sup> pleaded guilty to second-degree murder of 22-year-old Henry Bynum. He was sentenced to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole. On that same day, 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. 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.

Mr. Hiskin appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on September 29, 2020 and was represented by Attorney Ed Fogarty. This was Mr. Hiskin's fourth appearance before the Board, having been denied in 2006, 2011, and 2016. The entire video recording of Mr. Hiskin's September 29, 2020 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

<sup>1</sup> See Amended Record of Decision dated February 8, 2021.  
<sup>2</sup> Michael Hiskin is alias, according to Mr. Hiskin. His birth name is Sam Jones.

vote that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole. Reserve to one year from and after sentence.<sup>3</sup> Mr. Hiskin has served 30 years for the murder of Henry Bynum. Mr. Hiskin accepted the recommendations of the Board and attended the Restorative Justice Program and obtained his OSHA certificate. It appears that Mr. Hiskin has been rehabilitated and his parole to his from and after sentence meets the legal standard. It is the opinion of the Board that Mr. Hiskin should complete a Long Term Residential Treatment Program, participate in mental health counseling for adjustment/transition, attend NA/AA and adhere to all other recommended conditions when he is paroled to the community.

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. 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 appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Hiskin's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Hiskin is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Reserve to his from and after sentence of one year from and after; adhere to the rules and regulations of the institution, maintain program compliance and remain disciplinary report free; Supervise for drugs; testing in accordance with agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence; testing in accordance with agency policy; No contact with victim's family.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** The above decision is an abbreviated administrative decision issued in an effort to render an expedited resolution in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Hiskin, through counsel, has waived his right to a full administrative decision.

*I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

<sup>3</sup> See Amended Record of Decision for the revised decision of the Board in response to William Dinkins & Another v. Massachusetts Parole Board, 486 Mass. 605 (2021).